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This Week

National

Rabbis to demonstrate true meaning of pluralism. *Page 6*

Shul architecture mirrors Jewish experience. *Page14*

Health & Lifestyles

Toronto Jewish Healing Project plans May 22 conference. *Page 41*

Arts & Travel

Folk Choir brings the songs of Gebirtig to life. *Page 44*

Business Profile

Edward Sonshine puts investors' trust into real estate. *Profile* *Page 48*

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French Jews rally against Le Pen

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — Declaring themselves proud to be French, France's Jewish community led protests against far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen on Sunday as he grew more confident of pulling off an upset win in a presidential runoff on May 5.

Carrying banners saying "France: Country of Human Rights" and "Jews against Le Pen," some 10,000 protesters gathered in Paris to rally against the National Front leader, who stunned France by qualifying for a runoff with President Jacques Chirac.

"We're sending one message and no other: I love the Republic and I'm against Le Pen," Johanna Samak, secretary general of the Union of French Jewish Students, said at the rally.

Sunday's emotional but peaceful rally came a day after fears of a victory by Le Pen brought up to 200,000 people onto the streets of Paris and other French cities to demand that voters reject his policies, which have made him a political pariah in Europe. Students planned more protests across France on Monday.

"It's everyone's duty to vote for the incumbent president Chirac," Rabbi Gilles Bernheim told the Jewish-led rally, which ended with a rousing rendition of the French national anthem, the *Marseillaise*.

Continued on page 39

PARATROOPERS HONOURED: The city of Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, recently set aside an afternoon to honour some of the Israel Defence Forces' paratroopers. This group of soldiers obviously enjoyed their day in the sun. *[Israel Sun photo]*

After the rallies, what's next?

By GIL TROY
Special to The CJN

Commentary

This past month, North American Jewry plunged back into history, finally standing up for Israel loudly and proudly after dithering for too long. Depending on crowd estimates, anywhere from a quarter of a million to half a million people rallied for Israel. From Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., on Monday to Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sunday, day after day, Israel's 54th birthday week inspired a powerful affirmation of Jewish unity. Religious and non-religious, Ashkenazim and Sephardim, Canadians and Americans, leftists and rightists, stood as one to celebrate Israel's plucky democracy and renounce the evil terrorist campaign unleashed against Jews in Israel and abroad.

The challenge now is to ensure that the rallies signify a sea change in the Jewish community. For once the shouting and singing and speechifying of a rally ends, the real work begins. So far, as a community, we have not stood up to the historic challenges of 2001 and 2002. Yet the tragic story is far from over – we will have ample time to make amends in the coming months.

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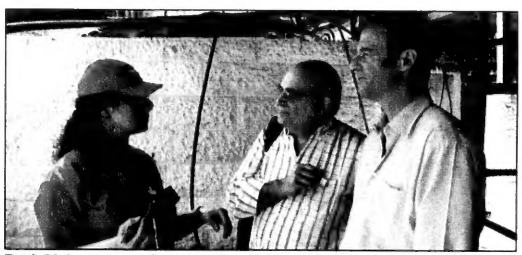

Ruth Najman, one of a group from Montreal that recently went to Israel to volunteer to help rebuild places struck by terrorists, speaks with Howard Weisband, centre, director general of UIA Federation Canada in Israel, and Marc Gold of Federation CJA in Montreal. *Please see related story on page 38.* *[Israel photo]*

Greater Toronto Area

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Europe's Jews plan strategy against anti-Semitism — please see page 38

The News in Brief

CANADA

Police Probe Rally

CALGARY — Police are investigating a pro-Palestinian rally here earlier this month, in which marchers were alleged to have shouted "Death to the Jews" in Arabic. Police are studying videotapes of the rally and translations of slogans chanted for possible charges of hatemongering. A rally organizer apologized to the Jewish community through the media, but there was no attempt to contact the community directly.

WJC Meeting

OTTAWA — Keith Landy, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, and Moshe Ronen, chair of CJC's board of governors, attended last week's two-day meeting in Brussels of the World Jewish Congress executive. Anti-Semitism, particularly in western Europe, "is the worst it has been since World War II," Landy remarked in a statement, adding there is "palpable" insecurity among Europe's Jews. The WJC is establishing a European Jewish Information Centre to monitor anti-Semitic incidents.

ISRAEL

Jail Sentences

RAMALLAH — In a trial held in Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's besieged headquarters, an ad-hoc tribunal sentenced four men to jail terms ranging from one to 18 years for the killing of tourism minister Rechavam Ze'evi. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon rejected the sentences and called again for the men to be handed over to Israel.

Life Expectancy

JERUSALEM — Israeli women can expect to live until the age of 80.4, while men have an average life expectancy of 76.6 years, according to figures based on 1999 statistics. The numbers show that the average life expectancy for Israeli men and women has increased by two years since 1990.

Disabled Teen Wins

JERUSALEM — A blind and hearing impaired Israeli teen was one of two young people to win an annual international Bible quiz here. Avichai Sheli, 17, of Netivot, tied for first place with another teen. They topped 53 youths from 25 countries who took part in the annual Independence Day quiz. Sheli said he plans to volunteer for the army when he graduates from high school.

WORLD

Belgian Attacks

BRUSSELS — Gunmen opened fire on a Belgian synagogue April 20, Adolf Hitler's birthday. No one was hurt in the Shabbat attack in the southern city of Charleroi. The synagogue was empty when the drive-by shooting took place. It was the fourth anti-Semitic attack reported in Belgium in the past month. The next day, a crowd estimated at 5,000 called for an end to the anti-Jewish violence. Community leaders say the number of anti-Semitic incidents has risen to "a few a week" since Mideast violence escalated. Also last week, Jewish leaders from 24 countries met here to discuss the sharp rise in anti-Semitic attacks across Europe.

Jews March

SAO PAULO — The Jewish community here held what was described as the largest event in the 500-year history of Brazilian Jewry. Some 10,000 Jews joined a pro-Israel rally April 21, walking from the Israeli Consulate to the Hebraica club.

Jews Don't March

BERN — Swiss Jewish leaders have decided not to hold any pro-Israel rallies for fear of provoking an anti-Semitic backlash. The decision came at a recent closed-door meeting of the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities. The Jewish leaders said hate letters and threats related to Mideast violence have reached record levels.

Centre Firebombed

CANBERRA — The National Jewish Centre here was firebombed April 20, Adolf Hitler's birthday. Police say the attackers tried to throw a bomb through a window, but it bounced back, setting fire to the building's grounds. Little damage was reported.

Jewish Identity

BERLIN — Police here have denied they are advising Jews to hide their identity for fear of attack. A police spokesperson reportedly told an Israeli reporter that Jews in Berlin might want to hide their Stars of David or avoid wearing yarmulkes because police can't protect everyone. But later the city's police chief denied police were giving Jews such advice.

N.Z. Snubs Israel

WELLINGTON, N.Z. — The government of New Zealand boycotted this year's Israel Independence Day celebrations. A spokesperson said the decision was "a reprimand to the Israeli government by New Zealand over aspects of Israel's policies which we do not regard as acceptable."

Cemetery Vandalized

BRATISLAVA — As many as 135 gravestones in the Orthodox section of a Jewish cemetery were destroyed or damaged in eastern Slovakia. Police are investigating whether the attack in Kosice was linked to Adolf Hitler's birthday on April 20.

Rabbi Dies

NEW YORK — Walter Wurzburger, a rabbi, teacher and editor, died April 16 at 82. He was past president of the Rabbinical Council of America and a member of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, a leading group dealing with the Vatican. From 1967 until last month, he taught philosophy at Yeshiva University, and from 1962 to 1988, he edited *Tradition*, an Orthodox intellectual quarterly.

Auschwitz Shopping Complex Set to Open

WARSAW — A small shopping centre, whose construction was once blocked by Jewish protests, is due to open shortly outside the former death camp of Auschwitz, its owner said last month.

The Polish news agency reported that local officials had issued a permit to open what is being officially termed "a parking and service complex."

The construction project was halted by the Polish authorities in 1996 following an international Jewish outcry alleging that such commercial activity dishonoured the memory of Auschwitz victims.

The centre's owner said he has modified the project to cater primarily to Auschwitz museum visitors. The complex includes a parking lot, post office, book shop, pharmacy and fast-food bar.

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What really happened in Israeli flag incident?

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Two rally participants handcuffed in Ottawa mall

TORONTO — An incident at a downtown Ottawa shopping mall with alleged anti-Semitic overtones has the Internet abuzz and the Montreal Jewish community angry, but just what exactly happened is being hotly disputed.

Almost two weeks ago, shortly after thousands of Jews rallied on Parliament Hill in support of Israel, two young rally participants were handcuffed and arrested in Rideau Centre, allegedly for failing to put away an Israeli flag and for photographing the arrest.

The two Montreal men, Marc Abergel and David Abissidan, say that shortly after entering the shopping mall with several friends, two security guards approached them and told them to "take off your f…g flag."

Abergel said his questions as to why he was not allowed to carry the flag were met with more rude statements and a hostile attitude. He said that when he folded the flag and put it in his pocket and removed a camera from his pocket to do so, one of the guards, "without warning, pushed me to the wall and handcuffed me."

As they were leading him away to a security room on the mall's lower level, Abissidan shot one photograph, which prompted his arrest.

Alone in the security room with the guards, Abergel and Abissidan say the guards shouted at them using racist language.

"They began hostile verbally calling us 'dirty Jews,' 'f…g Jews' and 'f…ers,'" Abergel said.

Police, who had received two 911 emergency calls, one from the security guards and another from the two men's friends, arrived shortly afterwards and released Abergel and Abissidan.

Abergel is angry at the treatment they received. "We were not protesting in the mall. We were quietly minding our own business… We just went in for lunch."

Police are investigating the incident. Abergel would like the guards charged with illegal detention and assault.

However, a different picture is being painted by mall officials. Bob Hasler, general manager of Rideau Centre, said "we're still trying to make sure we have the whole story.

"The statements from the parties involved are widely divergent."

Mitchell Bellman, executive-director of the Ottawa Jewish Community Council, said he has met with Hasler and one of the security guards and "they tell a very different story than the other people. It's remarkable that the two stories are so different from each other."

Continued on page 53

Spate of incidents related to Mideast worries Montreal community

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — A series of incidents that have taken place here since the pro-Israel rally two weeks ago reflect how high emotions are running as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues.

The most serious was an alleged physical attack and death threat at knifepoint against three Jewish students by a group of about 15 Arabic-speaking people, as the students were seen leaving the Centre Hillel on Gatineau Street in Côte des Neiges the day after the rally.

According to eyewitness accounts given to B'nai Brith Canada (BBC), the Jews were allegedly pushed and kicked by the assailants, who had been playing soccer in a park across from the centre.

"Witnesses claim that throughout the evening, the alleged attackers… were heard shouting, 'Allahu Aqbar,' 'death to the Jews,' and 'death to Israel,'" said Stephen Scheinberg, national chair of BBC's League for Human Rights.

Continued on page 32

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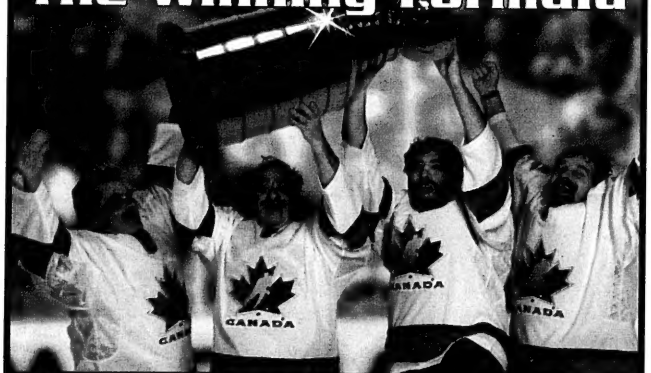
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Greater Toronto Area

Blaming the Jews, again

From the editor's desk

I had originally planned to use this space to write about some of my experiences during my recent visit to Israel. But the increasing stream of anti-Semitism reported last week, pouring forth from around the world, and the nature of some of the local Canadian commentary on that anti-Semitism, compel me to set aside my original plan.

That will have to wait for another week.

The following incidents were reported last week by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency:

• An April 11 truck explosion at a Tunisian synagogue in which 16 people were killed, including 11 German tourists, was definitely a terror attack, according to Germany's interior minister.

• The National Jewish Centre in Canberra, Australia, was firebombed on Shabbat morning. Luckily, little damage was done.

• As many as 135 gravestones in a Jewish cemetery in Kosice, Slovakia, were destroyed or damaged.

• Two Jewish leaders, Avraham Berkowtiz, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the former Soviet Union, and Moscow Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, were attacked when they came to Brussels to attend a meeting of the European Jewish Congress.

As ugly and offensive as these incidents were, the one that made me catch my breath most deeply was the following:

• Israeli doctors braced for an attempt to oust the Israel Medical Association (IMA) from the World Medical Association (WMA). The head of the IMA, Dr. Yoram Blachar, said he expected anti-Israel resolutions to be presented at the upcoming meeting of the WMA in Geneva.

The IMA is a non-political professional organization with some 20,000 members, including hundreds of Arab Israeli doctors.

As part of its effort to head off the acrimony in Geneva, the IMA drafted a declaration last week affirming its allegiance to the Hippocratic Oath. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the IMA affirmed that the "obligation as doctors and as human beings to the people of both nations [Israelis and Palestinians] takes precedence over any dispute or confrontation." Blachar asked Dr. Ron Pundak, an architect of the Oslo agreement who now works at the Peres Peace Centre, to find a Palestinian counterpart to sign the declaration. But Pundak, did not get back with a name.

There are also disturbing reports, as of this writing unconfirmed, of business and academic associations considering sanctions or other disciplinary measures against their Israeli counterparts.

We have a right to ask ourselves where the world is headed. Is it so ruled by age-old obsessions that it must always remain blind to the truth?

We need not however raise the question only in relation to Europe. Examples of anti-Semitism and uninformed, twisted writing related to it, alas, abound closer to home, too.

A breathtaking example of such writing appeared in the *Globe and Mail* last week by Naomi Klein, the proudly self-styled "critic both of the Israeli occupation and of corporate-dictated globalization."

"Jews outside Israel," Klein wrote, "now find themselves in a tightening vise: The actions of the country that was supposed to ensure their future safety are making them less safe right now... And when anti-Semitism rises at least partly as a result of his actions, it is Mr. [Ariel] Sharon who is positioned once again to collect the political dividends."

Ruled by her ideology, Klein's brazen disdain of Israel's prime minister brings her to echo the very same calumnious line of thought that has spilled from the lips of anti-Semites throughout the ages. Aping the nasty traditions of millennia, she essentially blames the Jews for anti-Semitism. In so doing, she lets every bigot and hater of Jews off the hook.

As if this were not objectionable enough, Klein appears to care little for truth or facts and writes wide, sweeping distortions that only add to the hostility of the present anti-Semitic climate which she, ironically, decries.

"For Mr. Sharon, Jewish fear is a guarantee that his power will go unchecked, granting him the impunity needed to do the unthinkable: send troops into the Palestinian Authority's education ministry to steal and destroy records; *bury children alive in their homes*..."

This vile invective is on a par with the worst, most hateful form of incitement against Israel and Jews.

Klein celebrates the "hundreds of globalization activists who began flocking to Ramallah to act as 'human shields' between Israeli tanks and Palestinians." But how in good conscience, let alone in good or fair commentary, could Klein not mention that those "Palestinians" were in fact Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, his cadre of advisors and the men wanted for the murder of Rechavam Zelevi?

How in good conscience could she not provide even one syllable of context for Israel's decision to undertake its military operation, could she not mention the repeated slaughter of Jews by Palestinian terrorists culminating in the butchery on *leil* seder Pesach in Netanyah?

Israel's military actions have nothing to do with "occupation." The vast majority of Israelis, including Sharon, have often declared their desire to get out of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel's immediate past prime minister even offered the Palestinian leader in Ramallah a treaty to that effect. But that leader chose to make war.

Such details are odd but rather telling omissions for someone who is a critic of the Israeli occupation. —*MBD*

SeeJN

RAINY DAY RALLY: The Israel Action Committee, a grassroots organization, held a rally at Queen's Park last Sunday to show support for Israel and voice opposition to the funding of international terrorist organizations by sympathizers here in Canada. Speakers included Donna Holbrook, Canadian director of International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem, Canada, and Zehavit Ben Hillel from the Israeli Consulate in Toronto . At least one rally participant, her voice cracking with emotion, approached Holbrook to thank her for her support.

[Frances Kraft photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Star loses funeral home ads over Mideast coverage

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Two Toronto funeral chapels are ending long-standing advertising relationships with the *Toronto Star* over concerns the newspaper's coverage of the Middle East is biased against Israel – a claim *Star* publisher John Honderich flatly rejects.

In addition, several real estate developers have pulled ads from the *Star*, according to the agency that places their ads.

Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel has been advertising in the *Star* for 22 years and Steeles Memorial Chapel for about that long as well, say spokespersons for the firms.

Benjamin's announced its decision in an advertisement in *The CJN* last week, saying its death and shivah notices will now appear on its Web site and in the *National Post*. The ads, which ran in the *Star* six days a week, cost close to $100,000 per year, said Michael Benjamin, spokesperson for the family-run chapel.

"This decision is based on what we believe to be the *Toronto Star*'s biased language and coverage of the conflict in the Middle East," the ad stated.

Benjamin said the *Star*'s coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been problematic since at least the onset of the intifadah 18 months ago, but "the last four months have just been incredibly biased." The newspaper always seems to colour its stories in a way to "criticize Israel the most," he said.

The cumulative affect of the *Star*'s approach over many months was to "create an atmosphere in which anti-Semitism could grow in Toronto and Canada. Any anti-Semitic feeling lingering below the surface could have fertile ground to grow in," Benjamin said.

"As a company that deals solely with the Jewish community, it was insensitive for us to support with advertising money a paper making it more and more difficult for our community to live."

Steeles vice-president John Pollock said the chapel "had no obligation to support or subsidize a newspaper which has a consistently anti-Israel bias, both in its news content and editorials. For that reason, we have decided to discontinue our advertising in the *Star*."

Steeles' final ad in the *Star* ran last week and the company will switch most of its advertising to the *National Post*. Advertising worth from $8,000 to $10,000 per month will be affected, Pollock said.

Steeles' executive group was particularly concerned about the *Star*'s coverage since the Passover massacre, when 28 Israelis were killed as a result of a suicide bombing at a seder in Netanya. Pollock said the coverage has been pro-Arab.

"They haven't been balanced. We don't necessarily want them to be pro-Israel, but we want them to be balanced in their newspaper," he said.

Sam Moses, vice-president of new homes for Norman Hill Realty, said several of his clients, concerned over the paper's Mideast coverage, have asked him not to place their ads in the *Star*. Moses said his company, which books ads for major players in the real estate industry, has looked to magazines and other periodicals as a replacement, though "you get your best bang for the buck at the Star."

"[*The Star* has] lost hundreds of thousands of dollars of revenue over the last year" as a result of real estate ads that have been pulled in response to the paper's coverage, Moses said.

Honderich maintained the *Star's* coverage has been even-handed, a point he said he made in discussions with Benjamin last week.

"Our policy is to provide fair and balanced coverage, as for all stories. That's what we try to bring to every story and this one is no exception," Honderich said.

"I do not believe the stories are slanted against Israel. We're fair and balanced."

Honderich rejected Benjamin's suggestions the paper's coverage could lead to anti-Semitism. Asserting that was a case of "shooting the messenger," Honderich said, "it's not the *Star*'s coverage, it's events in the Middle East that lead to that."

The *Star* reports on anti-Semitic incidents more vigorously than other newspapers, Honderich added.

Benjamin said his family considered pulling its advertising during the early months of the intifadah in late 2000. However, at the time no other newspaper offered the late deadlines that would allow death notices to appear in the next day's paper. (Under Jewish law, the deceased must be buried as soon as possible and notice of the funeral must be disseminated quickly.)

That would have created hardships in the community, he said. However, the *National Post* recently agreed to extend its deadline from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., allowing Benjamin's to place notices later in the day to ensure the widest possible exposure. That opened the door for the funeral chapel to take its stand against the *Star*'s Mideast coverage, Benjamin said.

Eighteen months ago, when the *Star*'s Mideast coverage angered many in the Jewish community, David Fuss was faced with a similar dilemma. As president of Incredible Electronics, he relied on the *Star* to provide an effective advertising vehicle for his retail electronics firm. But in protest of the paper's coverage, he withdrew two full-page ads that ran weekly and cost $23,000.

He met with Honderich to discuss the coverage and resumed advertising for a short time afterwards. Eventually, however, he felt nothing had changed and he pulled Incredible's ads completely. The resulting drop-off in sales played a part in his strategic decision to switch from a two-store retail company to a one-outlet wholesaler, Fuss said.

Fuss does not regret his choice. "It was very unbalanced coverage and Honderich didn't really care about our concerns," he said.

As for the *Star*'s coverage today, "I think it still sucks," Fuss said. Benjamin said he would reconsider his decision if "they (the *Star*) are more sensitive, more aware of the language being used in the articles and understand there has to be a more balanced approach."

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Israel needs a military victory: ZOA president

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The tensions and violence in Israel and the Palestinian Authority have nothing to do with land, but rather with Israel's existence itself, says the president of the Zionist Organization of America.

"What we need now," said Morton Klein to an audience of about 100 people at Beth Tzedec Congregation last week, "is an absolute, unequivocal and convincing military victory."

Klein and the century-plus-old organization he heads used to be vilified for their lack of support of the Oslo accords, he said in a lecture co-sponsored by the synagogue and Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem. "No one calls me any more and says, 'Can't you support Oslo?'"

From Day One, said Klein, PA chair Yasser Arafat spoke publicly in Arabic of destroying Israel, refused to get rid of illegal weapons, and paid families of suicide bombers. "And we were simply ignoring it."

The Palestinian culture is the same as that of pre-war Nazi Germany, said Klein, who is a child of Holocaust survivors. Had the signs not been ignored, war could have been prevented, he said. "Jewish leaders told us then that publicly exposing Germany's actions and publicly condemning Americans for not doing anything, would only make things worse."

Textbooks used by Palestinian children from grades 1 to 12 "openly stated that Jews are evil, the Jews are the enemy, are fanatics, treacherous, kill Muslims and Christians and that there is no alternative but to destroy Israel."

Sermons broadcast on Palestinian TV praise suicide bombers and encourage killing of Jews, he said. The official newspaper of the PA has accused Israel of causing cancer, and mad cow disease and injecting Arab children with the AIDS virus, he added.

"The whole culture honours and blesses and glorifies people who murder Jews."

Given those claims, said Klein sarcastically, it's "extraordinary" that in 1948 there were 150,000 Palestinian Arabs in the region and today there are 2.5 million.

"This is not a shocking thing that suddenly we had a war 1½ years ago."

Klein, who has written and been quoted extensively in the media, said the Arabs "know that if they make peace with Israel, their lives will improve dramatically." The issue has never been economics, he said. "It's been ideology and principle."

Nor is there an Israeli occupation, he insists. "Ninety-nine per cent of the Palestinian Arabs in Judea and Samaria live under their own rule. Israel gave 42 per cent of that land away to Arafat. The other 58 per cent is uninhabited, except for 2 per cent."

Klein criticized the American government for accusing Israel of "over-responding" to Palestinian attacks when it is forcefully attacking Afghanistan and killing many civilians in the process. "In 1941, we didn't say let's negotiate with Japan, or with Hitler. We went to war. We went all out."

Rabbis to demonstrate true meaning of pluralism

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — At a unique event sponsored by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, three rabbis will demonstrate the true meaning of pluralism.

This Sunday, May 5, Rabbi Jay Kelman of Beth Jacob Synagogue, Rabbi Howard Morrison of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, and Rabbi Michael Dolgin of Temple Sinai will together explore Torah texts on revelation.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director at Kolel, said what is unique about the event is that the rabbis will "dialogue, not debate.

"True pluralism exists when no one has to prove that their way is the right way. There is not a lot of opportunity to learn about someone else's point of view without it turning into a debate," she said.

There is a lot of fragmentation and even ill will between denominations, Rabbi Goldstein said, "but the power of Torah is that it can bring us together.

"We do not have to agree with each other, but we can study together. Pluralism means that there is not only a multiplicity of students, but there is also a multiplicity of teachers."

When she approached the three rabbis about participating in the evening, they all said yes immediately, Rabbi Goldstein said. "They knew that serious text study takes place at Kolel and they were excited about taking part."

An evening such as this will help people understand each other, she said. "So many people hate us; we cannot afford to hate each other. We must stand united as a community."

ANNOUNCEMENT

We wish to inform the Jewish community that until further notice, **Benjamin's** will withhold its daily advertisement from the Births & Deaths page of The Toronto Star. Families may continue to place notices in the obituary listings of any newspaper in Toronto. Full details of all Benjamin's funeral arrangements, shivas and unveilings will appear in The National Post and our website **(www.benjamins.ca).**

This decision is based on what we believe to be The Toronto Star's biased language and coverage of the conflict in the Middle East. We believe that the reporting and opinion columns try to 'balance' two sides of the story without sufficient depth to achieve journalism's ideals of truth and justice. This in our view makes The Toronto Star complicit in anti-Israel and anti-Semitic attitudes and actions towards the Jewish community in Toronto.

As long as The Toronto Star distorts the truth by equating the deaths of suicidal "martyrs" with those of the Israelis they kill, and as long as The Toronto Star allows its bias to incite hatred of the Jewish community in Toronto and The State of Israel, we will not support their advertising revenues.

As leaders with an 80-year heritage of serving the Jewish community, Benjamin's feels duty bound to resist all forms of hatred against our people.

We want to thank Steeles Memorial Chapel for joining us by also withdrawing their advertisment from The Toronto Star.

Michael Benjamin; Jordan Benjamin; Marc and Stephanie Benjamin; Michael and Barbi Levitt

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Dry Bones
WORLD WIDE ANTI-JEWISH HATE IS NOT ON THE RISE!
NO?
IT'S SIMPLY RETURNING TO NORMAL LEVELS.
NORMAL?
BACK TO BEFORE THE NAZIS...
...GAVE ANTI-SEMITISM A BAD NAME.

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Protecting the historical record

On page one of this week's issue, Prof. Gil Troy urges Canadian Jews to maintain the momentum of our activism on behalf of Israel. The pro-Israel rallies that were held in various cities the past weeks should be, he says, but the beginning point, not the end point of our activities. The situation is urgent and demands vigilant, ongoing involvement.

One person who has demonstrated a unique and compelling activism on behalf of Israel is John Ross of Hamilton. In its last two issues, *The CJN* published Ross' two-part essay on the pivotal role played by Canadian Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand in bringing about the UN General Assembly recommendation in 1947 for the partition of British Mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. As we know, the Jews accepted the recommendation; the Arabs did not.

Rand not only resisted the preferences of Canada and the United Kingdom to "simply amend the terms of the British Mandate," he actually persuaded a majority of the members on the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) to recommend partition of the disputed territory.

Ross deserves the community's gratitude. His original, painstaking research is invaluable for a number of reasons, most important of which is as a bulwark of truth against the frequent attempts, such as the one he described in the introductory paragraphs of his essay, to ignore or distort the integrity of the historical record. For the assault on the historical record, on truth itself, is intrinsic to the assault on the Jewish state.

The Israel Defence Forces' incursion into Jenin and the UN's decision to investigate the battle is a paradigm of that double assault.

After the more than week-long battle in Jenin and the surrender by the remaining terrorists, the Palestinian leadership shouted "massacre," "war crimes" and "atrocities." The UN was receptive to the accusations, echoed the Palestinian sentiments and decided an investigation was in order.

As these words are being written, Israel is embroiled with the UN in a dispute over the terms of reference and the composition of that investigation.

Some civilians, alas, were killed in Jenin. But their deaths fall squarely on the shoulders of the terrorists and their leaders who chose deliberately to sacrifice innocent civilians in the battle against Israel. There was no massacre. There were no war crimes. There were no atrocities. The truth is that the IDF did all it reasonably could to avoid civilian deaths.

Given its recent history, there is very little reason to believe that the UN is actually interested in getting at the truth or in preserving the integrity of the historical record. Ironically and sadly, that task too, along with the responsibility of protecting its own people, has also fallen to Israel.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Applauds Benjamin's 1

I am writing about Benjamin's announcement in your April 25 issue that, until further notice, it will withhold its daily advertisement from the *Toronto Star* over the newspaper's biased coverage of the Mideast conflict.

I fervently hope that our Jewish community will take heed. I honour Benjamin's well-founded wishes and I admire, respect and laud their eloquent input.

R. Romberg
Toronto

* * *

Applauds Benjamin's 2

It is highly honourable that the Benjamin and Levitt families have put principle above "just doing business." As a family, we have not been reading the *Toronto Star* for a good period of time for the same reason, because of the newspaper's biased coverage of the Middle East. In fact, we feel is almost our duty to become supporters of the *National Post* as people concerned about Canadian Jewry and the State of Israel.

The Jewish community could and should use whatever economic clout it has and become even more deeply involved in political activism.

Mark Greenwald
Toronto

Editor's note: Please see related story on page 5.

* * *

An open letter to Canadian Jewry

Thank you to all who showed your support by making the effort to come to the rally on Parliament Hill, Sunday, April 21.

Your presence helped strengthen our collective voice by sending a strong message to all Canadians that we stand in solidarity with Israel, now and forever.

Our community alone could not have accomplished the mammoth feat without your assistance. Together we made a difference.

Todah rabah.

Gerald Levitz
President, Jewish Community Council of Ottawa

* * *

A wake-up call

Rachael Turkienicz's article in the April 18 issue of *The CJN* ("How do we respond?") articulated in a profoundly moving way the helpless anxiety and sadness that many of us have been feeling over recent events in Israel and throughout the Jewish world.

For many of us postwar Jewish baby boomers who have never known a world without our Jewish State, the past months have been a wake-up call. That we Jews have to change our complacent attitudes regarding Israel and our Judaism was made clear to me by an uplifting experience after the recent Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations. As I boarded a bus with my son and daughter who happened to be carrying an Israeli flag, an elderly frail-looking gentleman took the cloth of my daughter's flag in his hands and kissed it. That he did this, treating the flag of our Jewish State as one would a Sefer Torah or mezuzah, moved me to tears. It is an image that will stay with me forever. This man obviously remembered a world without a Jewish State and treated its symbol, the beautiful blue and white, with a reverence normally reserved for holy objects. So should we all. If we continue to take the existence of our Jewish country for granted as we have for so many years, we will be doing so at our peril.

Adrianne Klemensberg
Toronto

* * *

Just returned from Israel

We have just returned from a solidarity mission to Israel. What we found there were empty streets, closed stores and hotels and a population of "shut-ins" who carry on with their chores while living with the fear that the most innocent activity – buying groceries, sitting in a café, taking a bus to school – could be their last. We heard two things continuously: 1. Why have the Jews of North America abandoned us? Why aren't they coming to support us? and 2. Why are governments (such as the government of Canada) who supported the war on terrorism in Afghanistan silent about terrorism when it comes to Israel? We urge all *CJN* readers to rethink their travel plans for the coming year and go to Israel where their presence and support is needed, and to write to their government representatives to demand that Canada take a stand against the teaching and perpetrating of hatred that is rampant in the Palestinian Authority communities.

We are Israel.
It isn't a place on a map.
It isn't a land marked by geographic boundaries.
It isn't a country with a language and an army.
We are Israel.
It is a place in our hearts.
It is the geography of our dreams and our prayers.
It is the country that we inhabit with our souls.
We are Israel.
To not forget is not enough.
We must learn how to stand together,
How to bear the burden that we share
Because
We are Israel.

Sylvia and David Bereskin
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

An open letter to students

By RUTH WISSE

Although bashing Israel has been a popular campus activity since the rise of student radicalism in the late 1960s, during the past year, some Harvard University students have noted an increase of anti-Israel bias inside the classroom.

A professor calls Israel an "apartheid" country, perpetuating the Zionist-racist calumny that corrupted the United Nations for 15 years. Another holds Israel responsible for the aggression against it, while teaching assistants routinely manifest their bias instead of presenting critically balanced analysis. These are only some of the anguished laments I have been hearing from Jewish and other students who identify with Israel's cause.

As citizens of the free world, let alone members of the university community, students ought to do everything possible to challenge systematic prejudice and bias. But what can they do? The right of free speech is so rightfully enshrined in our culture, most especially at the university, that one hesitates to complain about professors who may be abusing their privilege. Students, having less information than their teachers, feel handicapped in arguing for what they know to be true, and they often hesitate to challenge those who determine their grades. Nevertheless, students are never powerless; indeed, they have the responsibility to seek out the truth and to affirm it. Let me suggest some ways they may begin correcting distortion – within the classroom and also beyond it.

Maps: 1. Have a reliably scaled map of the entire Middle East in view during any discussion of the Arabs and Israel. You may ask for such a map to be provided by the teacher, or distribute it on your own. Since the map shows that Israel takes up about one per cent of the region – about the proportion of Rhode Island to the United States – the complaint against Israel is easily turned back against those who question its expanse: how much less land do the Jews deserve compared to the vast holdings of the Arabs? The Arabs have 21 countries, Islam rules in 40. Why, then, accuse the Jews of having too much when the Arabs consider all they have is still too little? Why does their obsession with the tiny Jewish enclave prevent them from attending to the manifold problems of their own societies?

2. Have on hand a 1921-23 map of Great Britain's division of the mandated area of "Palestine." (I put Palestine in quotation marks because at the time, most Muslim and Christian Arabs considered the whole area called Palestine to be part of Arab Syria, and recognized no separate national identity among Syrian, Jordanian, or Palestinian Arabs.) The area assigned by Britain to the Hashemite rulers of Jordan was twice as large as that originally designated for the Jewish national home, but whereas Jews were barred from settling in Transjordan, Arabs remained free to settle in Eretz Yisrael. This map makes it clear that Jordan represented the lion's share of historical Palestine; indeed, the majority of Jordan is still made up of Palestinian Arabs, just as the majority of Palestinian Arabs reside in Jordan. How is it, then, that those who question the Jews' right to their part of Palestine do not simultaneously challenge Jordan's right to the Arab part of Palestine? The map highlights the scandal that Arab refugees were not settled in that abundant land just as Jewish refugees from Arab lands were resettled in Jewish Palestine.

3. Have in view a political map of the Middle East that is colour-coded according to levels of democracy and autocracy. That tiny blue patch of Israel hemmed in by shades of purple will show that the war against the Jewish State is simultaneously a war against the region's only democracy. Of course, a professor may want to present the case against democracy as well as for it. Arab governments' opposition to democracy within their borders is for them to determine. But any criticism of Israeli democracy within the context of Mideast politics is subject to strict comparative standards, or else it is merely an excuse to delegitimize the Jewish people.

Ruth Wisse

4. Have on hand a map of the world. See how many lands Christians and Muslims consider themselves entitled to, while the (older) religious civilization of the Jews is still expected to justify its claim to a small part of its ancient homeland.

Demographics: Keep on hand a chart of population statistics to register the preposterous imbalance of the so-called Arab-Israel conflict. There are presently about 13 million Jews in the world, four or five million fewer than there were in 1939, while there are more than 250 million Arabs with ties to more than one billion Muslims worldwide.

Since Judaism predates Islam by some 2,200 years, this asymmetry obviously attests to opposing religious priorities – self-limiting in one case, expansionist in the other. The Jews' concept of election puts enormous pressure on them to try to live up to the measure of God – a moral outlook that does not tempt many converts and has made Jews notoriously susceptible to political defeat. By contrast, Islam is a religion that affirms itself through conquest. Along with its humanitarian and spiritual teachings, the sword is one of its proudest symbols, and the current effort to increase its numbers, including in America, is part of this drive for universal reach.

Is there anything wrong with that? Perhaps not. Cultures are different, which is undoubtedly why Harvard places such emphasis on diversity, so that we may learn to recognize differences among people without seeking to destroy them on account of their difference. But why then should Islam's drive for hegemonic rule be credited over the Jewish people's struggle for survival?

Thanks to the lopsided ratio of the two parties, only the Arabs can bring peace to the Middle East, and only if and when they accept that Jews are also entitled to their land.

Historical timetables: While history cannot be summarized in charts, a reliable chronological timetable helps to counter disinformation by keeping the sequence of events firmly in view.

History records that the United Nations voted for the partition of Palestine on Nov. 29, 1947: the Jews accepted it, the Arabs did not. Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948. Five Arab countries invaded Israel, vowing, in the words of the Secretary-General of the Arab League, that "this will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades."

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed under the auspices of the Arab League in the summer of 1964, when the west bank of the Jordan River was under Hashemite control. The PLO's purpose must have been to "liberate" all of Israel, since the west bank was then under Arab control. Since Israel's conquest of what was formerly the west bank of the Jordan in 1967 was the result of the Arab war against the Jewish state, the so-called occupation of those disputed territories cannot retroactively have become its cause.

The Arab refusal to settle the Palestinians, or to let part of Jordan evolve into a Palestinian state, cannot be recycled as a charge against the Jewish people, except by willful distortion of the historical record. While there may be legitimate disputes over the interpretation of one or another event, there can unfortunately be no dispute about the escalation of Arab violence against the Jews of Palestine between 1921 and the present.

Sources: Although teachers may assign books exclusively hostile to Israel, you are free to explore the other side of the story. To see how widespread the problem Harvard students may be facing is, read Martin Kramer's *Ivory Towers on Sand: The Failure of Middle Eastern Studies in America*. Bernard Lewis' most recent book, *What Went Wrong: Western Impact and Middle Eastern Responses* offers a terse, deeply knowledgeable historical analysis of his subject. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Middle East Conflict* also serves the needs of intelligent and knowledgeable readers. Its bibliography and list of Web sites encourages further independent research.

Students who wish to defend Israel sometimes think they are engaged in a parochial cause that concerns them only because they are Jewish, or because they have Jewish sympathies or Jewish friends. But in fact, their fellow students may be afraid to stand up for the Jews because of the enormity, intensity, and ubiquity of the propaganda against them. This is as true today as it was in the 1930s and for many of the same reasons. Aggression against the Jews is the common denominator of many of the greatest tyrannies of the modern age, and the epidemic of anti-Semitism among the Arabs is all-too-disturbing evidence of the drift of their political culture.

Anti-Semitism is one of the world's most powerful ideologies because of the way it unites otherwise warring and opposing factions, such as radical Islamists and Arab nationalists, just as it united Communist and Arab regimes during the Cold War. Yet the more intractable the war against the Jews, the more some people are tempted to pressure Israel to yield to its enemies, since they believe the Arabs will never yield and, therefore, see no other solution but to ask for Jewish concessions. The ultimate outcome of such pressure on the Jews would be the destruction of their polity and population. And those who join in the assault, for whatever reason, bear responsibility for its acceleration.

To be sure, those who blame Israel for the aggression against it usually deny they are anti-Jewish. They say they are merely anti-Israel and anti-Zionist, not against the Jewish people. But as Hillel Halkin sums it up in the February 2002 issue of *Commentary*, "Israel is the state of the Jews. Zionism is the belief that the Jews should have a state. To defame Israel is to defame the Jews. To wish that it never existed, or would cease to exist, is to wish to destroy the Jews."

This syllogism should be borne in mind by those who help to prosecute the Arab war against the homeland of the Jewish people, for unlike Christianity and Islam, the Jews claim only a single land, one of the smallest on the globe.

Modern anti-Semitism since the 1860s has attacked the Jews because they are the emblem of democratic freedoms. Hence, by the logic of politics, defenders of Jewish rights, whether against the political left or right, are invariably defending the causes of liberty and toleration.

A version of this article originally appeared in The Harvard Crimson. *Ruth Wisse teaches at Harvard.*

***The CJN* is sponsoring a Town Hall meeting May 7 on anti-Semitism on campus. Please see page 24 for details.**

A problem that won't go away

It seems that these last weeks I did not have to read the newspapers – I was able to anticipate what was in them. Inevitably, they told me that Israel had done this or that – made incursions into Palestinian territory or had withdrawn from it. The headlines always suggested either one of two things: that Israel was aggressive, or that it was retreating from its incursions because of world opinion. Emphasis was always on what it did or did not do rather than on what was being done to it that might have caused its reactions.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This imbalance of reporting is not new. Israel has never been a favourite of the journalistic clan, which has the uncanny habit of emphasizing the country's actions in such a way as to portray it, directly or indirectly, as the cause of all the trouble in the Middle East.

Arabic writers have long ago pointed this out. According to them, there would be no trouble in the Middle East, or anywhere perhaps, if it were not for the presence of Israel. Israel's refusal to dissolve itself and disappear from existence has been, according to them, the main reason for trouble in the Middle East. Since trouble there has affected many parts of the western world, some people believe that most of the trouble we are experiencing is due to Israel. Just how is not necessarily specified, but it sounds good to our enemies.

The fact that in most of the incidents reported, Israel is the victim and not the aggressor has spawned the odd charge that the victim is to blame for the problem.

That spurious argument could be stated a little differently, but just as cogently.

If Jews were not in existence, there would be no anti-Semitism. Based on this proposition, the conclusion is obvious: it is the Jews who are responsible for the persecution they have suffered.

A similar argument states there would be no Israel problem if Israel did not exist. Its coming into existence is its sin, and as long as it exists it will have to be punished for being alive. If Israel would disappear, we would be rid not only of it, but of its troubles.

Israel, of course, refuses to agree to its own disappearance. It has the chutzpah of wanting to stay alive, and those who wish it ill feel that this is its primary sin.

Well, Israel will have to keep on sinning in this regard, and I for one, belong with the majority of my co-religionists, and the not-insubstantial number of Israel's friends and admirers who also refuse to accede to its disappearance.

Dear Friends

Distressed by two letters to the *National Post* (April 5) from the heads of the Anglican Church and the United Church, I wrote to both of them. Part of my letter follows.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

"To the Most Reverend Michael Peers, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada and to Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, Moderator of the United Church of Canada:

"Your letters of April 5 appeared in the *National Post* under the headline 'Churches identify root causes of uprising.'

"I was pleased to see that you so easily grasp the nettle of misery in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Unfortunately, you are wrong on many counts.

"I am amazed at how you, Rev. Peers, so glibly quoted a passage from Jeremiah, 'They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying "peace, peace," when there is no peace,' as if Israel had no wounds, and had not for years sought peace with the Palestinian people. Here are three questions which I ask both of you to ponder.

"1. Why did you not write equally passionately about homicide bombings when they began, and when Israeli men, women and children going about their civilian lives were literally torn apart by bombers?

"2. Can you recount for me how many peace demonstrations have taken place in the Palestinian areas, and in fact anywhere in the Arab world either before Oslo, since [former prime minister] Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, or since 2000 when the bombings began? Or ever?

"3. When living in the Middle East – which I assume both of you have done for long periods of time, learning both Hebrew and Arabic – did you encounter Israelis and Palestinians being business partners, shopping and visiting parks together, worshipping the same God? You could have, before the latest uprising.

"Look carefully – you will see Palestinian textbooks that praise armed struggle, and none that praise peace with Israel – or even acknowledge it as a possibility. The Palestinians have been cowed by the corruption of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Why are there still refugee camps in Palestinian territory years after Palestinians have taken control of those areas? Should the camps not have been demolished and normal homes built, fruitful industries begun for their inhabitants? No, the PA has chosen the opposite strategy: not to make those refugees want peace, but to make their lives such misery that they will turn against the Israelis.

"The Palestinians have been conned – Israel will not disappear, nor can all refugees return to the state, just as Jews from Arab lands cannot reclaim their property. International law recognizes compensation and so Israel offers. Palestinians have been convinced that Jews are blood-drinking swine, by their media and by their elite: have you spoken out against this left-over myth from the Dark Ages?

"The settlements are a thorn in all sides. But they are not the cause of the conflict. The cause is the unrelenting refusal of the Palestinian people to accept the State of Israel. Israelis did not dance in the streets on Sept. 11, but Arabs did. Deceived as they are, your quick acceptance of all their grievances and rejection of Israel's rights does nothing to recover a balance for peace.

"If you wrote about suicide bombings, please send me copies of your letters and I will publish them in my monthly column for the *Canadian Jewish News*. If you can give me the dates of Palestinian peace demonstration (one recent one in Jerusalem by Israelis had 10,000 people at it), I will publish them. If you both have lived in the Middle East and talked with Israelis and Palestinians of all stripes, then I will be pleased to hear about your lives there. Dr. Pardy, Israel is still willing to negotiate and end to the conflict. Is Arafat?

"It has taken me longer to buy a carpet in the market than it did Arafat to walk away from the negotiating table. What Palestinians needed was not teenage homicidal maniacs. They needed, as [Middle East historian] Bernard Lewis put it, to realize that 'the age of martial valour in holy war had ended; the time had come for the solid, bourgeois virtues of industry, skill and thrift needed in the hard, unglamorous, but urgent task of developing the country and raising the standard of living of her people.'

"That task is boring and unglamorous and absolutely necessary if suffering is to end.

"Two final questions: Can Arafat and his minions do it? Do they want to?"

E-mail: The next best thing to being there

I have three e-mail accounts: one at work, one at a home, and a Hotmail account.

My office e-mail is reserved for correspondence and files pertaining to my job. I use my home e-mail account for personal projects, communication with friends and relatives, and volunteer work.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

For years, I've had a free Hotmail account that I have grown to hate. It used to be my primary account. Today, for every e-mail I get from someone I know, I get at least 30 notes advertising get-rich-quick schemes, pornography, get-rich-slow schemes, weight loss programs (I guess those direct marketers have done some homework!), debt consolidation programs, get-rich-at-a-moderate-pace schemes, credit card offers and other trash that I delete before I finish reading the subject line.

Lately, my personal mailboxes have been filling up with all sorts of communication about the current crisis in the Middle East.

I received one e-mail explaining how to complain – by e-mail of course – to the New Democratic Party about its baffling behaviour on the Middle East. Another note carried a link to a powerful *Jerusalem Post* article by Limor Livnat, Israel's education minister. (At first, I didn't pay much attention to this message, because I had only received it from three different people.)

I got a few e-mails about a Belgian Web site gathering first names of Israel supporters and the cities they live in for an advertising campaign (if you see "Stu from Winnipeg" in a Brussels newspaper, that's me). According to the Web site's counter, nearly 918,000 people have visited so far.

Another e-mail reported an alleged and damning conversation between an Israeli and CNN correspondent Andrea Koppel. There were also a handful of "open letters" to the world, forceful fact sheets about Middle East history and a disturbing PowerPoint presentation about how Palestinian children learn to hate Israel from an early age (complete with the dramatic sounds of gunfire and disquieting images of mutilated bodies).

One thing these e-mails share in common is the invitation to forward the note to others. At first, I was impressed and heartened by the strength and length of these electronic chains. It was exciting to see the long lists of e-mail addresses that preceded mine.

At first, I read each e-mail and dutifully forwarded it to a few friends and relatives. After a few days of receiving pro-Israel e-mails, I would forward them without reading them. But I confess that my enthusiasm for forwarding and reading these notes has faded in recent days.

While I believe that sharing information and lobbying are important, I fear that the composition and distribution of e-mail messages might replace traditional advocacy and community-building in the eyes of too many people.

Demonstrating support for Israel via e-mail is easy. Perhaps too easy. It is critical that we use e-mail to enhance – not replace – other action. The fact 918,000 people have visited a pro-Israel Web site on the strength of e-mail messages is great. In my mind, though, the more important numbers are the 25,000 Israel supporters who rallied on Parliament Hill; the 1,500 who sang *Am Yisrael Chai* at the Manitoba Legislature; and the 800 who gathered at Queen's Park.

The number of people who send and receive PowerPoint presentations by e-mail is less important than the number of people who open some books (remember them?) about Jewish and Israeli history; gather at Jewish events in Jewish buildings and public places; engage Arab Canadians in dialogue; contribute financially; and visit Israel.

Sharing information by e-mail is useful and it will become increasingly so. And, yes, e-mail has the power to build community. But e-advocacy is still unproven and the Internet tolerates a whole lot of nonsense. For the pro-Israel messages to resonate above the cacophony of ads, myths, hoaxes, shtick and tricks, the messages need to be put into perspective.

So go ahead and click, double click, reply, forward and send. But don't miss the rally.

The Kirshner File

Assessing the outcome of Defensive Shield

Israel officially completed Operation Defensive Shield – its biggest ground offensive in 20 years – on April 21, and then redeployed, but did not fully withdraw, from Palestinian autonomous areas.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Israel reoccupied six of eight towns and many more villages in Area A – comprising 18 per cent of the West Bank – after a succession of Palestinian suicide bombings and shootings. The terrorist campaign, capped by the March 27 Passover massacre in Netanya, triggered the sweep, whose broad objective was to cripple the Palestinian Authority's (PA) infrastructure of terrorism. The three-week offensive was supported by the vast majority of Israelis, who could no longer tolerate the daily carnage that claimed the lives of 126 civilians and soldiers in March alone.

From one perspective, the operation was a success. Israel killed 35 key organizers and planners, and numerous perpetrators, of Palestinian attacks, including Qis Adwan, the architect of the Netanya bombing. Israel also rounded up leaders, principally Fatah's Marwan Barghouti, and established a clear connection between the PA's intelligence apparatus and a web of terrorist cells. In addition, Israel seized caches of weapons and explosive belts worn by suicide bombers and blew up dozens of bomb-making workshops.

Gen. Shaul Mofaz, Israel's chief of staff, had said the offensive would last up to two months, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had indicated it would leave no "seed of terror behind." Yet, under American pressure, brought on by Arab and European indignation, Israel was forced to wind up Operation Defensive Shield much earlier.

Sharon, who has not ruled out major thrusts into Hebron and the Gaza Strip, which were left untouched by the massive incursion, knows that the Palestinians will soon regroup and renew their attacks. Thus, within a week of Israel's redeployment, Hamas attacked Adora, a West Bank settlement, killing four civilians, and the Israeli army resurrected its policy of pinprick strikes against militants from the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

By early this week, in defiance of United Nations resolutions and U.S. and European demands, Israeli forces continued to encircle Palestinian cities like Nablus and Jenin, where the fiercest battles took place. On April 28, Israel agreed to left the siege around PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's battered compound in Ramallah – whose offices contain, among others, the suspected assassins of Israeli cabinet minister Rechavam Ze'evi – and set him free. But Israel was still besieging the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, filled with some 30 gunmen.

Due to Israel's continuing presence in Area A, which is supposed to be under full Palestinian control under the Oslo accords, the Palestinians rejected a ceasefire proposal by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

With Operation Defensive Shield formally finished, at least for now, Sharon reiterated his intention to build a buffer zone along much of Israel's border with the West Bank. Designed to protect Israelis from terrorism, it is expected to cost $800 million, take about a year to construct, consist of a mix of fences and sensors, and will be policed by mobile patrols.

It remains to be seen whether the buffer zone, which would resemble the existing one cutting the Gaza Strip off from Israel, will be the first step toward an Israeli declaration of unilateral separation, a concept vehemently opposed by Jewish settlers in the territories. In any event, most Israelis realize that a strictly military solution cannot provide a definitive answer to the twin problems of Palestinian militancy and terrorism.

By all accounts, Operation Defensive Shield shattered the PA. Sharon, having characterized the PA as a terrorist kingdom, had made no secret of his desire to eradicate it. Some observers claim that Sharon, under the guise of uprooting terrorism, a clear and present danger, deliberately laid waste to the PA, leaving behind "a landscape of devastation," as a *New York Times* correspondent succinctly put it. Government buildings were pummelled, official documents and computer hard drives were removed, water mains were destroyed and electricity pylons were downed.

Long before Operation Defensive Shield was launched, Israeli helicopters, jets, tanks and artillery, in numerous reprisal raids, had already wrecked a wide assortment of PA facilities, from jails and television and radio stations to Gaza's airport and nascent port.

It appears that the PA's economy, a vital component of which was tourism, especially in Bethlehem, has virtually ceased to function. In recent months, as closures kept Palestinian workers out of Israel, real income fell and the unemployment rate rose, causing still more deprivation and misery and sowing the seeds of both Islamic and secular radicalism. "Belief in the path of jihad is growing stronger," *Ha'aretz* recently quoted a senior Israeli army officer as saying.

Western donors, including the United States and Canada, have pledged to rebuild the PA. But if Israelis are tormented by further acts of Palestinian terrorism, which will doubtless be the case, Israel will retaliate, and the PA will be sent reeling back to square one.

It is clear that Operation Defensive Shield, far from isolating Arafat, has reinforced his stature. Arafat, whose popularity had waned in the face of widespread corruption and a lack of improvement in the standard of living, is probably as popular today as he was when he returned to Gaza in triumph in July 1994.

Sharon, having branded Arafat as "irrelevant" and as an "enemy," does not regard him as a partner and refuses to deal with him. Sharon hopes that a "responsible and moderate" Palestinian leadership will displace Arafat and company. But it is a forlorn hope, grounded in illusion. Neither the United States and the Europeans, nor the Arab world, have written off Arafat, the ultimate survivor.

Furthermore, Powell has warned Sharon not to try to exile Arafat. Unless Israel sends Arafat packing, Israel is stuck with him, just as Israel had no alternative but to negotiate with the PLO.

Although Operation Defensive Shield was applauded by most Israelis, it has tarnished Israel, particularly in Europe. In a startling reversal of fortunes, Israel's image as a victim of terrorism has been transformed into that of an aggressor guilty of committing a massacre in the Jenin refugee camp, a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism and the incubator of 23 suicide bombers. In this sense, the sweep has been a public relations disaster for Israel.

At the United Nations, European countries, joined by the United States, voted for several resolutions calling for Israel's immediate withdrawal from Area A. European Union foreign ministers rejected a proposal to scrap the EU's free trade agreement with Israel, but Israel is on notice that further incursions may have grave consequences. And in a disturbing sign of the times, Germany – Israel's best friend after the United States – imposed a temporary arms embargo on Israel, delaying by weeks the delivery of Merkava tank parts.

Gen. Shaul Mofaz

In general, the European press has lambasted Israel's incursion, and polls suggest that public opinion has swung behind the Palestinians in France, Britain and Italy.

And in what may be a harbinger of Israel's political isolation, Niger – a mainly Muslim backwater in Africa – severed diplomatic relations with Israel last week in support of the Palestinians.

In particular, Israel's image has been bruised by its destruction of a small swath of the Jenin refugee camp, a nest of hard-core terrorism. In all probability, Israel could have saved the lives of 23 of its own soldiers had it attacked the camp from the air. Instead, to minimize civilian casualties and property damage, Israel opted for a dangerous house-to-house assault. The Palestinians described their resistance in Jenin in heroic language, but strangely enough, labelled Israel's thrust into the camp as an outright massacre.

Terje Roed-Larsen, the United Nation's special representative in the Middle East, denounced the events in Jenin as "shocking beyond belief" and "morally indefensible." His comments, which caused an uproar in Israel, led to the formation of a UN investigation panel, but not, as the Palestinians had hoped, to an international peacekeeping force.

Operation Defensive Shield somewhat dented Israel's pivotal relationship with the United States, but also hardened the Bush administration's generally dubious view of Arafat and his commitment to a settlement.

Massive Arab television coverage deepened Arab hostility to Israel. Egypt downgraded diplomatic relations with Israel and temporarily halted Air Sinai flights to and from Tel Aviv. King Abdullah II of Jordan came under similar pressure to sever ties with Israel. Judging by the comments of Egypt's foreign minister, the consensus in Arab capitals is that Israel is sabotaging efforts to reach a ceasefire with the PA, and that the Palestinians have a right to resist Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Politically, then, Operation Defensive Shield has backfired on Israel, which, given the harsh realities in the world, is not all that surprising.

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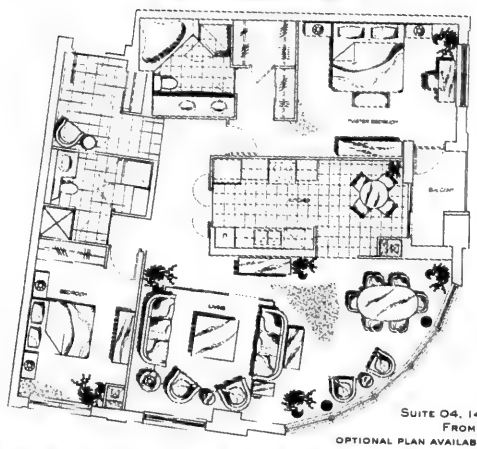

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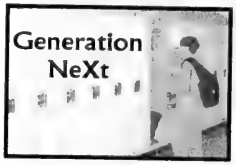
Am Yisrael Chai

By MARK DANIELS AND JASON ROTSTEIN

My experience with Israel has been a journey of discovery. The road has been lined with realizations about the world, about people, about myself. Feelings of obligation grew as I did, and my ties with Israel matured with my sense of responsibility to my other homeland.

But the one part of the journey that has stood out above all, and will continue to do so for as long as I live, came at the recent pro-Israel rally in Washington, D.C. There, my awakening peaked, and my journey stopped being a journey of the self as I realized that my feelings are shared by countless others.



I stepped off the Washington subway as an individual, ready to show my support for Israel. I returned to the subway as part of something greater, knowing that I was part of a solution, no longer an inactive bystander watching from a distance.

As I listened to speaker after speaker, my pride in Israel grew. And as the crowd poured onto Capitol Hill – an endless stream of our people joined by a common cause and an unbreakable will – I knew Israel would never stand alone.

I can't fully describe the rally to you here. It was one of those things that can't be accurately expressed with words, if only for a lack of appropriate vocabulary to convey certain emotions. But what I witnessed that day was nothing short of remarkable.

The crowd's undying faith in the State of Israel overcame any feelings of concern for the future of the Jewish homeland. That entire afternoon, I saw an extraordinary display of determination, surpassed only by limitless inner strength. It was that strength in the face of extreme adversity that has remained firmly embedded in my memory. The experience put everything into a new, unmistakable perspective.

Everywhere I looked, I saw an army of my brothers, hundreds of thousands of patriots bursting with pride in Israel, wearing blue and white flags and Israel Defence Forces T-shirts. That's when I realized that while Israel may be, for some, a small country 5,000 miles away, one whose very existence is constantly threatened by the presence of Goliaths on each of its borders, Israel is really wherever we are. And that is why, when we have faced impossible odds time and time again, Israel has never fallen. Israel will always live on in each and every one of us, and that strength can never be overcome. Am Yisrael chai!

The authors are students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. He plans to graduate this year.

Temple Kol Ami to get its own permanent home

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

VAUGHAN — After 13 years, Temple Kol Ami is well on its way to having its own home.

The congregation is currently housed at Leo Baeck Day School on Atkinson Avenue in Thornhill, but it has purchased land on Dufferin Street just north of Highway 7, and is planning to break ground in two to three years.

At a fund-raising dinner planned for May 26, the temple, which has a membership of about 240 families, is honouring Elinor Caplan, member of Parliament for Thornhill.

Rabbi Daniel Komito-Gottlieb, spiritual leader of Temple Kol Ami for the past six years, said he worked with 12 founding families to establish the temple when he was director of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism.

"The Jewish community in York region was growing rapidly but there was no Reform congregation to serve the area. These families were looking for a family-oriented congregation with a strong sense of community.

"They also wanted a fully egalitarian, welcoming congregation so that people who were returning to Judaism could feel at home. They've never looked back," he said.

Part of the congregation's success, said Rabbi Komito-Gottlieb, is that its members "live the values of Torah in its religious and its day-to-day life. Tikkun olam is one of the core values of our congregation."

Among its community work, the congregation has volunteers that work every second Sunday on a street help van, help out at food banks, conduct a food drive, run programs at Cheltenham Nursing Home, and take part in fund-raising walks.

The new building is intended to be a full-service centre that will include a synagogue, school and preschool, Rabbi Komito-Gottlieb said.

"It is an exciting time to be a rabbi. There is a general level of excitement in the congregation.

"It is a volunteer-led congregation, and all aspects of the land acquisition was done by members. There was a tremendous level of co-operation to make this happen," said Rabbi Komito-Gottlieb.

For information on the fund-raising dinner honouring Elinor Caplan, call the temple at 905-709-2620.

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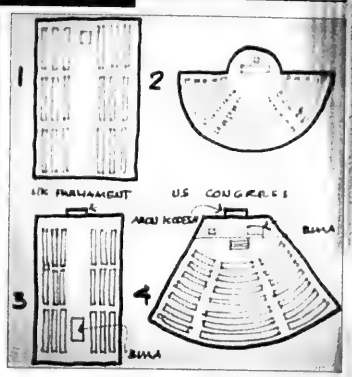

Architect Jack Diamond (left) shows a slide demonstrating how different models of synagogues/parliament buildings encourage and/or discourage democratic participation. **[Jennifer Paquette photos]**

Shul architecture mirrors Jewish experience

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — What makes synagogues architecturally unique? Nothing, says Jack Diamond, since synagogues borrow from the styles and cultural motifs of their surrounding societies.

But, said Diamond, one of Canada's leading architects and the designer of Jerusalem's new City Hall, this lack of style reflects deeper truths about Jewish buildings.

While other faiths' places of worship assume an "inevitable" authenticity through antiquity, size, location, and aesthetics, the rules don't apply to synagogues, Diamond told a recent symposium on shul architecture.

"Judaism defies inevitability," he said. Believing "the soul has no locus… [Jews] do not seek authenticity in place."

Diamond joined fellow architect Sheldon Levitt, psychiatrist Vivian Rakoff and Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker at Congregation Darchei Noam early last month for a gathering entitled Building Synagogues: Architecture and Jewish Experience, part of Darchei Noam's ongoing adult education series and funded in part by a grant from the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation's Yad Mordecai Keren Torah fund.

Rakoff, a professor emeritus of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, described the synagogues of his South African childhood, ranging from a living-room minyan to the majestic Gardens Shul in Cape Town. The latter, "modelled after the cathedral of Vilna, Lithuania," symbolized in a way no "Jewish" design ever could the immigrants' "hope for an end to centuries of oppression," Rakoff said.

Despite this, Rakoff said, even the grandest of shuls are "corks bobbing on the open waters of history" and are eventually cast aside.

Levitt's presentation underscored this ephemerality with a slide-show sampling of photographs from his 1986 book, *Treasures of a People: The Synagogues of Canada*. Many are no longer sacred spaces – Levitt showed one beautiful former shul that was being used as a muffler warehouse.

On the issue of the ephemerality, Rakoff noted that Judaism is what anthropologists call a "non-embedded" society, one that is "based in portable symbols" – such as a Sefer Torah he recalled from a shul of his youth – "and, hence, cannot be destroyed." For Rakoff, a synagogue is not a place, but a function: a metaphor for the Jewish worship experience.

Synagogue as metaphor was also Rabbi Pinsker's message. Contrary to popular belief, Rabbi Pinsker said, the modern synagogue is modelled not after Greek or Egyptian places of worship, but on a far older archetype: the ancient city gate. In a complex of buildings outside the city, people would conduct civil and business transactions – and even religious events, such as when Ezra gathered the Jews there to learn Torah.

Reflecting "the functionality of everyday life," these gatehouses-as-sacred-spaces predated the Second Temple, offering a "universal, democratic and popular" means of approaching Jewish spirituality; one which Rabbi Pinsker said has, "throughout history, saved us from disappearing."

Levitt said this democratic spirit has become a significant modern trend.

His slide show documented the post-World War II transition from synagogues centred around sanctuaries to a model of synagogue as "campuses," with the sanctuary becoming only part of the synagogue as a whole. In other ways, as both Diamond and discussion moderator, architect Les Klein, showed, newer synagogues offer more inviting entranceways and increasingly offer physically-accessible worship spaces.

Yet, along with this openness, Rakoff said security has also become one of the primary concerns in synagogue architecture.

But Levitt noted that, "while important, security concerns are a slippery slope. There's no end to security… [but] we can't be afraid."

In turbulent times, noted the event's organizer, architect Ronni Rosenberg, the very act of building a synagogue is "perhaps the most optimistic statement any community can make." And no matter where a Jewish community dwells, Rabbi Pinsker said, "people are the centrepiece of any synagogue – they are there for the Torah."

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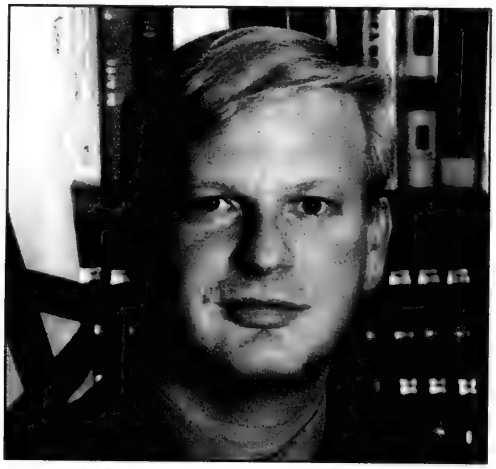

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Jewish Life

What they say and what they mean

By RABBI MENDEL KAPLAN

Rabbinic Reflections

After decades of being politically incorrect and unacceptable, old-fashioned anti-Semitism is making a comeback. Although "Nazi," "fascist," "bigot" and even "anti-Semite" are still dirty words, our enemies have renewed this age-old hatred by renaming it "pro-Palestinian" and "anti-Israeli." If the United Nations anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, didn't make it clear enough six months ago, then the last few weeks in France, Tunisia, Berlin, Kiev and downtown Toronto should have.

From a Torah perspective, the skilful attempts made by anti-Semites to conceal the true nature of their vile intentions come as no surprise. According to the Kabbalah's teachings, naked evil never has any allure. To succeed, it must first cover its hideous face.

Adolf Hitler, for example, claimed to be saving his country and ridding the world of the worst diseases with his "Final Solution." Slobodan Milosevic still claims to be a patriotic defender of "glorious" Yugoslavian "values." And Osama bin Laden justifies his campaign of terror as righting the wrongs imposed by the western world upon his "unfortunate brethren."

Tragically, the pan-Arab visions for the future of Eretz Yisrael are no different. For most of the last century, they have tried to exterminate the Jews living in the Holy Land. After the formal declaration of a Jewish State, they initiated five wars, causing the deaths of thousands of Jews and Arabs. The PLO charter still calls for the total destruction of Israel.

Yet as all faithful adherents of true evil have always done, the honest intentions have been ingeniously disguised. Genocidal wishes veiled as an ardent desire to "resettle three million helpless refugees" by granting them the "right to return" or by liberating occupied "ancient" Palestinian land from an "alien" conqueror sound morally just and even meritorious. If the blowing up of Israelis were presented as an attempt to kill and maim as many Jews as possible, the civilized world might not accept it. Instead, it is presented as "an expression of the deepest frustrations of an unfairly oppressed people," and harvests an outpouring of sympathy for the perpetrators rather than the victims of this cold-blooded murder.

It is painful to see most of the civilized world rehabilitate their old animosities against the Jewish people. It is even more painful to see well-intentioned Jews unwittingly join them in the anti-Semitic fest – Jews who, in their passionate desire for peace, believe the brilliantly packaged PR proffered by these dictators and terrorists.

Don't despair. We have seen worse times and we shall overcome these newest travails as well. God will never forsake us. As He has miraculously sustained us through horrible and unimaginable times during the past 2,000 years of Galut, He will continue to preserve us. As King David states in the book of Psalms (94: 14), "*Lo yitosh Hashem amo*" (God will not abandon his people). However, that doesn't mean we should sit and wait to be attacked. The same Torah tells us that we must do our part with the greatest possible effort.

"*Kivsah achat bein shivim zevim*" (a lone sheep amongst 70 [hungry] wolves) is the Torah terminology used to characterize our tenuous existence. For six decades, the wolves have (relatively) been at bay. Now that traditional anti-Semitism has assumed this new countenance, we need to stop ignoring reality. The lower we lay, the more damage we allow. Anti-Semitism may be at our doorstep, but that doesn't mean we have to tolerate it. We need to educate ourselves, defend Israel and strip away the sophisticated veneer that Yasser Arafat and his ilk have painted. We need to engage our associates and friends, and if our attempts to educate prove unsuccessful, then we need to call it like it is.

By identifying this bigotry straightforwardly, we will, God-willing, succeed (if even modestly) in stemming the flow of venomous hatred. By continuing to exhibit Jewish pride and increase our Torah study and observance of mitzvot, we fulfil our mandate of being a "light unto the nations" and will, with God's help, merit Divine grace and deliverance with the arrival of the long-awaited Mashiach.

Rabbi Kaplan is the senior rabbi and spiritual leader of Chabad @ Flamingo in Thornhill, Ont.

Designer theft

By YISRAEL RUTMAN

Guest Voice

The sages of the Talmud knew all about the temptation to steal. Most people, they said, in one way or another, succumb to it. But even those insightful scholars may never have dreamed of the extent to which people would go in the most affluent society in history.

According to a recent report in the *New York Times*, the trendiest restaurants in America are constant targets of theft. Reporter Donna Paul interviewed dozens of restaurateurs and discovered that "from $3 water glasses to $1,200 silver ice buckets, from vintage photographs hanging on the walls to scented candles burning in the bathrooms, if it isn't nailed down, diners have walked off with it." In one Manhattan eatery, a designer sconce was ripped from the wall in the men's room during the dinner service.

People who are able to spend hundreds of dollars on a unique dining experience are obviously not poor. What is it, then, that emboldens some of them to take that enticing Peugeot pepper mill or a sample of the darling Frette linens? Well, as one customer said, "I rationalized that the restaurant probably had 200 of them," and so she swiped a little mother-of-pearl caviar spoon.

Of course, this line of thinking ultimately empties out the proprietor's inventory, not to mention his faith in humanity. It leads to the experience of the owners of one restaurant who hand-carried thousands of pieces of silverware from Italy and France, only to have all of them stolen over the years. Now they use second-rate imitations.

The service industry is taking countermeasures: the installation of surveillance cameras, the training of staff in professional vigilance, and, last but not least, the bolting and screwing down of anything of value aside from food and flatware.

Of course, all of this serves at best only to manage the problem. It does not solve it. Is there no way to teach people that stealing, in whatever form and for whatever reason, is wrong?

In a society whose traditional moral restraints have taken a back seat to the pursuit of material possessions, it is difficult to see how. Jewish tradition, however, does offer a solution: *Lo Tignov*, Thou Shalt Not Steal.

Only recognition of a God-given law that allows for no rationalizations or loopholes can ultimately curb the natural human tendency to covet what belongs to others. No system can work as effectively as the internal security system of knowing that we live under the surveillance of the Master of the Universe.

Such a recognition is inculcated by constant emphasis. The Torah's prohibition against theft is not only engraved on synagogue walls and read aloud each year from the Torah, it is engraved on Jewish hearts through education and example.

In a traditional Jewish educational system, the first exposure of a child to Talmud is the chapter of "These are the lost items," which concerns itself with the imperative to restore lost property to its rightful owner. Anyone taught from childhood the concept that God wishes him or her to locate a wallet's owner will not likely consider shoplifting an acceptable enterprise.

Meticulous honesty has always been an essential Jewish ideal. Abraham proclaimed that "I took nothing from a thread unto a shoelace" from the king of Sodom. Moses testified that he borrowed not even a donkey from the public trust. Jacob laboured for his father-in-law Laban, weathering the chill of night and the heat of day to earn his honest wages, despite Laban's having cheated his son-in-law "100 times over." Jacob could have rationalized, but he didn't. As King David wrote, "Who can ascend the holy mountain? He whose hands are clean [of theft]."

The only real solution to the breakdown of respect for the property of others may not be fashionable in these "God-neutral" times. But the experience of thousands of years have proven its efficacy. The only real way to combat designer theft is with designer obedience.

Yisrael Rutman lives in Israel, where he teaches Jewish studies, edits E-geress.org and writes for various publications.

Jewish Life

Monitoring the Mideast conflict

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The fighting in Israel and the West Bank has an offshoot – a battle over the world's electronic and print media. Sympathizers with the Israeli and Palestinian causes are keenly aware of how powerful the media are in shaping world opinion. So each side is using the Internet to make sure its message is getting across – while monitoring what the other side is saying. And because of the accessibility of the Internet, you also have the ability to survey news media from around the world – and monitor the war of words.

An excellent place to start browsing is at Journalismnet where you can get an immediate sampling of late-breaking Mideast stories as reported from around the world **[http://www.journalismnet.com/newsfeeds/mideast/]**. On one particular day, I found links to Mideast reports from the *Norway Post*, the *Hindustan Times* and New Zealand's *Scoop*. At the Israeldaily Web site, there were articles from many North American papers, along with links to pieces from Internet-based magazines such as *Salon*, as well as the *Moscow Times*, *The Times of India* and China's Xinhua News Agency ("Vietnamese Veterans Condemn Israel's Military Aggression"). **[http://www.israeldaily.com]** And if you prefer to skim through world media on your own, you can find an easy-to-navigate listing at Journalismnet.com **[http://www.journalismnet.com/news/]**.

Because of the media's potential for influencing world opinion about the Mideast conflict, both sides have established media monitoring agencies. Honestreporting.com "monitors the international media for biased reports against Israel" **[http://honestreporting.com/]**. It also presents "awards" to highlight positive portrayals of Israel. Winners include the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *National Post* and columnist Charles Krauthammer. Palestine Media Watch (PMW) solicits volunteers to monitor and "protest the U.S. media's gross professional breach in covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict." **[http://pmwatch.org/pmw/]** In addition to examples of reports that PMW feels illustrate how North America's media are skewed in favour of Israel, there is a section on letter-writing tips: "Avoid referring to supporters of Israel and the occupation as 'Jews,' 'the Jewish lobby,' or 'Jewish groups'... Instead, use terms like 'pro-Israel, pro-occupation activists,' or 'the pro-Israel lobby.' Doing so makes clear that you don't mean to attack Jews in general, and it also helps drive home the point that the pro-occupation groups don't speak for all Jews."

One particularly heated discussion in the media is over terminology such as how and when to use words like "terrorists" or "militants," especially after Sept. 11. In April, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer opened a new debate when he began to use the phrase "homicide bombers" rather than "suicide bombers." "These are not suicide bombings," Fleisher explained. "These are not people who just kill themselves. These are people who deliberately go to murder others, with no regard to the values of their own life. These are murderers." **[http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/04/20020412-1.html]**

The Fox News Channel **[http://www.foxnews.com/]** and the *New York Post* **[http://www.nypost.com/]** are both using "homicide bomber," but most media have not switched. A recent AP story on this controversy quotes Bob Steele, director of the ethics program at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. He says "homicide bomber" does not convey that the individual died in the attack. "To just switch the term, even though it is a homicide, does not resolve the challenge of being as specific as necessary." **[http://shlk.com/61]**

Although there are many Arabic English-language news Web sites available online **[http://media.fares.net]**, Western readers are at a disadvantage when trying to understand how the conflict is being reported to speakers of Arabic. The Middle East Media Research Institute translates articles, reports and speeches from Arabic into English **[http://memri.org/]**. Lately the Institute made headlines when it publicized that the Saudi ambassador to Britain had composed a poem about suicide bombers. Ghazi Algosaibi's *The Martyrs* had been published in the London Arabic daily, *Al-Hayat*. Earlier this year, the Institute revealed that the Saudi government daily *Al-Riyadh* had reported stories about blood libels directed at Jews. The accusations in the articles were later retracted after they were reported worldwide.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@ rogers.com.

What can our 'prophets' teach us?

***The Jewish Prophet, Visionary Words from Moses and Miriam to Henrietta Szold and A. J. Heschel*, by Michael J. Shire, Jewish Lights, 2002, $25 (US)**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Jewish history is rich with men and women of vision, courage, sagacity and idealism. The author of this handsome volume, vice-principal of the Leo Baeck College-Centre for Jewish Education in London, calls these personalities prophets. And he has brought together 30 of these moral and spiritual giants from ancient, medieval and modern sources, to look at what they can teach us in our own complex and troubled age.

The inspiring and challenging individuals range from such biblical figures as Amos, Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah, to persons from the medieval period, including Isaac Abravanel, Manasseh ben Israel and Baruch Spinoza. From our own time, the author has selected, among others, Rabbi Abraham Kook, Stephen S. Wise, Martin Buber and Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The author is convinced that all of the men and women he has chosen spoke up bravely against the evil of their day, and some even risked their lives for the sake of truth. Each personality is introduced with a brief biographical sketch, emphasising moral and spiritual values, followed by excerpts from their thoughts and basic teachings.

The author writes, "Though rooted in their own time and political reality, these medieval and modern *nevi'im* [prophets] have given expression to sublime notions of freedom and justice. They call for individual liberty, democratic ideals and universal peace, ideas that have moulded the very nature of western civilization and its political, social and religious ideals."

The following three personalities are perhaps not as well known as most of the others. Dona Gracia Mendes (1510-1569) was born in Portugal and forced to live as a Marrano. She set up an underground "network" of agents in England, France and Germany to help other Marranos escape the Inquisition. She was an unceasing activist on behalf of her people. She also commissioned the first translation of the Torah into Spanish (the Ferrara Bible), intended for Marranos unable to read Hebrew.

Hannah Werbermacher (1815-1892), known as the "Holy Maid of Ludomir," was a scholar and spiritual healer who challenged the male chassidic establishment of her time. Beloved by the masses, she is still the only woman to have received the title of tzaddik.

Janusz Korczak (1879-1940), director of the Jewish orphanage in Warsaw, was an enlightened and peerless teacher who understood the needs and concerns of children and their right to be taken seriously as human beings. When the Nazis ordered that all the ghetto children be sent to Treblinka, Korczak, who might have escaped, led 200 orphans on their last journey. An account of that grim event states that the children marched with their heads high, singing and holding the flag that their leader had designed for them. Korczak walked ahead of his charges, holding a small child by each hand.

The book is enhanced by more then 100 coloured illuminations from medieval manuscripts in the British Library – all in all, "an esthetic gift of the spirit."

One major criticism of the book is that the biographical material is too skimpy and superficial for more then surface knowledge. Moses, Hillel and Martin Buber deserve more than two pages each. A cavil is that the word prophet is used so broadly as to be confusing.

This book would make an ideal gift for high school students or precocious young people celebrating their bar or bat mitzvah.

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Greater Toronto Area

Spiritual discussion connects North American Jews

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The spiritual met with the technological recently in a panel discussion featuring Prof. Elie Wiesel and former New York governor Mario Cuomo.

Connected via satellite-imaging to over 15 Jewish community centres across North America, the two men went live to air from the 92nd Street Y in New York City in a discussion titled God: Personal Thoughts.

Scores of people packed a Kolel meeting room in Toronto to hear the renowned figures discuss their thoughts on the subject. It was the first time they were onstage together.

The panel was mediated by Rabbi David Woznica, who asked some personal and soul searching questions.

"Have your thoughts about God changed over the years?" Rabbi Woznica asked, kicking off the discussion.

Elie Wiesel

"The thing that has changed since I was younger is that now it's easier to believe in God," began Cuomo. "When I was young, I put a primacy on being able to prove things. As I grew older and realized how small I was, the process reversed. Now I believe that unless I can prove it's not so, it may be so."

When asked if God is all-powerful, Cuomo gave an equally thoughtful response.

"God is the first force," he said. "He's the reason we exist. He's the purpose of life. There would be a void without God. I think it was God's plan to make an imperfect world and it's up to us, over generations or millennia, to work on repairing it until it's perfect. We're soldiers on a mission to repair the world."

"Is God capable of intervening in human life and does he do it?" asked Rabbi Woznica.

Wiesel answered that it's up to people to make their own decisions, and later, God judges us based on the decisions we made.

"Religion is supposed to elevate the human being," said Wiesel. "Instead, we have seen what it has done. It has brought people down, set them apart. So do we need God? Is he useful?"

The answer was yes.

"We can do what we want in this life, but somewhere there is an accountant taking notes," Wiesel said. "We must explain why we did what we did. We must account to God."

Asked if there have been times in his life when he has felt God's presence, Wiesel answered definitively.

"I have. Sometimes I have felt it more intensely than other times. I can see God's countenance in the face [of my family and friends]. That's why the Jewish texts place great emphasis on the face. Human beings are so sacred because there is God in each of us."

Both Cuomo and Wiesel responded to whether they believe in an afterlife.

"I believe there is an afterlife," said Wiesel. He described how the Jewish texts speak of angels coming down after one dies and asking them six questions before bringing them to heaven.

"Our texts are so imaginative that they become literal creations, but there is an abyss between belief and knowledge."

"I choose to believe in a spiritual afterlife because it's consonant with a basic belief in God," said Cuomo. "It's part of His plan for us to try make the world better, and the reward for trying is a place with civility, where there is no war. You can enjoy it eternally. I will cling to this belief as an inspiration to live a better life."

This was the second in a series of Kallah programs dedicated to adult Jewish learning and to linking Toronto with JCCs across North America.

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Integrated arts programs open doors to learning

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Sometimes learning can be entertaining. And sometimes that's the best kind of learning.

The Glenn Gould Professional School of the Royal Conservatory of Music's recent presentation of Arlene Perly Rae's adaptation of Igor Stravinsky's *Petrouchka* is one such example.

Different organizations, including the RCM's Learning through the Arts, Motus O's Dance Theatre and the Glenn Gould Professional School, worked together with Perly Rae to produce a version of the ballet that deals with many issues relevant to children today.

Based on a story about puppets and a wizard who brings them to life, Perly Rae made the plot accessible to children through a simple narrative kids can easily understand.

With the narration of her husband, former Ontario premier Bob Rae, the musical support of the Royal Conservatory Orchestra and dancers from the Motus O Dance Theatre, the story was brought to life for children aged five to... (let's just say I enjoyed it too).

"It's a story which will resonate with kids because it's about bullying and conflicts," Perly Rae said in an interview.

Perly Rae was recently appointed to a committee at Centennial College dedicated to teaching about the Holocaust and preserving its memory. She has worked promoting children's literacy for many years and has served as the chief judge of the Mr. Christie Book Awards.

The intent of the play was to include different art forms so that the kids would be exposed to a more integrated learning experience, Perly Rae said.

The story's messages promote positive ways to deal with issues of body image and self esteem, said Learning Through the Arts director Angela Elster.

Learning through the Arts is an arts-based curriculum created by the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) in 1994. The program, which is used here and around the world, uses the arts as an alternative to more traditional classroom techniques by integrating various art forms into the study of math, science, history and language arts.

Motus O Dance director Cindy Croker said that dance, for example, is used to help students understand science problems such as locomotion.

Experiencing the motion themselves can often resolve a problem for the many students who do not learn effectively in a traditional lecture setting, Croker explained.

Elster pointed out that using the arts can bring personal meaning to kids.

For example, unless children have experienced bullying, they can only relate to the issue through their imagination. However, if they experience the situation through creative tools like music, dance or songwriting, then the message becomes more personal, Elster said.

While some of the Jewish Day Schools such as the Toronto Heschel School have their own integrated arts curriculum, the Downtown Jewish Day School (DJDS) participates fully in RCM's program.

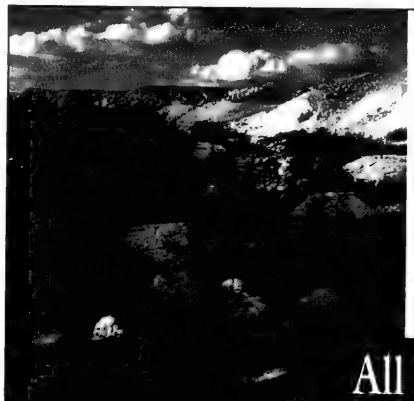
Downtown Jewish Day School students use movement as part of the learning process.

"The artist and teachers meet to plan the lesson," said Elysa Cohen, principal of the DJDS. The artist then visits the classroom three times to make sure the curriculum is implemented correctly.

In today's environment, using the arts can be an effective way to help children cope with many of the stresses resulting from world events, Cohen said.

In addition, Perly Rae noted that exposing children to the arts as part of their learning process creates a new outlet for them.

The arts become another alternative to the entertainment choices currently available, Perly Rae said.



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Clanton Park's rabbi set to retire after 30 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Clanton Park Synagogue will honour Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner and his wife Rebbitzen Bash Kerzner at a tribute dinner on May 7, at Paradise Banquet Hall.

Well-known for his knowledge of halachah and for his many contributions to this city's Jewish community, Rabbi Kerzner is retiring from his pulpit duties at Clanton Park after heading the Orthodox congregation for 30 years.

Wayne Kurtz, co-chair of the tribute committee with Joseph Edell, said the dinner will express the congregation's gratitude to their rabbi for his three decades of leadership.

"Many people in the community will be joining us at the dinner in recognition of Rabbi Kerzner's outstanding contributions to our community," Kurtz said.

Rabbi Kerzner, who was born in Vienna, received smichah (rabbinic ordination) from Torah V'Odaath. He came to the United States in 1939 with his parents and settled in Brooklyn, N.Y. He studied at the Advanced Research Institute (Beth Medrash Elyon) in Monsey, N.Y., and obtained a degree in political science at Brooklyn College.

Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner and his wife Rebbitzen Bash Kerzner.

Rabbi Kerzner's first pulpit position after graduation was in New London, Conn., where he founded the Hebrew day school of North East Connecticut. From 1957 to 1972, he served in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He later became dean of the Israel Ben Zion Academy and was a co-founder of the Mesifta Yeshiva High School in Scranton, Pa.

In 1972, the Kerzners moved to Toronto, where the rabbi helped Clanton Park become one of the most active Orthodox congregations in Canada.

Shortly after his arrival here, he became the assistant to Rabbi Gedalia Felder, who chaired the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth before its name changed to the Kashruth Council of Canada (COR). Upon Rabbi Felder's death, Rabbi Kerzner stepped into the top position.

Rabbi Kerzner has also been active with the Vaad Harabonim of Toronto.

Throughout the years, along with his work at Clanton Park, Rabbi Kerzner became involved with various schools and yeshivot.

"There has been a very significant growth, quantitatively and qualitatively in Toronto," he says. "When I came here, there were 90,000 Jews, today I believe there are close to 200,000."

There has been tremendous growth in Jewish education and advanced Torah studies, Rabbi Kerzner says.

"Toronto is one of the fastest growing Jewish communities in North America. On the part of the younger generation, there is tremendous growth of Jewish observance and Jewish education."

Although he is retiring as rabbi of Clanton Park, Rabbi Kerzner plans to continue teaching and working at the Kashruth Council. He is also committed to Israel. His retirement, he says, will give him more time to work on behalf of the Jewish State.

He added he is looking forward to spending more time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rabbi Kerzner received high praise from the city's community leaders.

"Rabbi Kerzner has managed to build bridges with diverse elements of the community both within and without," said Bob Silberstein, president of Clanton Park Synagogue. "This legacy of unity is one we will strive to continue and emulate into the future.

"From a personal perspective, as president, dealing with Rabbi Kerzner has been a great pleasure. His humility and co-operative spirit have been inspiring."

Rabbi Mordechai Levin, executive director of the Kashruth Council said, "Words alone cannot describe the unceasing personal care and dedication Rav Kerzner has demonstrated as chairman of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth. He has sought and worked to attain the highest standards of kashrut for the city of Toronto.

"Rabbi Kerzner strives to maintain unity of the many segments in the community without compromising the principles of kashrut," Rabbi Levin said. "He has a gift of putting things in proper perspective and has often brought a touch of humour to many tense situations."

Rebbitzen Kerzner, who was born in Brooklyn, taught pre-school at the Yeshiva of Brighton, where she met her husband. She has been very active in Clanton Park Synagogue's Sisterhood as well as other communal and educational organizations, and is one of the founders of the present-day chevrah kadishah.

The Kerzners have been married for 50 years.

For more information or for dinner reservations, call Wayne Kurtz at 416-633-4941.

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Professor of the Study of Religion and Philosophy
Well known author

THURSDAY MAY 16 AT 10:45 P.M. – TIKKUN L'EIL SHAVUOT

Topic: "Ten Commandments? I Thought There are 613?"

Preceded by a class with Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich at 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY MAY 17 – SERVICES AT 8:45 A.M.

Sermon by Dr. David Novak – "Why Did the Jews Accept the Torah?"

Everyone welcome. No charge.

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Tuesday, June eleventh
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Dinner/dancing	7:15 pm	Dietary Laws Observed

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John and his wife Randi recognize the importance of Reena's services to the community. They have pledged their commitment to help build a home for Reena's seniors and to make certain that Reena stands front and centre as a leading provider of services for people with developmental disablies.

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ANN K. FINKBEINER
Award winning science journalist, author, lecturer and authority on bereavement.

AFTER THE DEATH OF A CHILD: LIVING WITH LOSS THROUGH THE YEARS

Wednesday, May 8, 2002, 7:30 p.m.
Adath Israel Synagogue, Greenspoon Hall
37 Southbourne Avenue

We welcome you, your family and special friends. There will be an opportunity for personal expression and shared memories. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP by May 3, with number of persons attending:
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416-638-7800, ext. 202

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Hosted by Alec Gelcer

Enjoy an enchanting evening of Jewish storytelling. All welcome to listen or tell.

Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at:
Riverdale Jewish Community Centre,
179A Danforth Ave. [Upstairs]
(A few doors East of the Broadview subway station)

Schedule for May:

Sunday, May 12 & 29, 7:30 p.m.

A Special Shavuot Storytelling Program:
Hosted by acclaimed author and storyteller
Yitzchak Buxbaum
will be held
Thursday, May 16
at 8:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
The program will take place at
Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave.
(1 block north of Bathurst & Glencairn)

Information: 416-699-8914/398-2614

The cost of Parliament Buildings: $42,000 – but that's just to scale

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Engraver Louis Weiss with his replica of the Canadian Parliament buildings.

TORONTO — Louis Weiss' replica of the Canadian Parliament Buildings "is a remarkable achievement of artistry, craftsmanship and is a wonderful educational tool," says Flavio Belli, the director and curator of the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery at the Columbus Centre.

The scale model, which was recently placed in the lobby of the centre, located on Lawrence Avenue west of Dufferin Avenue, was crafted from solid brass and bronze. It weighs 250 kilograms, cost Weiss $42,000, and took him 6,000 hours – working eight hours a day for four years – to complete.

Weiss, 76, was born in Budapest, Hungary, where he studied design, metal relief carving and etching at the School of Fine Arts in Budapest (he graduated in 1944). He worked in a small metal engraving shop where he learned the craft that eventually saved his life.

After Germany invaded Hungary, Weiss was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Germans were looking for skilled engravers and Weiss was taken to the Arbeitslager to work in a munitions factory.

He recalls that one day before the Russians occupied Auschwitz, 17,000 people were sent on a death march to Dachau. Only 1,800 survived. After Weiss was liberated in 1945 by the Americans, he returned to Hungary to find that his entire family had perished.

Weiss was on one of the first aliyot to Palestine, but was captured near Haifa by a British frigate and transported to Cyprus where he lived for a year behind barbed wire.

In 1947, he got into Palestine and later served as a captain in the Israeli navy for seven years. For a few years after leaving the navy, he owned a machine shop in Haifa. He later moved to Tel Aviv, where he became a sales representative for various European firms selling machine tools to Israel.

While working in sales, he also worked for the Ministry of Defence, setting up the production line of the Israeli tank Merkava.

In 1976, he and his wife Lily followed their children, Taly and Jacob Weiss, to Canada. When he retired, Weiss began doing what he loves most, creating miniatures.

His intricate work combines his technological skills with his artistic talent. Among his works are a model of the Dohany Street Synagogue in Budapest, which is housed in the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, and a series of relief sculptures plated in solid gold titled Expressions of Music.

After completing the mammoth Parliament Buildings project, Weiss offered the replica to the Canadian government, but the negotiations fell through, he says.

Meanwhile, as he was working on a model of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, which will be presented to the St. Paul's Basilica on Queen St. East in Toronto during the Pope's visit this June, representatives of the Columbus Centre approached Weiss and offered to house the miniature of the Canadian Parliament Buildings in a prominent location in the centre's lobby.

"What impresses me about Mr. Weiss is that as a survivor of man's worst inhumanity to man, he has spent the rest of his life creating beautiful objects and spreading joy and beauty in the world," Belli says.

Weiss is currently working on a model of the Acropolis for the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

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Builder Morris Emer remembered for his integrity

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Morris Emer's career as a commercial and residential builder was a means to an end for him, his son Howard recalls. "He wanted to use his time on philanthropic kinds of things."

Moe Emer, as he was known, died Apr. 15 of cancer at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. He was 75.

Obituary

Chosen as UJA's Man of the Year in 1960, Emer was involved in dozens of charities, serving on the boards of hospitals, organizations supporting universities in Israel, and – among others – the Institute for the Prevention of Child Abuse, which supports children's charities such as the Kids Help Phone. In 1981, he became founding president of the Canadian Children's Foundation.

In 1988, Metropolitan Toronto and the Junior Board of Trade awarded him the Fredrick G. Gardiner Citizen of the Year award.

A Toronto native, Emer left Central Technical School at 16 to take over his father's roofing company after his father suffered a back injury. Within eight years, he had founded his own company, Emer Construction.

In 1963 he became a co-founder of Victoria Wood Development Corp., one of Canada's largest building companies. He later became president of Pinetreee Development.

People trusted Moe, Howard wrote in a eulogy that was read by Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich of Beth Sholom Synagogue. "But if he thought a business opportunity would compromise his values, no matter how big the rewards might have been, he would pass, in favour of his peace of mind."

Emer never expected anything in return, the eulogy continued. "His greatest thanks came in the form of personal letters, from people who benefited directly, from his efforts. He took great pride in knowing he was making a difference."

Outside of business, Emer's interests included movies, music, art, architecture, travel and history, but above all he was a family man, Howard recalled.

"He was a special guy," Rabbi Flanzraich told *The CJN*. "Throughout his extended illness, the one thing that marked all our conversations was not him. He was always thinking about what new ideas he could have on behalf of the community to make it better."

Emer is survived by Shirley, his wife of almost 54 years; children Candace and Howard; four grandchildren; his brother Leon and sister Rose Roberts.

SOLIDARITY WITH FRENCH JEWS: A vigil was held outside the French Consulate last week in response to the recent rise in anti-Semitism in France, and a petition was circulated requesting more action by the government. Participating in the vigil were (from left) Toronto Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Jacques Israelievitch, his mother Simone, Giller Prize originator Jack Rabinovitch and TSO violinist Mark Skazinetzky.

SUMMER JOB
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(May 13 - August 30, ONLY for University student returning to campus in September 2002)
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A one day Conference in Judaism and Healing
Wednesday, May 22, 2002
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda
100 Elder Street, Downsview, Ontario
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Rabbi Dr. Reuven Bulka:
Workshop Leaders Include:
Rabbi Avraham Platkin, Chabad Lubavitch of Markham,
Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, Kehillat Sharei Torah,
Rachel Turkienicz, Ph.D., Professor, Center for Jewish Studies, York University
Dr. Molyn Leszcz, MD., FRCPC, Associate Professor/Head Group Psycho-therapy, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto
Aviva Goldberg, Ph.D., Lecturer, School for Women's Studies, York University
Rabbi Dow Marmur, Rabbi Emeritus, Holy Blossom Temple
Cantor Tobias Gabriel, Beth Tzedec Congregation
Mary H. Rykov, MTAS, Music Therapist
Sheila Walker, MSW, Co-ordinator, Jewish Hospice, JF&CS
Rabbi Ronald Weiss, Director of Chaplaincy Service, JF&CS
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 6, is deadline for May 16 issue and Monday, May 13, is deadline for May 23. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, May 5

ISRAEL AT THE CROSSROAD

Janice Stein, Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto, speaks on Israel at the Crossroads: Looking Back and Looking Forward, 7 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. 905-889-4975.

A HEALING SERVICE

Presented by Toronto Jewish Healing Project, led by **Cantor Tobias Gabriel** (Beth Tzedec Congregation) and music therapist **Mary Rykov**, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

THREE RABBIS, ONE TEXT

The many ways of seeing the Torah with **Rabbi Jay Kelman** (Orthodox), **Rabbi Howard Morrison** (Conservative) and **Rabbi Michael Dolgin** (Reform). 7:30 p.m., Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-485-7007.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

The 10 Commandments: Why Were They Written in Stone?, a talk by **Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz**, 8 p.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue. Followed by a coffee house for unattached individuals 25-45. 416-226-0111.

SECRETS OF SELF-ESTEEM

Presented by Temple Har Zion Sisterhood with **Rachel Ornoy**, community outreach educator, 9:30 a.m. Buffet breakfast 905-889-2252.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Congregation Habonim invites you to hear educator **Selma Sage** speak on Famous Love Stories of the Bible, 10 a.m., Beth Habonim 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast.

SCHOOL FUNFAIR

Leo Baeck Day School Funfair, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Atkinson campus, 36 Atkinson Ave. Rides, games, entertainment. **Shawna Citron** 416-510-1820

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Stone Carvers by **Jane Urquhart** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, 1:45 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library. **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

Monday, May 6

ABOUT DIABETES

Jewish Diabetes Chapter meeting dealing with Medical Perspectives on Diabetes with **Dr. Harry Palter**, endocrinologist, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. **Esther Schwartz** 416-782-2176 or **Shirley Glatt** 416-225-1989.

A REVIEW OF SONGS

Broadway, Borscht Belt and Bathurst Street, with vocalist **Gordon Lindsay** and pianist **Jack Edelist**, 1 p.m. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

JEWISH CINEMA

Adath Israel presents 75 Years of Jewish Cinema, with Larry Anklewicz, 8 p.m. 416-635-5340.

Tuesday, May 7

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 15 and 16, led by **Irving Matlow**.

Wednesday, May 8

HEALTH LECTURE

Public health education lecture entitled The Realities of Postponing Having Children, as part of Mount Sinai Hospital's Healthy Living Lecture Series, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at

Continued on page 25

The Canadian Jewish news
presents an important
Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.
The Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Road
on the subject of
Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope
Keynote Speaker will be:
Michael Jankelowitz
Director, Campus Israel Affairs, Hillel and Representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel
The public is encouraged to attend.
Light refreshments will be served.

What's New

Continued from page 24

the City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Dr., Vaughan. Register. 416-586-8338.

Thursday, May 9

ISRAEL AT 54

The Annual Dr. Dorothy Sone and Abby J. Sone Memorial Lecture speaker, *CJN* columnist Shira Herzog, speaks on Israel at 54: A Balance Sheet, at 8 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. 416-635-5340.

IN SEARCH OF PEACE

Beth Tikvah Synagogue Yom Yerushalayim program, the film *In Search of Peace 1948-1967*, produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre and narrated by **Michael Douglas**. Film preceded by services and comments by **Gerald Zeidenberg**, 7:30 p.m. 416-221-3433.

COLE MEMORIAL EVENING

Na'amat Canada invites you to the annual Sharon Cole Memorial Evening presenting **Ted Schmidt,** author of *Shabbes Goy*, 8 p.m., Temple Sinai. 416-636-5425.

And What Else Is New

CORRECTION:

In last week's What's New column, we inadvertantly printed an incorrect phone number for the Baycrest Challenge on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. The correct number is 416-256-2-RUN. *The CJN* regrets the error.

JEWS OF POLAND

A 2-part series on Jews of Poland: Part I. Jews in Old Poland, Saturday, May 4, 1 p.m. with **Prof. Daniel Stone**. and Part II. The Jews of Modern Poland Before the Holocaust, panel discussion with **Prof. Frank Bialystok, Prof. Daniel Stone, Prof. Piotr Wrobel**, Sunday, May 5, 10:30 a.m. At First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave. **Peter Gold,** 416-927-1796.

UPCOMING JRCC EVENTS

Jewish Russian Community Centre Institute of Torah Study, 18 Rockford Rd. **Chana Weisberg,** dean of the institute, 416-222-7195, ext. 30.

Monday, May 6: A 5-part series for women only on Feminine Voices with **Chana Weisberg** Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings, May 6-June 3; Also a 5-week course on basic Hebrew with **Penina Steiner,** Mondays 9-10 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8: Women's Roundtable Weekly Meditation, 5-week learning session on the weekly Torah portion for women only. Moms and tots welcome; Wisdom of Kabbalah workshop with **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman**, 8-9:30 p.m.

MARTIN BUBER

Rabbi Michael Stroh's spring course, Martin Buber: A Jewish Thinker For Our Times, Mondays, May 6, 13, 27, June 3, at 8 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. 905-889-2252.

THE SINAI REVELATION

Relive the Sinai Revelation, a Shavuot dinner and program, Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. presented by Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. RSVP by May 6. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

JUDAIC TEXTILES

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meets at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. For program information, 416-402-7189.

Seminars for Stitchers: Sunday, May 5, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., a choice of 5 workshops (beading, embroidery, quilting) with a Judaic theme. 416-489-4689. Wednesday, May 8. Contemporary Artists and Their Textiles, a slide presentation on contemporary artists with **Sylvia Ptak**.

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

Join My Women's Group of Jewish Women International (a group of women who meet once a month after work) on a walking tour of the Toronto entertainment district. Reserve, call JWI/C 416-630-9313.

AT AISH HATORAH

Aish HaTorah. 949 Clark Ave. W. Thornhill. 905-764-1818.

The Mystery of the Mikvah, includes video presentation and tour, Thursday, May 2, 8 p.m.

Create Spiritual Energy with Shabbat Candles, discuss symbolism of candlelighting. Decorate a lucite frame containing Shabbat prayer, Thursday, May 9, 8 p.m.

USDS NUSSBAUM AWARD

United Synagogue Day School welcomes applications for the Dr. Aaron M. Nussbaum Award, presented annually to a deserving USDS graduate applying to an undergraduate or graduate program that furthers his or her Jewish education. For applications **Cate Doomernik** 416-224-8737 ext. 144. Closing date May 15.

NCJW HAPPENINGS

National Council of Jewish Women, 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

Current Events with **Doug Haddow**, Wednesdays May 8 and 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Council Awareness Players present Happy Heart, a new look at staying heart healthy. Short skits written and performed by the players. Presentations can be done at your organization, Also, vignettes on elder abuse. **Sheila Zane** 416-787-1068.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

STUDY SKILLS PROGRAM

Jewish Vocational Service Study Skills Program for Grades 6-8, Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. for 3 consecutive weeks beginning May 8. A parent group follows on May 29. focusing on exam preparation for middle school students. **Deb Ottolino** 416-787-1151, ext. 209.

JF & CS FATHER'S GROUP

Jewish Family & Child Service 6-session group for single fathers to help them redefine their roles and explore the area of solo parenting, starts Wednesday, May 15, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

KABBALAH LECTURES

Kabbalah lecture-spiritual discovery, Wednesdays 7 p.m. at Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-631-9395.

AT BETH EMETH

At Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

L'Dor Va'Dor Multi-generational Learning Service for all ages and backgrounds, singles, families, in the Lerman Chapel, 10 a.m. to noon, May 4 and 18.

A Taste of Kabbalah: Mystical Moments at Minchah of Shabbat. Join **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** 1 hour before afternoon services in the chapel May 4 and 18.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Senior Haverim and **Holy Blossom Lunch and Learn in Retirement Group** combined meeting, An Afternoon of Music with Nova Dené Duo **Beth Zeitlin**, flutist, and **Elizabeth Domb,** pianist, Monday, May 6, 1:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec. Reserve. 416-781-3511 or 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Sunday dance with live band May 5, 19, 29; Saturday dance 7:30 p.m., May 11, 25; Casino Rama May 15, 29; Thousand Islands trip May 28-31; Stage West Dinner Theatre to see *Joseph* June 13; Casino Niagara June 20. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building): Get ready for the summer party with live music June 2 7:30 p.m. Regular programs: May 2, video movie; May 9 sing-along with **Yitzchak Argaman;** May 16, closed for Shavuot; May 23, bingo; May 30 free evening for stories and jokes. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors' theatre outing, Stage West Dinner Theatre June 26 to see *Joseph*. For information, **Libby** 416-782-2059 or office 416-630-9444. Seniors' Cultural Club meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Thursday, May 2, The Seniors Safe Medication Use Program by Metropolitan Toronto Pharmacy Association 1:15-2:45 p.m. ext. 126.

Intermediate Hebrew classes with **Kolya Shimrat** begin Tuesday, May 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Women in Art with **Edith Altschuler**. Tuesday, May 7, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Tuesday, May 7, questions and answers about Vision Concerns, **Dr. Jack Swartz**, retired ophthalmologist, 1:15-2:15 p.m. ext. 126.

Fun With Yiddish Thursday, May 7, 1 p.m. Facilitator **Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky.** Contact person **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. May 7, movie; May 14, Jerusalem Day party; May 21, lecture, May 28, concert. **Anna** 110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre/Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-630-1880.

Thursday, May 9, a talk by visiting Swedish artist **Matts Leiderstam** in conjunction with the presentation of his installation, The Artist at Niagara Falls (2001), at the Koffler Gallery.

Sunday, May 12, 2-5 p.m. opening reception for new show, Regarding Landscape, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman**, at Koffler Gallery to June 30. ext. 380.

Sunday, May 12, 7 p.m. Rikudiyah, Israeli Dance festival for Children, co-sponsored by Koffler Centre, BJCC and Toronto Board of Education-UJA Federation. This year's theme Tikvah L'shalom (hope for peace), York University, Tait McKenzie Building, 4700 Keele St. Reserve ext. 0.

Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shavuot Event at the Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum. Make dairy treats, create flowers, sing-along, learn about the 7 kinds of fruit mentioned in the Torah. ext. 456.

BJCC programs, **Janet**, ext. 259: Lunch N' Learn Friday, May 3, noon to 1 p.m. with **Rabbi Moshe Stern** in Room 202, BJCC. Bring your own lunch.

Day trip to Port Hope, Theatre (musical *2 Pianos, 4 Hands)*, lunch and transportation, June 25

Mother's Day Luncheon Tuesday, May 7, entertainer **Lenka Lichtenberg**.

Learning Experience, Tuesday, May 14, 1-2:30 p.m., The Art of Rubber Stamping. Room 211, BJCC.

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On Campus

New Zionist group launched at York U

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — York University students Paul Cooper and Hannah and Rebecca Wortzman are the driving forces behind the Young Zionist Partnership (YZP), a new grassroots activist group based at York.

In a recent interview at a mid-town coffee shop, the three organizers expressed concerns one after another, rapid-fire, about attitudes toward Jews and Israel that have been expressed on their campus.

"I'm a political science student, but it seems like I'm studying 'defending myself,'" said Cooper, who is in third year.

Among other incidents, Cooper said he had a run-in with a member of a campus socialist group distributing a poster protesting Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza. According to Cooper, the encounter deteriorated when he accused the protester of being a racist and was told, "Get out of here, you Zionist pig."

Even among Jewish students, "a lot... are anti-Israel and feel that if someone's anti-Israel it doesn't mean they're anti-Semitic," said Hannah Wortzman, who like her twin sister Rebecca is in the Jewish Teacher Education program.

Cooper believes Jews who are anti-Israel are not well-informed and not aware of the consequences of abandoning Israel. "I believe that Israel is necessary for the survival of the Jewish people," he said. "I believe that, if not for Israel, there would be another Holocaust."

The group has consulted with JSF: The Centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University and its umbrella organization, Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS), but the fledgling organization is independent.

"We want to be more political," said Rebecca.

"More visible," said Cooper. They would like to have more frequent displays, vigils and rallies, he added.

"Their stance will be a little more proactive" than that of JFS and JCS, confirmed Stuart Lapowich, JCS Israel affairs co-ordinator. "They might be running programs that we wouldn't represent. We're an umbrella organization. Our voice lends itself to all students. We wouldn't have a protest that would make students feel uncomfortable. They're going to take a little more active stance."

The YZP students "definitely have more right-wing views than other students on campus," said Lapowich, adding that JCS would not tell a student what views to hold.

Lapowich said JCS will share resources with the new group.

"I'm happy students are seeing there's a problem and getting involved, taking the initiative. Something we've tried to foster is a sense of empowerment."

Shortly after the Passover suicide bombing in Netanya, Cooper and the Wortzman sisters set up a memorial to about 70 individuals who died as a result of terrorist attacks in Israel in March.

"I made it a point not to give the impression that all Arabs are terrorists, because we don't like when people do that to us," Hannah said. "[I didn't want to] point fingers or stereotype, just let people know we we're struggling."

Her group's concerns, which are shared by JCS staff members, include the portrayal of Israel in the *Atkinsonian,* a campus newspaper, and the activities of the anti-racism working group of CUPE 3903, a campus union whose members include teaching assistants who may teach Jewish students and mark their work.

One of the working group's rallies in a high-traffic open area prompted the Wortzman sisters to e-mail Deborah Hobson, York's vice-president of enrolment and student services, accusing speaker Samer Elatrash, a pro-Palestinian activist from Montreal, of inciting hatred and disseminating "terrorist literature" from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Hobson's response to Hannah included the suggestion that she "consider not attending events like this. You find them upsetting, and your presence contributes to providing an audience for views that you would prefer not to have expressed."

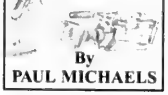
JSF staff have also contacted York's administration about Elatrash's activities on campus, but as of last week had not received a response, said JSF director Shayna Allen.

AID TO SOLDIERS: **Hamilton Hebrew Academy students prepared packages of supplies to be shipped to Israeli soldiers serving in the current conflict. Included in the packages are handwritten notes expressing the students' support and concern for the soldiers' well-being. The project was initiated for this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.**

Coast to Coast

A more lucid piece from *The Economist*

According to Reports



By PAUL MICHAELS

From time to time, this column has drawn attention to editorial comments in the British weekly *The Economist* because it is so influential in shaping Canadian media opinion. Never shy of criticizing Israel, often harshly and sometimes unfairly, *The Economist* has nonetheless occasionally expressed understanding of Israel's predicament and has disapproved of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's leadership, especially since he walked away from Camp David in the summer of 2000.

The Economist's lead editorial of April 20 is one of these more lucid pieces. It discusses the divide between Europe and the United States over U.S. Mideast policy. U.S. President George W. Bush's commitment to "moral clarity" in the fight against terrorism, with few exceptions, is not shared by other European states when it comes to Israel's own battle against terrorists.

While *The Economist* argues that Bush may "at some point" have to apply pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to accept "an independent Palestine and Israel back more or less to its 1967 borders," it continues: "[T]he Europeans should not expect Mr. Bush to pressure Israel in circumstances that seemed to appease terrorism. In other words, Mr. Arafat must accept – in good faith, this time – the principle underpinning the Oslo accords, which is that negotiating peace is not compatible with a terrorist war.

"If they were serious about helping the Palestinians to statehood, Europeans would explain this to the Palestinians morning and night, instead of hailing the intifadah, as many do, as 'resistance.' The intifadah it was that helped Mr. Sharon to power, destroyed Israel's peace camp and turned Americans off the Palestinian cause. After Sept. 11, Americans feel that they too are at risk, and at war. Europeans do not."

The Economist editorial begs the question on a number of issues. For instance, it assumes against all evidence that Arafat can be reformed so as to negotiate in "good faith," and that, at this point, something can still be salvaged from the Oslo accords. But its effort to understand why the United States refuses to sell out Israel (as Europe most likely would) is encouraging.

Also heartening is *The Economist*'s elaboration on what goads the Americans: "Above all, [they] cannot understand why some Europeans dignify terrorism as legitimate 'resistance' to an occupation which, but for the Palestinians' intransigence, Israel's previous government would have ended anyway."

Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. Mideast policy team under former U.S. president Bill Clinton, underscored this point when he described precisely what Arafat rejected at Camp David and Taba and why. In an interview with Brit Hume on Fox News (April 21), Ross insisted that Arafat could have had a contiguous state on almost all the West Bank and in all of the Gaza Strip. He failed to achieve this because he would not sign an "end of conflict" agreement with Israel, refusing to recognize Jewish claims to Jerusalem, and insisting that Israel accept a Palestinian "right of return."

Contrary to *The Economist*, Ross believes that Arafat is incapable of negotiating in good faith and concluding any meaningful deal with Israel.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

B.C. philanthropist gave away more than $50M

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

Obituary

VANCOUVER — Morris Wosk, who died April 9 of heart failure in Las Vegas at 84, personified what it is to be a mensch.

An eminent and well-respected figure in Vancouver and the powerhouse behind numerous organizations, institutions and communal causes, Wosk was dedicated to the advancement of Jewish, Zionist and charitable causes in Canada, Israel and the United States.

Wosk's long and enduring legacy of philanthropy in Vancouver went back to his father's teachings. "My father told me, 'If you make 10 cents, put one cent away, give one cent to charity and spend the rest, if you have to,'" Wosk once said.

Wosk estimated that he gave away more than $50 million in his lifetime. His contributions included the construction of the Beit Wosk Community Centre in Ashkelon, and a $3.5 million contribution toward the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University.

Wosk's motto was "there's nothing like helping other people," and his charitable donations primarily benefited health and education.

His humble beginnings make his story all the more exceptional: he arrived in Canada from Odessa, Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union) in 1928 as a poor immigrant with little to call his own and no grasp of English.

By age 13, he began street peddling, and at 15 he quit school, eventually opening a store with his father and brother that sold second-hand merchandise in Vancouver. Persistence and hard work paid off: the business grew, and a few years later, Wosk and his brother were selling new furniture and appliances. Wosk's department stores were among the city's top retailers from the 1940s to the 1960s. In the 1960s, Wosk turned his focus to real estate, building a series of apartments and hotels.

At the time of his death, Wosk was head of M.J. Investments Ltd. and Liberty Investments. Even in his golden years, he spent many hours at his desk in his office overlooking the ocean.

In his eight decades, Wosk changed the face of Vancouver, broke bread with some of the world's most powerful men and women and received countless accolades for his generosity. But he reserved his greatest pride for his four children, and his six grandchildren. Wosk's wife, Dena, died in 2000.

In 1980, Wosk was the third Canadian ever to be honoured with the Prime Minister's Medal of the State of Israel, and in 1985 he received the Human Relations Award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

Wosk maintained residences in Israel and Vancouver, but was fiercely loyal to the latter, once declaring stoically: "Vancouver's my city and the sweetness of success is very great when I go for a drive on Sunday and see what I've accomplished. It gives me a great deal of pride."

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Thursday, May 9 at 2:00 p.m.
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Jewish National Fund of Canada
Thursday, May 30 at 3:30 p.m.
Join us for an informative afternoon with Sandy Posluns, President of the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF), as she talks about the work of her organization and their involvement in Israel.

For more information, or to register for events at **Forest Hill Place**, please call Gwen or Susan at **(416) 785-1511**.

Musical Entertainment
Wednesday, May 22 from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m.
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Flamenco Band
Wednesday, May 29 from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m.
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Q: How much money is required?

A: We are encouraging all donors to **give the largest increase they possibly can. All of the increase will go directly to help the people of Israel.** Our goal is to raise at least an additional $13 million through **Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** as part of a North America-wide $300 million U.S. fundraising effort.

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Q: Where will the money be going?

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Coast to Coast

Rabbi Melchior talks with *The CJN*

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Prior to his address as keynote speaker at the April 21 solidarity rally for Israel on Parliament Hill, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Rabbi Michael Melchior spoke briefly to *The CJN* about Israel's relationship with Canada, the recent wave of Jewish support for Israel in North America, the Israel Defence Forces' actions in Jenin and terrorism.

When asked about his relationship with Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham, Rabbi Melchior said, "I think we had a very good chemistry and I was very impressed with his commitment as a result of this meeting to stand up for what is fair in Geneva [at the recently concluded annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights], and it is not so easy because Geneva has in some ways become a farce on the issue of human rights.

"[Graham] took upon himself some commitments on behalf of Canada and our ambassador reports that he has lived up to these commitments and I feel that his concern is genuine, both for the safety of Israel and for peace. That doesn't mean that we will always agree on every single detail."

Asked whether news of the Ottawa rally and other recent rallies in North America have reached Israel and what impact they might have on Israelis, Rabbi Melchior said that the support is very much appreciated.

"It is very important for the people of Israel that Jews and friends of Israel around the world are rallying... It shows that there is a feeling that when Israel is hurting and bleeding, that people are standing up and rallying for Israel. [That is] is very important for the people of Israel."

Rabbi Melchior saw the goals of the Ottawa rally as twofold:

"The goals are both to give a clear message to Israel, but also to the Canadian public that there are many friends behind Israel in Canada. People will not accept the terror against Israel or any kind of double standard when it comes to terror."

On the conflicting media reports of what happened in Jenin, Rabbi Melchior said he recognized it was a tragedy, but placed the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of the Palestinian terrorists.

"We must put things in context. This is a terror that hides behind civilians. The refugee camps became factories of terror. I think that things have to be said; that those who made them the factory of terror bear the main guilt. Those who refused all agreements and compromises bear the responsibility."

Atlantic Jews celebrate Israel's 54th birthday

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — The city's community celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut recently with an event that began with a subdued mood but ended on an upbeat note.

The event at Beth Israel Synagogue attracted more than 120 people to an evening of Israeli food, speeches by local Atlantic Jewish Council officials, a plaque presentation to the Atlantic Jewish Council (AJC) from the City of Halifax and a phone call from two Haligonians who were on a solidarity mission to Israel.

The crowd listened as AJC board member Cathy Zilbert and past president Victor Goldberg spoke from Israel about being in the Jewish state at this time.

"Israelis are a strong and courageous people," said Zilbert. "Our tour guide left us to go home to celebrate his first Yom Hazikaron [Remembrance Day] with his family since he lost his son [in the current conflict] two months ago. But he was back the next day to continue working with us. His strength to carry on was inspirational. And he stressed how good a place this is to live."

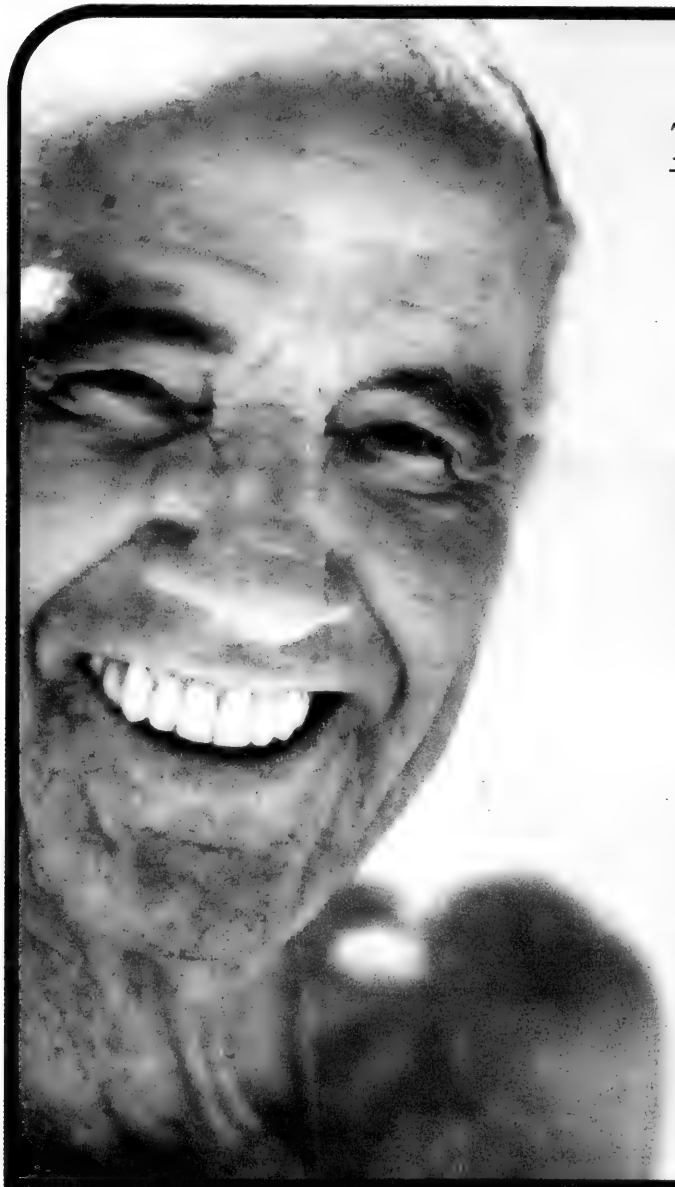
Zilbert said they spoke with teens in Haifa who have a different kind of life than Canadian teens "but they told us they're not going to stop their lives. Their parents, they said, tell them not to use public buses or visit malls or clubs but they are not letting the situation take over their lives."

Goldberg said the people have told the mission members they cannot understand why there is not more emotional support from Jews abroad. "They tell us they are alone here," he said. "But we are proud and honoured to be here."

Mark Rosen, vice-president of AJC, speaking in Halifax, announced that the AJC would be joining a North America-wide $300 million emergency campaign for Israel, saying, "The [Israeli] economy is in tatters, the tourism industry is non-existent and construction has almost ceased. Our help is needed."

The mood brightened when four members of the eight-piece Bais Groove band – vocalists Stacey Wintre and Rachel Mitchell, keyboard player and arranger Robbie Grunwald and guitarist and composer Mark Weinstock (drummer Ben Gaum, bassist Eldan Cohen, percussionist Dave Bloom and lead guitar Jeremy Otto did not attend) – took the stage.

The twenty-something Toronto musicians, who had played Moncton, N.B., the evening before, performed a variety of contemporary Hebrew and Yiddish songs, stringing together several upbeat melodies and concluding with *Salaam-Shalom*, a rousing peace song in Arabic and Hebrew.



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Hamilton principal retires after 29 years at HHA

By MOURA WOLPERT
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Rabbi William Zev Eisenstein, much-loved principal of the Hamilton Hebrew Academy (HHA) for the past 29 years, has retired.

A gala tribute in his honour will be held at 2 p.m. on May 26, at Adas Israel Synagogue, 125 Cline Ave. S. In order to accommodate the many HHA alumni now living in Toronto and elsewhere who wish to attend, a reception rather than a formal dinner has been planned, said tribute committee co-chairs Jacki and Dr. Larry Levin.

Rabbi Eisenstein said he knew early in life that he wanted to be a teacher, but he also knew what kind of teacher he did *not* want to be like: his Grade 1 teacher in New York, "a spinster, as all teachers were in those days," who called him up to the front of the class one day and told him to read aloud, he said.

"I wasn't so good in reading," he recalled, adding that the teacher not only called him "a dummy" but sat him on a stool in the corner and put a dunce cap on his head – "another thing teachers did in those days."

Rabbi Eisenstein also remembered the principal of a large high school who ruled from his office, who was "very power conscious."

Growing up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in an observant family that was "very rich in love but not rich financially," Rabbi Eisenstein became, he confessed, a street kid, a member of an Italian gang until the age of 15. He was good in sports and though his teachers did not like him, his peers did. But when he discovered B'nai Akiva, "that turned me around," he said.

Rabbi Eisenstein

Before coming to Hamilton, he was principal of Torah Academy High School for Girls in St. Louis and Bikur Cholim Hebrew School in Seattle, Wash., where he met and married his wife, Esther.

Rather than be principal of a large high school, Rabbi Eisenstein wanted to lead a small school "where I could have some influence," he said. When he was offered the position with the HHA, he accepted with enthusiasm. His job was primarily "to build up the teachers," he said, adding that he frequently wrote thank you notes to them.

He and Rabbi Morton Green, spiritual leader of Adas Israel Congregation and founder and dean of the HHA, have the same philosophy, Rabbi Eisenstein said, and he is grateful to his colleague "for allowing me to do whatever I wanted." Rabbi Eisenstein also credited Grade 8 teacher and assistant principal Rivka Shafifir for his success.

He has also served as spiritual leader for Brantford's Beth David Synagogue and for many of the smaller surrounding communities when needed.

Much as he loved his work as principal, he said, he felt it was time to leave the position to a younger person. "Times have changed," he said. "Today's challenges are different – computers, technology…"

Meanwhile, he said, Hamilton has become home, and although their children are scattered – they have a son and daughter in New York and another son and daughter in Israel – the Eisensteins will remain here. Rabbi Eisenstein still teaches grades 1 and 2 and intends to remain actively involved in the community.

"The rocking chair is not for me," he said.

Victims of Nazi Persecution in Austria

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Spate of anti-Semitic incidents related to Mideast worries Montreal

Continued from page 3

"After the soccer game, they jumped over the park fence and attacked students from the Centre Hillel who were pushed and kicked. One of the soccer players then pulled out a knife and uttered death threats. The assaulters then escaped."

A complaint was made to police, who have opened a file on the matter, said BBC research director Raphael Lallouz.

Scheinberg urged leaders of Montreal's Arab community and all faith communities to "remind your sisters and brothers that there is no room in Canada for racism and anti-Semitism, even in the guise of a political cause."

In another incident, BBC, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and the Canada-Israel Committee joined to denounce a radio broadcaster for what they consider intolerant comments.

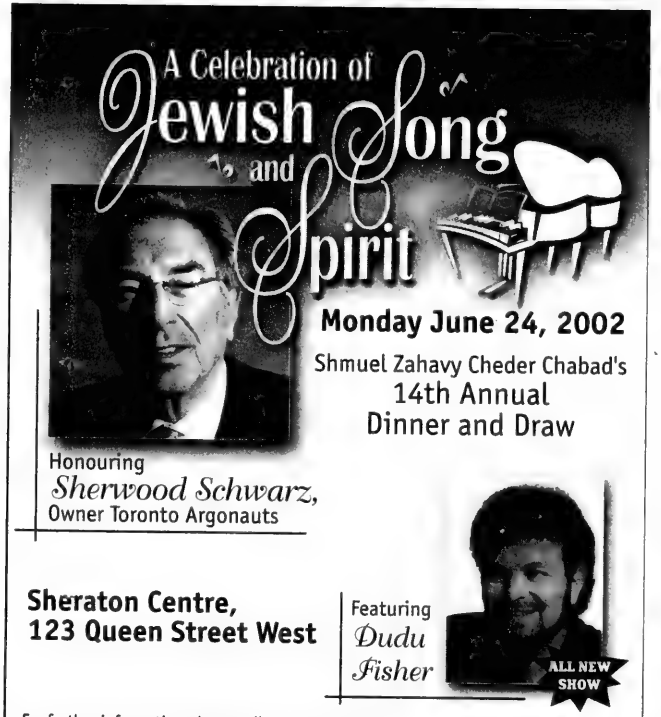
A public statement issued by representatives of the three organizations "condemned in the strongest possible terms" remarks made by CKAC show host Benoît Dutrizac about the pro-Israel rally.

According to a translation of the transcript provided in the statement, Dutrizac said: "Would you leave us the hell alone. If you want to hold a demonstration, go to the Old Port, go somewhere where you won't give us a pain in the ass…

"There were Jews with their Israeli flags. Put your flags away… Would you give us a bloody break with your demonstrations, and if that's not good enough, go demonstrate in Jerusalem; if you want to do something useful, go there."

The Jewish groups called the remarks "vulgar and scandalous." This is the second complaint they have had about this station in the past few weeks. On April 11, host Pierre Mailloux commented that he was looking for "a good historian who could draw a parallel between [Israel Prime Minister] Ariel Sharon and [Adolf] Hitler and the rise of the Nazi army… the Israeli army's carnage… and their non-stop propaganda."

CJC communication officer Eta Yudin said neither the announcers nor the station has responded to the community's concern.



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Three North Winnipeg synagogues join forces

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Faced with rapidly declining memberships, north Winnipeg's three Conservative synagogues – the Rosh Pina, Beth Israel and Bnay Abraham – voted April 15, to merge and form a new entity called Etz Chayim.

The vote was a culmination of several months of intense negotiations after three or four years of exploratory talks.

The Rosh Pina congregation, whose building will house Etz Chayim, was Winnipeg's second oldest and second largest synagogue (after Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in south Winnipeg). In recent years, however, with the declining Jewish population here (it now stands at 14,000) and with the majority of the community having moved to the south end, Rosh Pina's membership dropped from about 1,000 to less than 500 – with at least half the membership living in south Winnipeg.

For several years, Rosh Pina's board had been looking for ways to increase membership. There had been an attempt to sell the building and relocate south, as well as past merger talks with Shaarey Zedek and Beth Israel.

The 26-year-old Beth Israel Synagogue had been riding high under the leadership of Rabbi Alan Green. Membership during his seven-year tenure grew from under 200 to a peak of 270. But after Green left two years ago to fill a vacancy at the larger Shaarey Zedek, Beth Israel was unable to replace him and membership began to fall. (The shul now has just over 200 members.)

Last spring, Rosh Pina again approached Beth Israel about a merger.

Once talks got going, the 45-year-old Bnay Abraham congregation asked to join. Bnay Abraham, whose membership is largely made up of Holocaust survivors and their families, has mixed seating, but unlike the other two congregations, it is not egalitarian. Its membership had fallen to about 100 and the future did not look promising.

But the merger discussions really began to pick up steam after Jack London was brought in as a mediator. London, a former dean of the faculty of law at the University of Manitoba, put in countless hours bringing the shuls together and smoothing over differences.

Etz Chayim is expected to start out with about 670 members. Under the terms of the agreement, the three constituent synagogues will continue to hold independent Shabbat services until the end of August and then come together for the High Holy Days. (Beth Israel and Rosh Pina have been holding joint daily minyanim since the beginning of February.) An 18-person board has been appointed with equal representation from each of the shuls. Each shul's cemetery will continue to operate independently.

There are short- and long-term plans to renovate the current Rosh Pina building to accommodate the new Etz Chayim congregation.

Plans call for the Bnay Abraham building to be sold while the smaller Beth Israel building will be retained for the time being. Two Jewish communal organizations – the Aleph Bet Day Care and the Rady Jewish Community Centre – have already inquired about renting the Beth Israel building.

Record CJA haul won't mean more cash for agencies

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — It may have been a record-setting year for the Combined Jewish Appeal 2001-2002 campaign here, but local beneficiary agencies should not expect more money, says Winnipeg Jewish Federation/CJA secretary-treasurer Brent Trepel.

While the community raised $3,785,000 in the campaign, $245,000 more than the year before, Trepel says there will be no additional local allocations. Beneficiary agencies in the city will receive $1,612,000 in total, the same as last year.

Trepel said the reasons are twofold:

Firstly, donors allocated more money to the United Israel Appeal in 2001-2002 than in recent years. (Winnipeg is the only Jewish community campaign in North America that still allows donors to designate how much of their donation goes to local needs and how much goes to Israel or other overseas causes.)

As well, three years ago, the CJA introduced designated giving for major donors, which lets those donors choose what specific agency or agencies will receive any increases in their gifts, rather than leaving the decision to Federation/CJA.

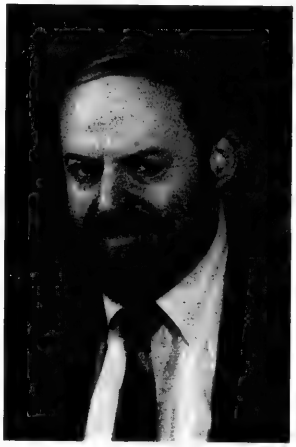
Trepel said designated giving for major donors is a key reason why the annual campaign has reached new heights in the last few years.

But he said most of the $245,000 campaign increase in 2001-2002 came from two individuals, and most of the increase in designated donations from major donors went to support Israel rather than local needs.

Trepel added that the remainder of the $245,000 campaign increase is needed to make up for a reduction in Federation/CJA investment income due to low interest rates and to cover annual allocations to Federation/CJA reserves.

The Federation/CJA campaign goal for 2002-2003 is $4 million.

Can The Jewish People Survive Without Israel?



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Israel & the Jewish World

After the rallies what should we do?

Continued from page 1

Even amid our justifiable collective pride, we must wonder why it took so long to rouse this community. Why was the Palestinians' decision back in September 2000 to turn from negotiations to terror not enough? Why wasn't Hezbollah's illegal kidnapping of three young soldiers on the border with Lebanon enough? Why wasn't the lynching of two reservists in the fall of 2000 or the bludgeoning to death of two 13-year-olds that spring enough? Why weren't the Dolphinarium disco killings or the Sbarro Pizzeria murders enough? Why wasn't Durban enough? Or the Sept. 11 slaughter or the Daniel Pearl homicide or the daily sniping at commuters enough? Why did it take over 12,000 terrorist incidents in 19 months culminating in the heinous Netanya Seder Massacre for most Jews to mobilize?

Moreover, the rallies themselves, for all their energy, also illustrated the limits of Jewish power. The Canadian rallies testified to the community's extraordinary internal strength – perhaps best exemplified by the Montreal rally that may have mobilized as much as a quarter of the entire community. That kind of participation reflects a cohesive community with vibrant institutions and a committed rank and file, especially because the rally itself was a grassroots initiative that the leadership embraced and helped succeed. But it was hard not to watch the Canadian rallies without cringing at the Jewish community's political impotence. The mayor of Montreal was AWOL as was the Premier of Quebec and high level representatives of the Chrétien government. Even the Ottawa rally lacked the proper representation from the Chrétien government considering how loyal and financially generous Jews have been to the Liberals.

The Washington rally offered a mirror image. The podium brimmed with American political superstars, congressional leaders and senators, Republicans and Democrats, even a top administration official, as well as the poster child for America's fight against terror, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani. American Jewish political power – and American Jewish popularity among their fellow Americans – was on display. Less clear, however, was the true internal strength of the community. Yes, thousands skipped work on a Monday afternoon to demonstrate for Israel, but millions stayed home, and still cannot be bothered to inconvenience themselves for the embattled Jewish state, even for one day.

Jews cannot afford to be complacent. Both communities, in the long term, will need to assess their own particular strengths and weaknesses, and maybe even try to learn from one another. However, the immediate focus must be on building momentum from these dramatic moments into sustained and effective community action.

These rallies – and the violence and vitriol Israel has endured – should serve as wake-up calls. We can no longer proceed with business as usual. We need to inconvenience ourselves, to put some projects on hold, to divert precious time and money to this fight for Israel's survival. Jews individually and collectively need to incorporate supporting Israel into our daily lives. Bar mitzvahs and weddings must carve out time to mourn and to respond. Shock of all shocks, even synagogue building projects must be reconsidered. We must learn more. We must act decisively. And we must give generously.

Gil Troy

Learning: We must master the facts and clarify our opinions. We must take the time to read books and to follow the story on the Internet and in the press. We need to understand our history so that we can explain that Israel ended up with the territories in 1967 because Israel's neighbours were trying to obliterate Israel. We need to understand and explain that all this talk about "ending the occupation" is belied by Israel's record of territorial generosity, first with Egypt in 1979, and then with the Palestinians in Oslo.

Never before in history has a country that won disputed territory after being attacked by its neighbours voluntarily relinquished the territory for peace – until Israel did it twice. And we need to understand and explain that if Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had responded to former prime minister Ehud Barak's Camp David 2000 proposals with counter-proposals and not with violence, Palestinians might already have a state of their own rather than a state of war.

Moreover, we need to counter lies with facts. As the Jenin libel metastasizes, we need to note that the United States waited only three weeks before responding to terror with an invasion while Israel waited a year and a half; that the United States dropped bombs on terrorist infested areas while Israel went house to house; that Jenin was a battlefield, not a killing field; and that even amidst the horror, despite the fact that dozens of their comrades died, many Israeli soldiers fighting in the West Bank tried to be as humane as possible. In Tulkarm, some reservists raised 1,500 shekels to help a Palestinian family repair a damaged wall; in Bethlehem another group raised 2000 shekels to compensate a family whose house they used. Obviously, other moments were more brutal, but such acts of kindness should also be considered.

Acting: We need to focus our actions on three critical players in this conflict whom we can influence: the media, our politicians and our Israeli brothers and sisters. When reporters mislead, distort, sermonize or falsely balance victims and victimizers; anti-terror tactics with suicide bombings; 20,000 demonstrators as opposed to 150 counter-demonstrators; we should bombard them with polite and detailed calls, emails and letters.

At the same time, we need to pressure the Canadian government to support Israel – applauding the government when it votes against biased anti-Israel resolutions at a supposed human rights conference in Geneva, and chastising the government when it lazily compares Israel's response to a bombing with the act of terror itself. And even as we lend political support, we must not forget how important our moral support is for the people of Israel right now. We must visit. We must write. We must shop there long distance (www.israelexport.org or www.shopinisrael.com). We must send care packages to soldiers (www.apackagefromhome.org). We must adopt the families of victims. The Web site www.walk4israel.com lists dozens of ways we can help the thousands of Israelis whose lives have been marred by terrorism. Every family, every shul, every school and every organization should identify one victim or group of victims – and bomb them with our love, our support, our own expertise if useful, and our cash if necessary.

Giving: The learning and the acting must be reinforced by giving. The United Jewish Communities is spearheading an emergency fund-raising campaign, with 100 percent going to Israel. Magen David Adom, the Israeli Red Cross, is desperate for more medical supplies, more personnel and more ambulances (www.interlog.com/~cmda/support.html). Hadassah hospital has won worldwide acclaim for treating all victims equally, both Arabs and Jews (www.canadian-hadassah-wizo.org/site). Virtual shopping networks have developed encouraging North Americans to purchase goods from Israeli Web sites. As Europeans threaten to boycott Israeli products, we need to make extra efforts to patronize Israeli businesses, no matter what the cost. Our collective financial weight – through charity, investments and shopping – must do what it can for Israel's economy.

The time is short, the work is great. The needs are pressing and mounting. With any luck, this crisis will be temporary, not the permanent condition of the 21st century. As a result, when our children and grandchildren ask us, "Where were you in 2002?" we will be able to say: "I recognized the lethal and ugly challenge to the state of Israel and the Jewish people. I stood up. I learned, I acted, I gave till it hurt – and it felt great."

Gil Troy is a professor of history at McGill University. His latest book is Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today.

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דער פּיוט „אקדמות"

פון ראובן קאַשאַני

„אקדמות מילין", אַ פּיוט ווּאָס ווערט געזאָגט ביי אשכנזים ביי שחרית שבועות, איז פול מיט ליבשאַפט צו כנסת ישראל, צו דער שכינה אין גלות, פול מיט רזא דרזין וועגן ישראל אין גלות, אַ שעפעלע צווישן זיבעציק וועלף, און וועגן ימות המשיח אויף וועלכע דאָס פאָלק וואַרט. דער פּיוט איז אין אַראַמעיש. ער אַנטהאַלט ניינציק חרוזים און יעדער פון זיי ענדיקט זיך מיט „תאָ". אַלס מחבר פון דעם פּיוט ווערט אָנגענומען רבי מאיר (נהורא) בר־יצחק, אַ שליח־ציבור (ש"ץ) פון וואָרמס, געלעבט אין 11טן י"ה, אין דור פון רבי שלמה יצחק — רש"י.

דער חשבון מיט די אומות העולם

דער פּיוט אקדמות איז לויטן תוכן זיינעם צעטיילט אין צוויי עיקרדיקע טיילן: פון איין זייט לויבט און רימט ער דעם באַשאַפער פון דער וועלט, וואָס האָט אויך באַשאַפן מלאכים און שרפים, וואָס באַדינען אים מיט געזאַנג און דערפילן זיינע באַפעלן מיט ציטער און פאָרכט. דער פּיוט הייבט אַרויס קודם־כל די גרויסקייט פון גאָט, וועלכע אַ מענטש איז אַפילו נישט מסוגל צו שילדערן, אויך ווען אַלע הימלען וואָלטן געווען פּאַרמעטן, די וועלדער — פּענעס, ימען — טינט, און אַלע באַ־שעפענישן שרייבער. אָט דער באַשאַפער האָט אויסגעקליבן זיין פאָלק ישראל אַלס עם סגולה.

פון דער צווייטער זייט ווערט געמאַכט אַ חשבון מיט די אומות העולם, וואָס רודפן דאָס יידישע פאָלק און ווילן עס אַסימילירן. דאָ זעט פאַרויס דער פּיטן די הילף און נחמה פאַרן פאָלק אין באחרית הימים, בעת די אומות העולם וועלן באַדעקט ווערן מיט בושה און חרפה, און מיטן פאָלק ישראל וועלן געשען ניסים און וווּנדער, וואָס גאָט האָט צוגעגרייט פאַר זיי פון ששת ימי בראשית אָן.

דאָס צייטווייליקע לעבן אויף דער דאָזיקער וועלט איז גאָר־נישט מיט גאָרנישט. דאָס וויכטיקסטע איז די ישועה אין אחרית הימים, אויף וועלכער מיר אַלע דאַרפן וואַרטן; אויפן גרויסן פאָרכטיקן טאָג, ווען גאָט וועט אָפּצאָלן זיינע געטרייע פאַר די ליידן און יסורים, און איינאָרדענען פאַר זיי דעם גרויסן ספּעק־טאַקל מיט די צוויי גרעסטע באַשעפענישן: לוויתן און שור־הבר.

די מלחמה פון שור הבר מיטן לוויתן

איידער מיר שטעלן זיך אָפּ אויף דער שילדערונג פון דער גרויסער שליאַכט, וואָס וועט פאָרקומען באחרית הימים, לאָמיר דערמאָנען, אַז אין אונדזערע מקודות זיינען כמעט נישט בנימצא קיין הערא̈ישע דערציילונגען און לעגענדעס וועגן פּלאימדיקע מאָנסטער־באַשעפענישן און מיטאָלאָגיע־געשטאַלטן, ווי אין די גבורה־דערציילונגען ביי אַנדערע פעלקער אין אַלטערטום.

פּראָפ' מ. ד. קאַסוטאָ האָט געפונען עפּעס אַ פּאַראַלעל אין פּסוק פון ישעיה (כז א'): „אין יענעם טאָג וועט גאָט באַ־שטראָפן מיט זיין האַרטער, גרויסער און שטאַרקער שווערד דעם לוויתן, די לויפיקע שלאַנג, און דעם לוויתן, די געדרייטע שלאַנג, און ער וועט טייטן דעם קראָקאָדיל, וואָס אין ים". ער האַלט, אַז דאָס איז אַ פּאַראַלעל צווישן די אוגרית־דערציילונגען וועגן ריזיקע מאָנסטערס, וואָס האָבן געהערט צו די שונאים פון „בעל" — דעם גאָט פון הימל. ער האַלט, אַז זיי זיינען אַריינגע־בראַכט געוואָרן אין די לעגענדעס פון יידישן פאָלק און זיינען אויפגעהיטן געוואָרן אין זכרון פון פאָלק ווי די פאַרקערפּע־רונגען פון שלעכטע כוחות, וואָס ווירקן קעגן בורא. דער נביא, ווען ער זאָגט אָן די בשורה, אַז אין אחרית הימים וועט גאָט אויסראָטן די שלעכטע כוחות פון דער וועלט, האָט זיך באַניצט מיט די געשטאַלטן ווי סימבאָלן פון די רשעותדיקע כוחות.

ווי געזאָגט, וועט גאָט אַרויספירן צו דער גרויסער שליאַכט צוויי ריזיקע באַשעפענישן, וואָס זיינען פון ששת ימי בראשית אָנגעגרייט געוואָרן פאַר דער סעודה פון די גן־עדן־איינוווינער. דער שור הבר געפינט, לויט דער אגדה, זיין שפּייז אין טויזנט געטלעכע בערג און שטילט זיין דאָרשט מיטן וואַסער פון די פיר טייכן, וואָס גייען אַרויס פונעם גן־עדן (פישון, גיחון, חידקל און פּרת), און זיין קול צעשפּאַלט בערג און צעבריכט פעלדן. אָט דער שור־הבר וועט זיך ראַנגלען מיטן לוויתן, וואָס רוט אין די ים־טיפענישן און לאָזט אַרויס רויך פון זיינע באָזלעכער און איז אין שטאַנד מיט זיינע פליספעדערן צו פאַרטונקלען דעם זון־לויף. די צוויי גרויסע באַשעפענישן וועלן פירן מלחמה. דער שור הבר וועט שטויסן מיט זיינע הערנער און דער לוויתן וועט שלאָגן מיט זיינע פליספעדערן. נאָך אַ שווערער שליאַכט וועט גאָט זיי ביידע שעכטן מיט זיין גרויסער שווערד און צוגרייטן פאַר די צדיקים די גרויסע סעודה.

(סוף אין קומענדיקן ווינקל)

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Israel: yes to U.S. Ramallah plan, no to UN Jewish mission

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — In two key decisions this week, Israel made it clear that when it comes to international intervention, there are those it can trust and those it cannot.

During a marathon cabinet session Sunday, Israel put the United Nations in the second category, voting against allowing a UN fact-finding panel to visit the Jenin refugee camp.

Earlier in the cabinet meeting, the government gave an altogether different verdict regarding U.S. and British soldiers when it approved an American plan for ending Israel's siege of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters.

After the cabinet voted Sunday to bar temporarily the fact-finding panel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke to the head of the UN team and "informed him that the arrival of the committee will be delayed until further clarifications about current issues," according to a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Spokesperson Arnon Perlman also said Sharon has been invited to Washington next week for talks with U.S. President George W. Bush.

Following the cabinet decision, the UN panel members, who were due to arrive in Israel on Sunday from Geneva, cancelled their flights.

The panel was going to investigate Palestinian claims of an Israeli massacre at the camp when Israeli forces scoured the camp for terrorists earlier this month.

Prior to the cabinet meeting, Peres said the panel's mission amounted to a search for a "blood libel" against Israel.

Concerned about a possible anti-Israel bias in the panel, Israel sent a team to New York late last week in an effort to change the committee's composition and mandate.

Some progress was made in those efforts. According to reports, UN officials had agreed to Israel's request that military personnel who testify before the panel will be anonymous and will be immune from legal proceedings against them. At the same time, UN officials retained the right to determine the witnesses it calls.

The panel originally was slated to arrive Saturday, but UN Secretary- General Kofi Annan postponed its arrival until Sunday following an Israeli request earlier in the weekend.

In another development, two U.S. senators prepared a letter to Annan, suggesting parameters for the fact-finding mission.

Senator Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York, and Senator Gordon Smith, a Republican from Oregon, urged Annan to investigate the actions of Palestinians in the Jenin refugee camp as well as Israelis, and for the team to look at facts, but not present conclusions or recommendations for a course of action.

"There must be a form of objectivity displayed by the United Nations," the letter said. "If actions taken by Israel are to be investigated, so too should those by the Palestinian Authority and the forces under its control and authority in Jenin."

The other major decision reached Sunday by Israel's cabinet soon elicited a positive response from the United States.

After the cabinet agreed to an American plan for ending the siege at Arafat's headquarters, the White House issued a statement saying, "The president views the vote of the Israeli Cabinet as helpful and constructive.

"The next move is up to Yasser Arafat," the statement added.

Hours after the cabinet voted its approval, Arafat also accepted the U.S. plan, according to a Palestinian spokesman.

Israel's communications minister, Reuven Rivlin, hinted at a link between Israel's acceptance of the Ramallah proposal and the decision about the UN panel. Amid uncertainty and wariness over how the UN mission will proceed, Israel will need firm U.S. backing, Rivlin said Sunday.

Under the U.S. plan, American and British troops would guard Palestinians wanted by Israel for last October's murder of Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

Last week, a Palestinian tribunal handed down sentences ranging from one to 18 years to four men for Ze'evi's murder. But Israel called the move a sham and demanded their handover.

The troops would also guard a Palestinian official who is alleged to have overseen an attempt to smuggle arms aboard the Karine-A, a ship intercepted by Israel in January.

After the Palestinians are turned over to U.S. and British officials, Israel would withdraw from Ramallah and allow Arafat to travel between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

IDF foils series of attacks

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli military sources said Sunday the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) operations in Qalqilyah on Saturday prevented possibly one of the largest terror attacks seen in Israel.

The sources said the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) planned to detonate huge explosive devices underneath at least one skyscraper in Israel's centre.

The Shin Bet security service received information regarding a planned attack by the PFLP, and Israeli forces subsequently entered Qalqilyah, where they operated for over 24 hours.

During the operation, two wanted terrorists were arrested.

IDF sources also reported that they had discovered a booby-trapped car carrying a large explosive load, which they suspected was intended to be used for a bombing in Tel Aviv.

The IDF operation in the city uncovered three bomb-making factories, from which soldiers confiscated explosive belts, pipe bombs and hand grenades. IDF sappers detonated all of the devices.

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Synagogue Executive Director
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Congregation Etz Chayim is a conservative, egalitarian synagogue very recently established by the amalgamation of three Winnipeg Synagogues – Beth Israel, Bnay Abraham and Rosh Pina. The synagogue will have a membership of 700 families and will also have responsibility for the operation of three cemeteries, three seniors' apartment buildings, banquet facilities and an active fund raising program.

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Search Committee - Congregation Etz Chayim
c/o 124 Ambassador Row
Winnipeg, MB R2V 3L8
kasner@shaw.ca

Canadian volunteers help to rebuild terror site

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — A group of seven Canadian volunteers arrived in Israel at the end of last week in order to show their solidarity.

Starting April 23, the group began helping to reconstruct the Moment Café in Jerusalem, where 11 people died on March 9 in a suicide bombing attack. The group had also been doing guard duty in schools in the Negev city of Beersheva.

"This is a group of volunteers who decided that they wanted to come over and roll up their sleeves and work to help rebuild damaged buildings, alongside Israelis, and to do something positive in response to terror," said Marc Gold, a member of the executive of Federation CJA of Montreal and director of the Israel overseas department of the federation. "They approached the federation and we helped organize this trip.

"We in Montreal have strong identification with Israel, for example we organized a huge solidarity rally last week for Yom Ha'atzmaut with 25,000 people marching downtown," Gold said.

"We have just launched an Israel emergency campaign and we have already raised $7.5 million, and that's only the beginning. In addition to raising money and marching in solidarity we also want to come and be here physically and do the things that need to be done, especially with so many reservists being called up."

Upon their return to Canada, the group will work with Gold to publicize this mission in the hope that it will inspire others in the community to come and volunteer in the same way.

"These volunteers, and those that will follow, are doing much more than merely expressing solidarity will Israel," said Howard Weisband, Director General of the United Israel Appeal Federation Canada.

"They are the Jewish answer to the so-called 'human shields' who showed up from Europe to spin artificial headlines. These people are rolling up their sleeves and working to counter the horrible effects of the terror attacks."

Some of the Canadian group painted the new roof structure of the café, which was totally destroyed in last month's blast, while others sanded stone work ingrained with debris and burn marks from the explosion.

Ruth Najman, who is an English, dance and aerobics teacher, was busy putting an undercoat of paint on a new metal support column.

"I'm here because of my love for the country. I want to help out when so many people have anti-Israel feelings. This helps me to express my solidarity for the country and raise people's morale."

Najman, who is also the co-ordinator of the March of the Living in Montreal, said, "This year, Montreal was one of the only communities that was ready to come to Israel from Poland, since Israel was an integral part according to our philosophy.

"We were coming here from Poland until the last minute and it was only a decision in Chol Hamoed Pesach, following the terrible Netanya seder night suicide bomb [just a week before this year's March] that we had to change our mind. We are now planning to bring a group over here in December."

European Jews seek strategy as anti-Semitic attacks mount

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUDAPEST — European Jewish leaders are searching for a common strategy to confront a mounting wave of anti-Semitism apparently linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Leaders from more than a score of countries met last week for two days in Brussels about how to confront the anti-Semitic outbursts.

The meeting brought together leaders of the European Jewish Congress, the European Council of Jewish Communities, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and representatives of individual Jewish communities from across the continent.

One of its aims was to create a unified political voice for European Jewry and set up a standing policy committee to co-ordinate a response to the new spate of anti-Semitic violence.

At the end of the meeting, the WJC announced it would establish an international task force to track the activities of the United Nations (UN), which often is perceived as hostile to Israel. The need for such a body became clear after last summer's UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, turned into one of the most vicious outpourings of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment at an international forum since World War II.

The WJC also plans to establish a Jewish lobby in Europe, similar to Jewish lobbies in the United States, to monitor anti-Semitism and make Jewish concerns known to European governments.

Delegates said they also planned to organize within the next few weeks a mass rally of European Jews in either Brussels – the headquarters of the European Union – or Strasbourg, France, the site of the European Parliament, to show that European governments must shake off their indifference nor dismiss anti-Semitism in Europe as simply a fallout from the Mideast conflict.

European Union "governments cannot just shrug their shoulders and say it's all part of the Middle East problem," Avi Beker, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, told Reuters.

There has been a spate of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe – ranging from verbal taunts and graffiti to attacks on synagogues and other Jewish buildings – since the Palestinian intifadah began in September 2000. Several Jews have been roughed up on the street.

The number of incidents has increased sharply since Israel launched its military incursions into the West Bank in late March. Figures provided by the European Jewish Congress counted some 300 anti-Jewish attacks in the last three weeks.

In Belgium alone, a synagogue in the town of Charleroi was sprayed with bullets last week in an apparent drive-by shooting. Two other Belgian synagogues were recently firebombed, and suspected arsonists also targeted a Brussels building that housed a Jewish bookshop.

Police and other observers believe most of the incidents have been the acts of individual hooligans or angry, alienated youths, rather than part of an orchestrated campaign.

Most of the incidents have occurred in Western Europe, and particularly in France, but there have been several incidents in former Communist countries, including an attack earlier this month on a synagogue in Kiev, Ukraine.

Even at this conference, for example, two Jewish leaders were attacked when they arrived in Brussels.

Rabbi Avraham Berkowitz, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the former Soviet Union, was attacked as he stepped off the train that brought him to the Brussels meeting. He said an Arab-looking man punched him in the stomach, stole his hat and called him a terrorist.

Moscow Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt also said he was attacked by four Arabs who shouted, "Death to the Jews!"

"The Jewish communities are very concerned about the situation," said Gabriel Taus, executive director of the European Council of Jewish Communities. "If some people doubted the seriousness of it before, they don't doubt it now. There has been a drastic rise in incidents. Some people are openly wondering if the current situation can be compared to the 1930s."

Taus said the Brussels meeting had been planned for some time as part of an ongoing attempt to forge a united political voice for European Jewry.

The Week in Israel

April 22

• An Israeli military court extended by 25 days the detention of Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti. Israel's attorney general, state prosecutor and security services said they would form a joint team to deal with Barghouti's prosecution. Barghouti, head of the Tanzim militia, was arrested in Ramallah last month.

April 23

• Israeli doctors braced for an attempt to oust them from the World Medical Association. The head of the Israel Medical Association, Dr. Yoram Blachar, said he expected anti-Israel resolutions to be presented at the association's upcoming meeting in Geneva.

April 24

• A senior Hamas leader was killed in clashes with the IDF near Hebron.

• Hezbollah fired anti-aircraft shells across Israel's northern border. Shrapnel fell on the town of Shlomi; no one was injured.

April 25

• Nearly all the leaders of Palestinian terror groups in the West Bank have been killed or arrested as a result of Israel's military operation there, according to Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland, head of the IDF's planning branch. But he warned the lull in attacks against Israelis "may not last even months."

April 26

• Israeli forces raided Qalqilyah and three villages in the West Bank in what the army called an anti-terror sweep. Witnesses said about 20 tanks and armoured personnel carriers pushed into Qalqilyah and that soldiers conducted house-to-house searches. The army said troops had detained at least 13 Palestinians "suspected of carrying out terrorist activities against Israeli citizens."

Files are from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Israel alleges grave-swapping to boost Jenin casualty count

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel has charged that Palestinians are re-interring corpses in an effort to "inflate" the number of fatalities sustained by residents in the Jenin refugee camp during Operation Defensive Shield.

Israeli security sources claim that in recent days, corpses have been taken from cemeteries in Jenin and brought to the common grave where casualties from the refugee camp battles have been buried.

Palestinian spokespersons deny these allegations. The reburials, they say, have been carried out for humanitarian reasons.

Four days ago, they say, six camp residents who were killed in an IDF operation in March were buried at the camp's cemetery. The IDF did not enter the camp in March, but its soldiers surrounded it, and their presence made it impossible for residents to reach the camp's cemetery and bury their dead. The six people slain in March were buried temporarily in plots near a Jenin hospital, the Palestinian spokespersons say.

Israeli officials say that 26 corpses of camp residents have been found. Twenty other bodies of persons killed during recent fighting in Jenin have been exhumed and brought to the camp's common grave.

IDF officers believe that several corpses remain piled under rubble in the centre of the Jenin camp. They believe Palestinian Authority officials might have chosen to delay searches for these bodies, hoping that the bodies will be uncovered when the UN inspection team comes to review recent events in the camp. Discovery of corpses at a time when the UN team is at work in the camp is bound to capture international attention, the Israelis point out.

IDF officers believe the total number of Palestinians killed in gun battles at the camp is between 30 and 70.

Palestinian sources say 54 corpses have been located so far. They say 25 of the people killed in the camp were armed Palestinians who took part in the fighting against the IDF; the remainder, the Palestinians say, were civilians who had no part in the gun battles.

French Jews stage rally against Le Pen

Continued from page 1

Across town, some 6,000 people gathered to listen to leading French actors and musicians demonstrate against Le Pen, who is fighting his fourth presidential campaign since 1974.

Despite the rallies, Le Pen, who has exploited discontent with mainstream parties, rivalries among opponents and worries over rising crime, has grown in confidence. One of his senior aides said earlier on Sunday the 73-year-old ex-paratrooper thought he could pull off another upset like the one that put him in second place in the first round of the vote.

"It's true. Over the last few days he has believed in it and we do as well," said Bruno Gollnisch, Le Pen's campaign director. "We feel [support] is climbing."

Le Pen himself told the weekend edition of *Le Monde* that winning "30 per cent of the votes would be a stinging defeat.

"I am fighting for much more. I am aiming more at between 40 and 51 per cent, closer to 51 than 40."

TERRORISTS KILL FOUR:

Four people, including a five-year-old girl, were shot to death in their homes in a morning shooting attack in the West Bank community of Adura, near Hebron; seven other people were seriously wounded. Arik Becker, 22; Danielle Shefi, 5; Katrina Greenberg, 43, and Ya'akov Katz, 51, died when several Palestinian terrorists, reportedly dressed in IDF uniforms, cut through the outer perimeter fence of the community and went on a killing rampage. The gunmen entered a house and opened fire on a couple asleep inside and then went into a second house and opened fire on the children and their mother. They then went out into the street and began targeting passersby, although no one was injured during this part of the attack. The IDF commander of the Hebron region said it was unclear where the gunmen had come from, or where they had fled. In an almost unprecedented directive from the IDF general staff, photographers and reporters were allowed onto the scene soon after the event to enable world media to see the nature and extent of the murders by the Palestinian terrorists. This photo shows the room of five-year-old Shefi, who was killed in her bed.

[Israel photo]

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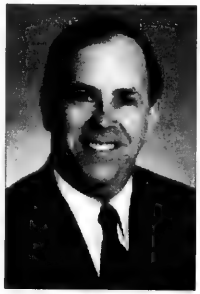

Barry Corbin

The Partners of Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP are pleased to announce that Barry Corbin has joined the firm's Tax and Private Client Services Group, where he will continue his practice in tax and estate planning, estate administration and mediation of estate disputes. Barry is a recognized leader in the field of trusts and estates law who has been consistently rated by LEXPERT as one of the most frequently recommended lawyers in his areas of practice.

Barry is Editor-in-chief of the Estates Trusts & Pensions Journal (Canada Law Book) and a founding editor of Money & Family Law (Carswell). He is the current chair of the Professional Advisory Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto. Barry is a member of the Estates Subcommittee of the Law Society of Upper Canada's Civil Rules Committee, a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and a member of the Estate Planning Council of Toronto.

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Shabaa Farms, or Mount Dov, as seen from Kibbutz Dan's slit trenches. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Hezbollah's deadly mischief

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

During his rounds of shuttle diplomacy in the Mideast last month, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell tried but failed to persuade Israel and the Palestinians to abide by a ceasefire.

Powell, however, did manage to restore a modicum of calm along Israel's northern border after conferring with the presidents of Lebanon and Syria, Emile Lahoud and Bashar Assad. In whirlwind trips to Beirut and Damascus, he apparently convinced them that daily Hezbollah rocket and mortar attacks against Israeli positions in the disputed Shabaa Farms (Mount Dov) area could ignite a regional war.

Hezbollah, tolerated by Lebanon and encouraged by Syria, launched its latest barrage late in March after Israel reoccupied several towns and some villages in the Palestinian autonomous areas in a bid to stamp out a wave of terrorism.

Hezbollah began firing on Israel out of solidarity with the Palestinians and as part of its campaign to drive Israel out of Shabaa Farms, a small area on the Golan Heights, near Mount Hermon, claimed by Lebanon.

Striking back with artillery fire and air raids, Israel refrained from inflicting particularly heavy blows, hitting neither Lebanon's highly vulnerable infrastructure – power stations, roads and so on – nor Syrian military bases in Lebanon or Syria. Yet Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer warned that "the current situation cannot continue."

Concerned that the cross-border battles might spin out of control and embroil Israel and Syria in an armed confrontation, Powell, as well as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, asked Lebanon and Syria to rein in Hezbollah.

Surprisingly enough, Iran – Hezbollah's supporter and arms supplier – exerted similar pressure on Hezbollah.

Bowing to these appeals, Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, ordered his guns to fall silent. On April 17, the head of Israeli military intelligence, Gen. Aharon Ze'evi, confirmed that tensions had eased, and that Mount Hermon's ski slopes would be reopened.

But a week later, on April 24, the tranquility was suddenly shattered when Hezbollah lobbed anti-aircraft shells into the Galilee, reportedly in response to Israeli overflights in southern Lebanon. Two days later, four Israeli soldiers were injured by Hezbollah anti-tank rockets.

These incidents reminded observers of a recent period, from February to early March, during which Hezbollah fired anti-aircraft shells into Galilee in response to Israeli overflights.

Nearly two years after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon, tensions over the status of Shabaa Farms – 17 kilometres in length and two to five kilometres in width – fester.

According to the UN, Shabaa Farms is on the Golan Heights and, therefore, technically on Syrian territory. Hezbollah defiantly contends that Shabaa Farms belongs to Lebanon, a claim supported by the Syrian government.

The UN has called on Israel and Syria to resolve the dispute, but there is a problem here. Israel and Syria broke off bilateral negotiations over the Golan in January 2000, four months before Israel, in compliance with United Nations Resolution 425, pulled its forces out of its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

Given the absence of such talks, Hezbollah has filled the vacuum, targeting Israeli posts on Shabaa Farms. In these attacks, three Israeli soldiers have been killed since November 2000. Hezbollah is also holding the bodies of three Israeli soldiers it kidnapped in October 2000.

(Almost two months ago, six Israelis were killed while travelling on a road near the Lebanese frontier. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Fatah offshoot, claimed credit).

Under Resolution 425, Lebanon is obliged to patrol the international border with Israel. But with one fleeting exception in early April, the Lebanese army has not made its presence there felt. And so Hezbollah has seized virtual control of southern Lebanon, a tinderbox waiting to explode yet again.

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Toronto Jewish Healing Project planning May 22 conference

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Toronto Jewish Healing Project will hold a one-day conference on Judaism and healing titled Job: Perseverance in the Face of Adversity.

Toronto Jewish Healing Project co-ordinator Etta Ginsberg McEwan is one of the organizers of the conference to be held at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St., May 22, from 8:30 a.m.

McEwan, a former New York social worker, is a commentator on CBC and TVO's half-hour lifestyle program, *Moving On*. She is also a member of the research ethics committee at the University of Toronto.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., McEwan says she was a tomboy who wanted to play baseball or dance ballet. Her dreams were dashed when, at five, after taking a shower in a playground to cool down on a hot August day, she contracted the virus that causes polio.

"There are negative attitudes about people with disabilities and aging because people feel very vulnerable," says McEwan, who gets around in a motorized wheelchair.

Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue and a longtime worker for the disabled, is the conference moderator.

The keynote speaker is Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa. The author of 32 books, Rabbi Bulka who is also known for his television and radio shows, will speak on Perseverance in the Face of Adversity.

Respondents to the keynote address will be psychologist Sharon Salsberg Ezrin and Rabbi John Moscowitz of Holy Blossom Temple.

Workshops will be offered on a variety of topics, including Kabbalah, prayer, coping with cancer, women's responses to adversity, music and coping skills.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Cantor Tobias Gabriel of Beth Tzedec Congregation, will hold a service of healing.

Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, the rabbinic director of the National Centre for Jewish Healing in New York City, has said that Jewish healing seeks to strengthen the spirits of Jews dealing with pain, illness, loss, despair and disruption.

"It seeks to further a sense of wholeness, connectedness, well-being, comfort, guidance, support, insight, meaning, purpose, direction and/or hope, through the spiritual riches of Jewish tradition and Jewish community."

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project, a volunteer organization, holds a one-day conference every other year, sponsors a six-week lecture series, holds group sessions for people who are ill or in despair and presents a monthly healing service at the Lipa Green Building.

For more information on the conference or the Jewish Healing Project, call 416-944-3359 or e-mail, etta2000@sympatico.ca.

BAYCREST CHALLENGE: Janis Sternhill and her dog Maxi do their warm-up stretches in preparation for the annual Baycrest Challenge on Mother's Day, May 12. For more information call 416-256-2-RUN.

NYGH seeking volunteers

TORONTO — North York General Hospital has announced that it needs up to 200 additional volunteers to fill positions that will be available when the new southeast tower opens in October 2003.

"The hospital is expanding to meet the growing health care needs of our community," says Arlene Severin, acting director, volunteer services.

"This means that volunteer services needs more volunteers to help operate the gift shop, information desk and news stand."

The Leslie site redevelopment will increase the size of the hospital by more than 50 per cent. It features a new eight-storey southeast tower and expanded south wing.

The new facility will include expanded operating rooms, labour, birth and recovery suites, neonatal intensive care, critical care, genetics, laboratory and diagnostic imaging areas.

As well, the southeast tower will have an academic centre with a 150-seat auditorium, new main entrance, lobby and retail space.

The hospital currently has more than 1,100 men, women and student volunteers who contributed more than 125,000 hours of service last year across its three sites.

"Volunteers have been an important part of the hospital since its inception," says Severin.

"In 1968, almost 3,000 volunteers conducted door-to-door canvasses, and more than $3 million dollars was raised."

Doreen Taylor, a volunteer for over 35 years is a founding member and past president of volunteer services.

"I have really enjoyed being part of a team that helps make community members' hospital visit more pleasant. Volunteers are active in fund-raising as well as helping in patient care areas and other departments," she says.

"I encourage people to come and find out how they could be a member of our dynamic team of volunteers."

For information call 416-756-6088.

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CJ Kids

A story of 'incredible' bravery

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

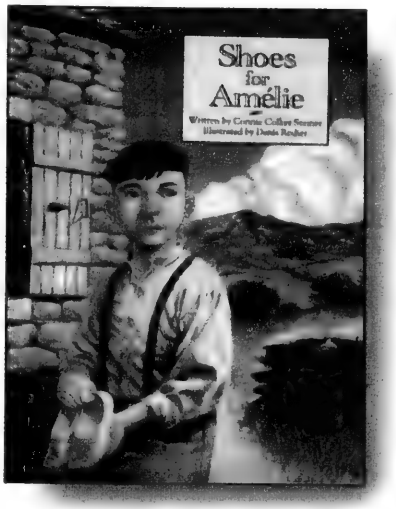
From time to time, people do incredibly brave things, even when it means that they or their families are put in serious danger. Then, even less often, we learn about whole towns who act the same way, purely because it's the right thing to do.

Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a town near Lyon in France, was that kind of town. During World War II, when the Nazis were rounding up Jews to send them to concentration camps, the people of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, led by their pastors, André Trocmé and Edouard Theis, hid fleeing Jews in their homes and on their farms.

This was very dangerous, because if the Nazis had caught either the Jews or those who were hiding them, they would have been killed.

Connie Colker Steiner, a writer who lives in Winnipeg, wrote a moving book about that community, called *Shoes for Amélie* (Lobster Press, 2001).

Denis Rodier, who illustrated the book, shows what a small farming community was like, with stone houses, green fields, rows of vegetables, and trees all around.



Lucien is a small boy who is puzzled by what is going on around him. His older brother, Abel, is always riding off to do things, but he won't take Lucien with him, or even tell him where he is going or what he is doing. Their father is somewhere else, doing something secret. And his mother keeps taking in strangers to sleep in their house, strangers who never stay very long.

Only his grandfather, Pépé, understood how Lucien felt. Because he was old, he was also left out, just like Lucien. He was even too old to do the work he was so good at, making sabots, the wooden shoes that the local people wore.

One night, a little girl came to stay with them. Her name was Amélie. Mother told Lucien to take care of her, and not to ask too many questions.

Lucien, and Abel, when he was around, taught Amélie to collect the eggs from the chickens, to weed plants and to look after the animals in the fields. Amélie was a city girl, but she loved watching what was happening on the farm, and the beautiful scenery.

One day, Lucien and Abel were told to take Amélie into the fields with the animals. Lucien could come home for supper, but Abel and Amélie were to stay in the forest. Mother explained that the police were searching the farms for anyone who wasn't supposed to be there.

Lucien and Amélie went off to play in the forest. Amélie took her prayer book out of her backpack and buried it under a tree, so that no one would find it.

Lucien felt sorry for Amélie, because she missed her family very much, was afraid of what would happen and had terrible nightmares. He decided, with the help of Pépé, to make her a pair of sabots, because her own shoes were not good to wear on a farm. He helped sand the shoes, pressed a design of flower petals onto the toe of each shoe and varnished them.

But when he took them home to Amélie, he found that she had gone, because it was getting too dangerous for her to stay at the farmhouse. Mother and Abel didn't know where she had gone. They didn't know her last name. In fact, they admitted, Amélie wasn't even her right first name.

Lucien ran to the woods where she had buried her prayer book. It too was gone.

You may wonder why the people of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon tried to help people they didn't even know. It was partly because, as descendants of Huguenots, French Protestants who had been harshly persecuted in the past, they wanted to help those being persecuted then.

But there was another reason. The pastor taught them "that we must never do evil, even if it's the law."

The villagers saved more than 5,000 Jews, and a few years ago were honoured by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem for their bravery.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION:
Students and teachers at Netivot HaTorah Hebrew Day School held a lively celebration for Israel's 54th birthday.
[Rebecca Ansel photo]

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CJ Kids

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

How many differences can you find between the two pictures?

Flowers for Shavuot

"Mommy, could we pick some flowers for Shavuot?"

"Sure, Kaila, you and your brother can pick a nice bouquet for our Shavuot table. Now please try not to disturb me. I've got a lot of cooking to do. The Antebis are coming over tonight, and I've never tried this cheesecake recipe before."

"Yippie!" squealed Kaila and Danny as they ran outside to the garden. "Let's start with these pink ones," decided Danny. "They smell good."

"They're called carnations. Did you bring the scissors?"

"Oops."

"I'll go back and ask Mommy where they are."

"Don't ask Mommy! She said she's busy."

"Oh. What do we do?"

"We don't need scissors. We can just pull them out. Look." With a quick yank, Danny ripped the carnations out by the roots.

"Are you sure I shouldn't go get the scissors?"

"Whaddaya mean? Look how many I have already. Let's get some more. I think Mommy wants more than one kind of flower."

Kaila hesitantly walked over to the daisies. She tried to pull just the flower off, but it came to pieces in her hands.

"That's not the way to do it! You're ruining the flowers! Do it like **this**!" Clods of earth burst into the air as Daniel gave a mighty pull.

"I think we have enough now."

"You think this is enough? Morah Rachel told us that the reason we have flowers for Shavuot is because when we got the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the whole entire mountain was totally covered with flowers. We're going to need a lot a more than this. There's lots more here! Let's pick them all!"

* * * * * *

"Look Mommy, we have lots of flowers for Shavuot! Enough for the whole house to look like Mt. Sinai!"

"To look like Mt. what?" Mommy put the cheesecake she had just removed from the oven onto the cake rack and turned around. Her mouth fell open as she saw her two muddy children beaming at her from the door, their arms laden with flowers. "What have you done?" she gasped.

"Don't worry, we picked a lot more than this," reassured Danny. "We just couldn't carry them all in. I'll go get the rest now."

"Why did you destroy all these flowers? You pulled them all out by the roots!"

"We *were* going to ask you for the scissors, Mommy, but you told us not to bother you." explained Kaila.

"Oh, honey, when you pull a plant out by the roots it can't grow any more flowers."

"Oh." Kaila looked like she was about to cry.

Danny looked down at the flowers in his arms. "But Mommy, now our house will look like Mt. Sinai, just like when we got the Torah!"

Mommy walked over and gave her two little angels a big kiss on each of their muddy cheeks. "Let's put these flowers in vases… no, let's use buckets. Then you can wash your hands and faces while I set the table. After that, we're taking a trip to the nursery. I'd like our garden to look like Mt. Sinai too."

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Jewish Folk Choir brings Gebirtig to life

TORONTO — Singer Claire Klein Osipov and the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir will bring the Yiddish songs of Mordecai Gebirtig to life at their 76th annual spring concert.

Born in Krakow, Poland in 1877, Gebirtig was murdered by the Nazis in 1942. His songs reflect the joys and sorrows of everyday life in the Jewish communities of pre-World War II Europe – the happiness and tears of family life, nostalgia for lost childhood and empathy for the poor and downtrodden.

Large collections of Gebirtig's songs – which include love stories, calls for vigilance, hope in the face of fascism and, despite the times, humourous tunes – were published in 1920, 1936 and 1946 and he was known to thousands of Jews around the world.

The main work for the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir concert will be *Der Zinger fun Noit* (The Singer of Misfortune), a dramatized musical montage on the life and works of Gebirtig.

Soloists for the event are Vancouver-based soprano Claire Klein Osipov and tenor John Botten. Actors Sydney Perlmutter and David Abramowitz will narrate in Yiddish and English. Pianists Wendy Bross Stuart and Lina Zemelman will accompany and Esther Ghan Firestone will conduct.

The concert will take place Sunday May 5, 3 p.m. at Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd. For further information, call 416-489-7681.

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir

Late Marriage a credit to Israeli cinema

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Late Marriage, which starts its run at the Cineplex chain on May 3, is deft and accomplished.

The first Israeli film in Hebrew and Georgian, it is alternately amusing and ominous.

Dover Kosashvili's movie, which premiered at last year's Toronto International Film Festival, builds to a climax around the tension between modernity and tradition.

Kosashvili, who immigrated to Israel with his family in 1972, uses his background to good effect in this typical story about a bachelor who comes under pressure to enter into matrimony.

The protagonist, Zaza (Lior Louie Ashkenazi), is a 31-year-old philosophy student whose traditional Jewish parents never tire of trying to find him an ideal wife.

To them, she must be pretty, preferably Georgian and, needless to say, a virgin.

What they do not know, and what Zaza is loath to reveal, is that he is already dating Judith (Ronit Elkabezt), a slightly older woman of Moroccan origin and a divorcee with a six-year-old daughter.

To mollify his father (Moni Moshonov) and strong-willed mother (Lili Kosashvili, the director's real-life mother), Zaza pretends to be interested in the eligible young thing to whom he is introduced.

As *Late Marriage* opens, Zaza is about to meet Ilana (Ava Steinovits Laor), a precocious, sensual 17-year-old who thinks she knows something about man's carnal desires.

Ilana, however, does not meet Zaza's high expectations, and Lili, the quintessential matchmaker, resumes her search for the perfect match.

At this point, the film changes tone as Zaza's parents discover his romantic secret and confront Judith in a scene characterized by contrasting gentle appeals and menacing threats.

Left with no alternative, Zaza must sort out the mess he has created.

Late Marriage, which is sexually explicit, oscillates between comedy and drama as the demands of Zaza's family clash with his own inclinations.

Lior Louie Ashkenazi in a scene from *Late Marriage*.

This is an appealing film, not just because the performances are naturalistic, but because Kosashvili directs with a sure, steady hand that belies his inexperience as a director.

Late Marriage, charged with high drama and subtle humour, is a credit to Israeli cinema.

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

PHOTOS OF AUTHORS BY HAIFA PHOTOGRAPHER AT MIRVISH BOOKSTORE

A series of photographs of Canadian writers by **Danielle Schaub**, an Israeli photographer and professor of literature, goes on view this week at David Mirvish Books.

The 100 literary portraits include images of **Andre Alexis**, **Margaret Atwood**, **Barry Callaghan**, **Mavis Gallant**, **Alistair MacLeod**, **Anne Michaels**, **Michael Ondaatje** and 93 other Canadian authors. They are black and white and range from unposed and candid portraits to documentary pictures. They are being shown in Toronto for the first time.

Schaub lives in Haifa, where she teaches Canadian literature and other subjects. She was born in the Sultanate of Brunei and raised in Holland, Venezuela, Argentina, Gabon, England and Belgium. She began taking photographs of Canadian writers in 1998.

An accompanying exhibit features photographs that Torontonian **John Sebert** took for Canadian magazines from 1954 to 1965.

Runs May 1 to July 1 at 596 Markham St. Opening, Tuesday, May 7, 5 to 8 p.m. with artists in attendance. 416-531-9975, www.dmbooks.com

* * *

Debut CD from Edmonton: *Today I Lit A Candle*, a new eight-song demo CD by Edmonton resident **Paula Eve Kirman**, includes several songs that deal with contemporary social issues, such as the title track about the 1989 Montreal massacre.

Two songs, *Shoah* and *That's My Boy*, have a decidedly Jewish theme. The latter is the story of an Israeli soldier who is killed in the line of duty, told from the point of view of his mother.

Kirman, a freelance writer and Web designer, has been playing guitar and writing songs since her childhood. Last summer, a musical friend encouraged her to record some of her original compositions in a studio. "I am not a natural-born singer but I felt this was something I was led to do," she says.

Sample her music at the Web site artists.mp3s.com/artists/361/paula_eve_kirman.html

* * *

Feinstein & Israel Philharmonic: Michael Feinstein, one of the top interpreters of the popular American song, has recorded a Concord-label CD with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Feinstein With The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra marks the first time the singer-pianist has recorded with a symphony orchestra. The recording contains lush and inventive treatments of a dozen veteran American standards. The 88-piece orchestra was led by **Alan Broadbent**, who provided most of the arrangements.

Selections include *Stormy Weather*, *The Folks Who Live On The Hill*, *By Myself*, *Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out To Dry* and *Laura*; the latter features an orchestration by **David Raskin**, its 89-year old composer. The CD is due in stores May 7.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Seneca College offers evening acting classes for adults, taught by experienced, skilled professional instructors. Orientation, Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m. 416-491-5050, ext. 4112.

• Thornhill Visual Artists' sixth annual studio tour and sale includes more than a dozen artists in their homes. May 10 to 12 (Mother's Day weekend). thornhillva.hypermart.net or 905-889-9703.

• The Alexander Singers and Players present *Iolanthe*, an operetta by **Gilbert and Sullivan**. Leah Posluns Theatre, May 11 to 19. $22-$18. 416-785-0333.

• Celebrate the Suzuki whole-child educational philosophy on violin, cello and flute at the BJCC-Suzuki 15th Anniversary Festival. Leah Posluns Theatre, June 11, 7 p.m. Register at JCC-Suzuki Parent Association, 442 Spadina Ave. Toronto M5T 2G8.

• Alden Films of Clarksburg, N.J., offers *Seeds of Hatred*, a new video on Arab terrorism, and a new series of videos on the PLO's war against Israel and the Jews. 732-294-0330 or www.aldenfilms.com.

• **Eighty Balloons for Harry Freedman: The Toronto Children's Chorus** with **Jean Ashworth Bartle** and guests **Leslie Fagan** soprano; **Catherine Robbin**, mezzo soprano; and **Susan Hoeppner**, flute; perform a stellar program of Harry Freedman's works in celebrating one of the best-known Canadian composers' 80th birthday. May 4, 7:30 p.m. at George Weston Recital Hall, 5040 Yonge St. Call 416-932-8666 ext 111 or visit [www.torontochildrenschorus.com].

Beth Sholom to feature three musical genres

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Beth Sholom Synagogue will present a star-studded concert of Broadway pop and cantorial music on Thursday, May 9, at 8 p.m.

Titled New York Night, the concert will feature Broadway artists Sean McDermott and Glory Crampton, contemporary singer Gershon Veroba, Cantor Eric Moses of Beth Sholom and a full string orchestra.

"The concert is sure to be a sellout as was last year's concert," says Howard Orfus, concert chair and its producer and director. "The entertainers are very high calibre and this will be a very exciting show, not to be missed."

McDermott, who played Chris in the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon* and Danny Zuko in the hit Broadway revival of *Grease*, and who has appeared in productions of *West Side Story*, *South Pacific* and *Carousel*, will headline the concert.

Crampton, a lyric soprano, will perform as a soloist, as well as with McDermott. She was the original Christine in *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. Crampton has performed with Jose Carreras, as well as the Three Tenors, and has appeared frequently at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

She has performed throughout North America and Europe. The *New York Times* describes her "silvery soprano" as "an angel's voice, exquisite in every detail."

Veroba, who lives in Far Rockaway, N.Y., brings a change of pace to the show. The pop singer, who is described as a combination of Neil Diamond, Billy Joel, Barry Manilow and Elton John, performs regularly on stage, TV, and radio. He has appeared with world-renowned artists, including Jon Voight, Sid Ceasar, and the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Veroba does it all – Hebrew, chassidic, Motown, and more.

Further balancing musical genres will be Moses, a graduate of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute whose singing expresses passion with exceptional control.

Born in Sudbury, Ont., he has appeared in concert in Europe and Israel, and across North America. He has also released a CD titled *Moses Sings* and officiated at the worldwide Yom HaShoah memorial service at Auschwitz-Birkenau in 2000.

For information or tickets ($60), call Beth Sholom at 416-783-6103.

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All aboard the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Express

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Learning to canoe with Jewish American, Olympic Paddling Gold Medallist Joe Jacobi is just one of the many experiences to be had in this south-eastern Tennessee city, made famous by The Glenn Miller Orchestra's song – *The Chattanooga Choo Choo.*

When Jacobi isn't training for the upcoming 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, he makes himself available to clients of Outdoor Chattanooga [www.outdoorchattanooga.com]- an internet-based consortium, that custom-packages adventures like kayaking, sky diving, whitewater rafting, rock climbing and even bird watching – for those a little less adventurous.

Ten years ago, industrial Chattanooga was a place you probably wanted to bypass while driving on Interstate-75. Then, in 1992, some philanthropists with vision built The Tennessee Aquarium at Tennessee River Park. This resulted in not only reclaiming the riverfront, but acted as a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Chattanooga.

The Tennessee Aquarium is the first and largest freshwater aquarium in the world. By 1996, the privately funded operation opened an IMAX 3D Theatre and Environmental Learning Lab.

There are a lot of places to see in the downtown area, made simple to get to by free rides on the environmentally friendly, electric shuttle buses. Stops of interest include Warehouse Row, a large grouping of outlet stores with good prices, right in the heart of the city.

Chattanooga is where the tow truck was invented. The International Towing & Recovery Museum is dedicated to these vehicles. In addition to some wonderfully restored vintage models, also on display is a children's bright red tow wagon.

Other attractions include the Creative Discovery Museum – especially fun for the kids with interactive exhibits including musical instruments that you can play, just by pressing buttons. The Chattanooga African-American Museum and the Bessie Smith Hall of Fame is named in honour of the late blues singing legend who hailed from the area.

Coolidge Park with its brightly coloured indoor carousel attracts visitors and locals alike. Nearby, is a century old steel truss called Walnut Street Bridge, it is the longest pedestrian walkway-bridge in the world. A relaxing way to explore the neighbourhood is aboard the Southern Belle Riverboat; afternoon and evening cruises are available.

The quaint Bluff View Art District and Sculpture Garden are minutes from downtown on the south bluffs of the Tennessee River. Cultural attractions include the Hunter Museum of American Art and the neighbouring Houston Museum of Decorative Arts. The River Gallery is an art buyer's paradise, guaranteed to take a nice bite out of your Canadian dollar - but for the most part, well worth it.

Lookout Mountain overlooks both Chattanooga and the Tennessee Valley. Attractions on the mountain include Ruby Falls, with its breathtaking calcite formations, and the Incline Railway, dubbed "America's Most Amazing Mile". For the best rush, take it going down.

Some of Lookout Mountain's most interesting attractions overlooking Chattanooga are in fact, in the state of Georgia. Rock City is where miniature golf was invented. Its paths lead visitors to ancient rock formations, beautiful gardens and grazing. Lookout Mountain was the scene of some pretty bloody Civil War Battles. You can witness history at the Chickamuauga Battlefield in Georgia or Tennessee's Point Park & Lookout Mountain Battlefield. In fact, don't be surprised to find Civil War buffs in period costume re-enacting battles.

The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum introduces visitors to the golden age of railroading. Be sure to board restored Engine 610 for a leisurely ride up and down the track.

Accommodations of note in Chattanooga include the charming family owned, Bluff View Inn. The Chattanoogan is an exquisite property owned by the city complete with a full service spa. On the other side of the tracks, so to speak, is the Chattanooga Choo Choo Holiday Inn. This hotel's main lobby once was a terminal for the well-known station. Guests of the hotel can choose between a conventional room or suite, or opt for a stay in an old train car. You can even ride the hotel's short track rails and get a little history lesson from their own Choo Choo conductor.

Although a number of Snowbirds have discovered Chattanooga on their drive to Florida, US Airways offers an easy flight connection through their Charlotte, N.C. hub.

For more information on Chattanooga call, 1-800-322-3344 or on the web at: www.chattanoogafun.com.

The thrill of enjoying a Passover seder in Kathmandu

By BEATRICE MAGDER
Special to The CJN

How would you like to take part in a Paasover seder with 850 people? I did, and even though it was four years ago, I will never forget the experience!

On a visit to Nepal in 1998, I was offered the opportunity to teach English in a small school in Kathmandu. I happily accepted, especially when I was invited to live with the family of the headmaster.

In April, I went to the Israeli Embassy to ask about the possibility of attending a Passover seder. I was told there would be a seder at the embassy. It would cost 1,000 rupees – about $20.

In Kathmandu, I lived with a Hindu family in which both parents are teachers. They have four children. I was becoming familiar with a Hindu household and with Nepalese culture. However, all my life I had taken part in a seder, and given the opportunity, I wanted to attend. Of course, I was also curious to see how it would be carried out in a far-away country like Nepal.

The embassy had a very large garden at the front and side of the building. A huge double tent was set up in the garden.

I could hardly believe my eyes when I entered the tent! There were hundreds of people, some sitting around tables, others sitting on chairs set up everywhere.

The language I heard around me was Hebrew, not because we were in the Israeli Embassy, but because almost all the people there were young Israelis. There were just a few English speaking people like me, and looking around, I felt sure that I probably was one of the oldest there. Certainly no other head of white hair like mine could be seen.

Most of the young people had been travelling in India or trekking in Nepal. One way or another, they had discovered that there was to be a seder in Kathmandu at the Israeli Embassy. Some young Israeli men and women I spoke to had interrupted their trekking or travelling to come for the seder. Some had arranged their travel plans in order to be there.

Many had just completed their military training in Israel and were travelling around before returning to go on with their education or to get into a job or career. About 10,000 Israelis go to Nepal each year – the largest group of foreign tourists in Nepal.

I found out later that there were 850 people at this seder. In previous years, there had been as many as 1,200, but this year there was also a seder in another small city, Pokara, which is the important jumping off place for treks. There they had 450 people.

Now, make no mistake. This was a full seder, just as it would be at your family table. Haggadahs brought from New York had an introduction by Toronto Rabbi Immanuel Schochet. The kosher food was brought from New York by the Chabad Lubavitch in Brooklyn. About 50 volunteers were involved in preparing the food. The wine, which flowed plentifully, and the matzot came from Israel. The embassy's Eitan Levy and his wife circulated, weaving among the tables and chairs, greeting and chatting with the people there. Their youngest daughter sang the Four Questions, standing on a table in the middle. She turned in a different direction for each question.

There was lots of singing during the readings from the Haggadah and some participants even managed to get up and dance in the tight space.

For me, one of the astounding things was that the seder proceeded as if we were around a family table, and we had all the symbolic food: karpas, maror, charoset potato and salt water, greens, and, of course, lots of matzah and wine. Everything was done as I have always known it. The leader, up on a table, shouting to be heard by all, was one of the Chabad Lubavitchers. The language of communication, in addition to the Haggadah material, was Hebrew. I had to get someone near me to translate.

Then came the food. Again, I could have been at home as the gefilte fish with horseradish served by Nepalese waiters carrying huge rice straw trays was followed by chicken soup and knaidlach. Then came chicken and vegetables and the rest of the usual seder meal. All of this for 850 people! It was really quite a stupendous sight to see all this food and all the people enjoying it, along with plentiful amounts of wine.

It was a night for me to carry back home with me and share with family and friends. A night to ensure my own particular kind of continuing Yiddishkeit by taking part in a seder.

Continued on page 47

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

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Singing the praises of Tupperware at Hot Docs

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Lifetime Guarantee: Phranc's Adventure in Plastic, a quirky romp into the realm of Tupperdom, sheds light on a well-worn niche of American capitalism.

Lisa Udelson's 58-minute film can be seen at Hot Docs (the Canadian International Documentary Festival) on May 4 at 7:15 p.m. at the Royal Cinema (608 College).

At its centre is Phranc, a Tupperware sales star who describes herself as an "All American Jewish lesbian folksinger."

A former punk musician whose butch appearance distills the essence of her personality, Phranc is a devotee and organizer of Tupperware parties, whose raison d'etre, as always, is the bottom line.

Phranc, who looks like a man and speaks like a woman, works in Los Angeles, winning over audiences by strumming catchy Tupperware songs on a guitar.

Extolling the durability of Tupperware, she sings the praises of a product that does not chip, crack, scratch, peel or absorb odours.

Udelson follows Phranc all over town, from Tupperware parties in suburbs to a Pacific Ocean beach where she surfs, and to a glittering conference in Las Vegas.

Punctuated by corny 1950s Tupperware promotion films, *Lifetime Guarantee* draws a sympathetic portrait of a driven woman and offers a giddy glimpse into a hyper commercial world.

***

The Settlers, by Ruth Walk, portrays the nationalistic Jews of Tel Rumeideh, a tumbledown Jewish enclave in Hebron.

This Israeli film focuses on a handful of religiously Orthodox woman who are utterly devoted to Hebron in particular and to the West Bank in general.

Being hardliners who fervently believe that Judea and Samaria belong to the Jewish people, they do not care for the Palestinian Arabs in whose midst they reside.

As *The Settlers* winds down, shots ring out. The second Palestinian uprising has begun, an event that may well change the lives of Hebron's Jews.

The Settlers was screened on April 29.

This year's Hot Docs, which runs from April 26 to May 5, features more than 100 films from 14 countries.

For tickets, call 416-538-8282. Hot Doc's Internet address is www.hotdocs.ca.

Salesman *actor evokes the dreamer in every father*

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Entering the confused and disheartened mind of Willy Loman can be a daunting task for any actor. But Allan Price's inspiring portrayal of the failing salesman steals the show in the production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, playing at the Toronto Centre for the Arts until May 4.

The lyrical text of the Miller masterpiece is well known, but every drama company presenting the play must walk a fine theatrical line: too much emotion will divert the narrative flow, and too little passion will produce a wooden, amateur piece. Except for lapses into overacting by some of the actors at the performance I attended, Tribal Productions stages the play with dramatic balance and impressive fearlessness.

The production's most stirring presence is Price's Willy Loman, the down-on-his-luck New York salesman with suicidal tendencies and a penchant for the past. As Willy's mind descended further into depression, Price never resorted to King Lear-type mumblings. Rather, Price took a page out of Jack Lemmon's book (who portrayed another desperate salesman in the film *Glengarry Glen Ross*) and peppered his performance with wistful sighs and slumped shoulders. At the staging I saw, Price even threw in the odd fatigued "Oy" during the first half of the play.

When the second half forced Price to show Willy's angry side, the unleashed emotion further hypnotized the audience in the centre's quaint Studio Theatre. Biff Loman's love-tinged spite sparked the overpowering rage that Price played to perfection, while flashbacks to scenes of fatherly exuberance softened the salesman. When Willy reminded himself of his son's potential, his own failings were momentarily forgotten, only to return when money matters arise.

His confession that sales contacts "don't know me anymore" was spoken with the same evocative tenderness as the prophetic line, "Sometimes, it's better for a man to just walk away."

Other cast members were also quite strong. Samuel Owen as Biff Loman slid into scenes of anxiety or anger with intensity, and George Joyce as Ben Loman maintained an appropriate stone-blank face of reason opposite Price's performance.

But some of the supporting cast should learn from Price's balance. Barbara Muller, who plays Linda Loman, overacted her lines with exaggerated facial expressions, and Mark Cameron Fraser as Happy Loman whined his way through his character's imprudence.

Yet, Eli Lukawitz's direction magically deflected the acting flubs with seamless scene changes and winning stage movements.

Death of a Salesman relies on flashbacks in its narrative, and they can be tricky to execute. But yellow-hued lighting coupled with Price's boyish smiles subtly triggered the flashbacks.

Ultimately, though, this story of blame and helplessness hinges on the character of Willy Loman and Price delivered. He successfully evoked the dreamer in every burdened father or husband, in a performance that was, by turns, both sympathetic and unforgiving.

Tribal Productions is a professional non-profit theatre group founded in 1994 by Eli Lukawitz and Sam Rosenthal. It's the resident theatre company at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

A seder in Kathmandu

Continued from page 46

But that is not the end of my story. I said I lived with a Hindu family and I was treated very much as a member of that family, often called grandma.

The day after the seder was a special one for many Hindus. Two festivals were taking place in different parts of the city. And I was taken to both of these to observe and enjoy my Hindu family's participation. One of these two festivals was especially for women, and the long line of women dressed in beautiful red saris, carrying their covered trays of offerings to the temple was a sight to behold. And I had the benefit of explanations of everything from Deepak and Sunita, my Kathmandu family.

It all made for a very interesting life!

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2002 BY-ELECTION
NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

N.B. Ce document est également disponible en français au bureau du Secrétaire, à l'Hôtel de Ville de Maple au 905-832-8504.

City of Vaughan Council passed a by-law on April 22, 2002 directing the Clerk to conduct a by-election to fill the vacancy of the seat of Local Councilor, Ward 2.

When is the By-Election?
All qualified voters in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2 are encouraged to vote on Voting Day:

Thursday, June 13, 2002

How many candidates can you vote for?
All qualified voters are entitled to vote for one **Member of Council for the City of Vaughan as follows: Local Councillor, Ward 2.**

Who can vote?
You may vote in the by-election if you:
- Are 18 years of age or older, or will attain the age of 18 years on or before Voting Day
- Are a Canadian citizen; and
- Have resided in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2, at any time between April 22, 2002 and June 13, 2002; or
- Are an owner, tenant or non-resident owner or tenant of property in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2 or spouse or same sex partner thereof, provided all other qualifications are met.

Note: Corporations or Limited Companies are not eligible to vote.

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504

First published April 25, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk & Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Business Profile

Putting trust into the world of real estate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Here's a quandary to test the mettle of any experienced investor, circa 1993.

You've sunk a fair chunk of change into the real estate market – specifically, in a real estate mutual fund – and land prices have taken a beating. It's been that way for a few years and the prospects of unlocking any value in your investment appear remote.

Representatives of the mutual fund contact you and put forward two options. They're planning to restructure the fund and your choices are: A. have an independent investment bank value your stake in the fund and be bought out; or B. convert your interest into something new, into units in a real estate investment trust (REIT).

Remember, it's 1993 and REITs are uncharted territory in Canada, though by that point they'd had a two-year run in the United States.

Consider also that if you were typical of the mutual fund owner, you were a senior citizen with some of your retirement money invested on the expectation that real estate was safe with steadily escalating property values that offered higher returns than you could get elsewhere.

At the time, Edward Sonshine wasn't sure what the mutual fund investors would do, but as president of Counsel Corporation's property division, it was obvious that the old ways of doing business would have to change.

In November 1993, the mutual fund holders agreed to convert their interest into units of Counsel REIT and in January 1994 the trust started trading on the TSE at $5 per unit, its liquidation value.

In mid-1995 the trust changed its name and RioCan REIT was born. The name Rio takes its name from the three segments of the real estate market that were initially targeted for growth – residential, industrial and office. Can is short for Canada.

Today, Sonshine looks back on those stressful times and is thankful most investors voted to keep their money in real estate.

While Counsel's mutual fund investors were faced with difficult decisions, the economic downturn had also left Sonshine pondering his future. A lawyer by training with a specialty in real estate and property development, he had glided effortlessly from the legal profession to the business world as president of Counsel Corporations' real estate division.

But around 1990 the recession hit hard and the company entered into two or three difficult years, prompting a wholesale re-evaluation of its business model. At one point Sonshine considered returning to the practice of law.

But his knowledge of real estate and the relationships he had formed prompted him to give the sector another chance.

Today the president and CEO of RioCan is philosophical about those tough years, saying "whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Despite its name, RioCan has focused exclusively on commercial space and since its inception, the trust has grown from assets of less than $100 million to more than $2.7 billion, with a compounded annual rate of growth of 20 to 23 per cent a year.

Real estate REITs, like oil and gas trusts and those in other industries, invest in mature industries and return much of their income to unit holders in monthly cash distributions. In addition to the annual yields, investment trusts pack the added punch of tax deferral and savings. In 2001, 54 per cent of the distribution was considered income and fully taxable, but 14 per cent was capital gain (from the sale of property) and 31 per cent was considered return of capital. The latter went to reduce the investor's cost base, meaning that when the units are eventually sold, part of the annual returns would be considered a capital gain and taxed at a lower rate than either investment income or dividends.

RioCan's success marked a major shift in the entire industry. Where once the real estate market was dominated by developer/landlords like TrizecHahn, Oxford Properties, Brookfield and Olympia and York, today REITs are the dominant players in residential, industrial and office space, Sonshine said.

The approach for the two business models is quite different, he explained. REITs like RioCan don't just build real estate and expect tenants to buy in. "We only build when it's pre-leased. We don't build 'spec space' that we hope will be leased when it's finished," he said.

Where the focus of developers was on "mega-malls," RioCan developed a different approach. Instead of a suburban mall with a few big tenants and populated by a large number of retail outlets, RioCan focused on much smaller shopping centres, from 100,000 to 1 million square feet. Instead of dozens of stores anchored by one or two big retailers, the RioCan model stressed 10 to 15-store developments with a supermarket at one end and other quality retailers throughout.

Edward Sonshine

"We own 150 of them today," Sonshine said.

Located primarily in the suburbs, the malls feature high passenger traffic, fewer tenants, little turnover and longer term leases. RioCan's top revenue tenant is Wal-Mart, followed by Zellers, A & P, Famous Players and Loblaws. Almost 96 per cent of its 23 million square feet of space is leased. Two-thirds of the trust's assets are located in Ontario, 10 per cent in Alberta, a little over nine per cent in Quebec, with smaller number of properties spread across the rest of Canada.

In the early 1990s, it was far from clear the RioCan model would prevail. "There was a debate which way to go," Sonshine said. "The debate is over. We won. Virtually all the big real estate operators are gone."

The reason, as far as he is concerned, is simple. "They couldn't hold their shareholders. They want cash flow."

RioCan, for its part, paid $1.08 per unit last year. Last week is was paying $1.11 on a unit price of $12.12 for a yield of 9.1 per cent.

No doubt, that's a return that RioCan's original unit holder can be happy with. Back in the early '90s, Sonshine agonized over the financial hit the mutual fund holders would take if the trust model failed.

"I felt responsible for retirees with savings in the mutual fund...I take it very seriously. It's a tremendous responsibility," said Sonshine, the child of Holocaust survivors.

Prior to launching RioCan, Sonshine and the RioCan brain trust analyzed the failed mutual fund model, the drop in real estate values and the bankruptcy of tenants and devised a set of rules and strategies to avoid those problems.

RioCan would avoid the main bane of the '80s – high debt levels– by limiting debt to 50 per cent of the cost of properties (raised to 55 per cent in 2001); it would focus on one area of commercial real estate – shopping centres – to the exclusion of others. ("That way, you can really build the expertise in house and you can be really good at it," Sonshine said.)

It would stay away from risk as much as possible and so, avoid owning undeveloped land. It would opt for long-term fixed rates of interest in the money it borrowed (with an average time to maturity of six years) and it would lease to reliable national tenants locked into long-term leases, "for whom the world would have to fall apart for them not to pay the rent."

With that model to work with, RioCan has been able to both grow and make substantial distributions to unit holders.

RioCan's success, has no doubt take some of the pressure off Sonshine, whose worries today are how to grow the company, not whether seniors will have enough for retirement.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

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women seeking men

CALL ME

Single female from Montreal, 50'ish, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, sense of humour, conservadox, enjoys art, dining dancing, travel, beach, seeks male, 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests **AD#1034**

LOOKING FOR YOU

Beautiful lady, blonde with blue eyes, smart, extremely well educated, witty, outspoken, passionate, seeks male between 47-55 yrs, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1119**

SOULMATE SEARCHING

Single female, interested in meeting a trustworthy, loyal, caring, intelligent, professional Jewish male. She's a non smoker, lives in Toronto, has a great sense of humour and likes to make people laugh. Compassionate, passionate and sensuous. Loves art galleries, museums, travelling, swimming, walks, and musicals **AD#1385**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Loves movies, theatre, dining, dancing, has great circle of friends, enjoys sports, hockey, scrabble, backgammon, majong, cards, great sense of humour, good soul, looking for the same in a male funny, charming, good sense of humour, who's willing to give more than 2 minutes **AD#1396**

LOOKING FOR LOVE

A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 50-58 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

CALL ME

Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others **AD#1030**

DYNAMIC

Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative,seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys **AD#1253**

LOVING & CARING

Single Jewish female, 63 yrs, sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, enjoys a wide variety of interests, seeks male Jewish, 65-70 yrs, spontaneous, honest and romantic, for a long term relationship **AD#1033**

LOOKING FOR LOVE

A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 50-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

LONG TERM LOVE

Single female, classy, smart, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, kind, seeks Jewish male, 65-70 yrs, active, thoughtful, loving, romantic, ready for a committed relationship **AD#1141**

SPRING ROMANCE

Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

HUMOUR & HONESTY

Single female, 56 yrs, non smoker, enjoys sports, dining out, long walks, movies, rides in the country, medium weight, 5' 4", divorced short brown hair, two grown children, strong sense of integrity great sense of humour, searching for a single white male 60-65 yrs, with a great sense of humour and honesty. Honesty is very important. I'd like you to give me a call **AD#1209**

LOVER & BEST FRIEND

Single female, warm, caring, intelligent, passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, skiing, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight, successful and ready for romance **AD#1131**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR

Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, romantic male, 65-75 yrs, active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship **AD#1135**

SPRING ROMANCE

Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

MATCHMAKER

Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

LOVE & LAUGHTER

Single female, 55 yrs, outgoing, loving, fit, sincere, good sense of humour, enjoys the theatre, movies, long walks, seeks male with similar qualities and interests **AD#1221**

FABULOUS FIFTIES

Single female, mid fifties, professional, enjoys music, sports, long walks, travel, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, caring, compassionate, seeks male, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1090**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS

Single Jewish female, sincere, smart, romantic, passionate, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, theatre, seeks male, Jewish 65-60 yrs, thoughtful, loving, with a wide variety of interests **AD#1392**

LOVING & CARING

Single mom of one 6 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests **AD#1392**

TAKE A CHANCE

Widowed female early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel, the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks widower, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1283**

CARRIED INTERESTS

Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling She works in science and engineering **AD#1548**

NAUGHTY & NICE

Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests **AD#1384**

LET'S DINE OUT

Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a savvy popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys with **AD#1412**

FOXY LADY

Foxy lady with class, works out, dances, into the arts, fit, non smoker Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality Wants a best friend, lovers later Looking for a soulmate Please respond **AD#1232**

MATCHMAKER

Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

FUN TIMES

Attractive Jewish female, 38 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

STARTING OVER

Single, non smoking, professional lady, with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, good friends and honest communications **AD#1128**

VEGAS MOMMA

Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow Early 60's, looks 50's Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests **AD#1259**

GREAT CHEMISTRY

I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life theatre, movies, music, travel, dining out, art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE

Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind, easy going, enjoys outdoors, seeks honest man, non smoker, secure for possible long term relationship **AD#1145**

DANCING, DINING

55 yrs old, divorced female, enjoys dancing, dining, plays, seeks male with similar interests **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE

Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, classy, seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

GREAT CHEMISTRY

I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining out, art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

DINING ART

Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings Desires male, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship **AD#1301**

FULLY LOADED

Blonde bombshell with brains. No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure Submit photo. Must be a professional Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

MONTREAL LOVIN'

Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal **AD#1338**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART

Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life She likes the arts and working out **AD#1408**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL

Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN

Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive, hard working man for a committed future She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN

Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together Dancing, dining etc **AD#1355**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE

Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING

Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE

Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION

"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voiced blend **AD#1586**

LET'S MEET

Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM

Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE

Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5' 2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART

Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH

Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE

Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

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men seeking women

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Single male, 5' 10", 180 lbs, salt & pepper hair, loving, kind, enjoys kids of all ages, likes movies, dancing, outdoor activities, bbq'ing, family life, watching TV in front of the fireplace, seeking female with similar qualities and interests for a relationship **AD#1149**

CALL ME

Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends. Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family **AD#1222**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Loves movies, theatre, dining, dancing, has great circle of friends, enjoys sports, hockey, scrabble, backgammon, majong, cards, great sense of humour, good soul, looking for the same in a male, funny, charming, good sense of humour, who's willing to give more than 2 minutes **AD#1396**

CALL ME

Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others **AD#1030**

DYNAMIC

Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative,seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys. **AD#1253**

DREAM COME TRUE

Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys **AD#1179**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Single male, 30 yrs, never married, handsome, loving, passionate, enjoys sports, camping, outdoor activities, dining and dancing, movies, seeks female, 22-36 yrs with similar qualities and interests for long term loving relationship **AD#1424**

SHARING AND CARING

Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!

Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior. Tall, handsome, good body Interior. Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink saddle, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING

Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

TRILINGUAL GUY

Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

HEART OF GOLD

Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour,* strong moral family oriented **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE

46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating Also seeking long term relationship Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1095**

EASY GOING

Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with **AD#1249**

KEEPING BUSY

Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

A GENTLEMAN

A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE

Nice Caddy for sale Aberdeen car buffs '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty Interior warm, easy going, and charming Performance Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY

71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY

Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY

Born 1958, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured women, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waist size, you call. **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE

Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sword embrace my shvalrest task will be done And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY

Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than he does, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship **AD#1286**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION

41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX

Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM

Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SWINGS & TRIPS

Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

JUST THE TWO OF US

Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

MYSTICAL LADY

Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors A traditional male, works a a financial consultant Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented Seeks lady with many interests **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY

Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking, Seeks female, for long term relationship, She is very easy to be with **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK

43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

LET'S TALK

Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests Please contact me **AD#1329**

SOPHISTICATED MAN

Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention **AD#1427**

MASSAGE THERAPY

Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-48 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1399**

CALL ME

37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART

Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking **AD#1257**

FRIENDS FIRST

Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST

Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!

Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5'9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

5 HOUSES FOR SALE
10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
15 HOUSES FOR RENT
20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT
24 HOUSES WANTED TO BUY
25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT
45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS WANTED
68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
70 UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION
75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET
82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT
85 APARTMENT WANTED
87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
105 COTTAGE FOR SALE
110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE
120 COTTAGE WANTED
122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE
123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE
130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT
135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED
143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. AVAIL.
145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. WANTED
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500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

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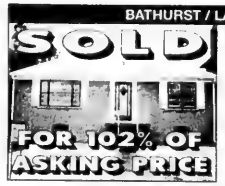

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

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257 HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE

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259 SENIORS

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270 PERSONALS

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275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

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320 CONTENTS FOR SALE

Silver Heirlooms - Orig. Art Oak & Pine Custom Furn. Artisan Curios. 416-605-8086.

330 OBITUARIES

APTER, Leon – on April 15, 2002.
MORRIS, Emer – on April 15, 2002, late of 4 Lowther Ave.
FAY, Randall – on April 16, 2002, late of 146 Strathearn Ave.
GERSHTEIN, Abram – on April 15, 2002, late of 132 Dexter Rd.
BENJAMIN, Abramson – on April 16, 2002, late of 19 Snider Ave.
GREENBERG, Harry – on April 17, 2002.
LOUIS, Okun – on April 18, 2002.
WALDMAN, Sylvia – on April 19, 2002, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
PAUL, Samuel – on April 20, 2002, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W.
ELGART, Polya – on April 20, 2002.
ORLANS, Theodore – on April 21, 2002, late of 128 Santa Barbara Rd.
RUBIN, Sarah – on April 21, 2002, late of 8 Evanston Dr..
GOLDFINGER, Murray – on April 22, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
KLACZKOWSKI, Harry – on April 22, 2002, late of 65 Barksdale Ave.
KENIGSBERG, Bessie – on April 22, 2002.
LANGER-CHERRY, Fanye – on April 22, late of 61 St. Clair Ave. W.
POLIAK, Roukhila – on April 22, late of 25 Fawnhaven Crt.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

ZARACOFF, Lauren – on April 5,2002, late of 106 Leah Crescent.
SHATZ, Samuel – on April 4, 2002, late of 11 Hi Mount Rd.
SUGAR, Emma – on April 7, 2002, late of 121 Angus Dr.
BENOVICH, Rose – on April 6, 2002, late of 601 Clarke West, #307.
TAU, Steve – on April 7, 2002, late of 111 Avenue Rd., Ste. #523.
BROWN, Jeffrey – on April 4, 2002, late of 10 Shalmar, #410.
LOWIT, Ludwig – on April 8, 2002, late 25 Canyon Ave., #1210.
SOKOLOFF, Rene – on April 7, 2002, late of 236 Crestwood Rd.
BIERSTONE, Rose – on April 10, 2002, late of 135 Antibes Dr., #1001.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

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Greater Toronto Area

Two rally participants handcuffed in Ottawa mall

Continued from page 3

Bellman said the security guard maintains he politely asked Abergel to put his flag away and told him that if he refused he would be put under arrest for a prohibited act.

(Hasler said the mall's standing policy is to prohibit the display of all flags in the mall. "We do not permit protests or demonstrations inside the Rideau Centre. If someone comes in with a Canadian flag, we would ask them to fold it. It's a public safety issue," he said, adding flags could cause strife inside the mall between opposing groups. The mall also has a policy of prohibiting photographs without permission, he said.)

Bellman said the security guard "denied vehemently" telling Abergel to put the "f...g flag away," and he rejected allegations he made racist remarks.

Bellman said police will have to find third party witnesses to what transpired in the public portion of the mall.

Hasler, meanwhile, said racist statements, if they were made, are "really troubling. If there were racist statements, that is totally unacceptable to Rideau Centre.

"We are extremely troubled by the whole thing. It is something that is foreign to our experience here. Our policy is completely non discriminatory."

In the event of racist statements being proven, "appropriate action will be taken and it will be decisive action," Hasler said.

Meanwhile, in Montreal, "the level of concern, anger and anguish is very high," said David Birnbaum, executive-director of the Quebec Region of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Just a few days earlier, the owner of a Second Cup coffee shop in Montreal refused to serve several people who were carrying an Israeli flag following a pro-Israel rally.

The incidents come as Jewish communities around the world are experiencing a surge of anti-Semitic incidents, including synagogue bombings (including one in Saskatoon), assaults and vicious propaganda attacks.

"It's a time that the community in Montreal and Canada are very vigilant and quite concerned about the current atmosphere. There's no doubt that tensions in the Middle East are at risk of being imported to communities around the world," Birnbaum said.

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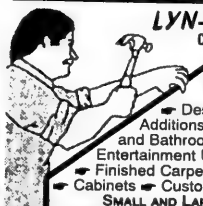

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FIFA to vote on Israel's suspension

By ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The executive of FIFA, the world soccer governing body, will consider a plea to suspend Israel at its next meeting on May 3. FIFA is responding to requests from several Arab soccer organizations that have asked to have Israel ostracized because of its conflict with the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, UEFA, the European soccer federation, has rejected a call by a number of Arab countries – specifically, Jordan, Syria, Oman, Libya and Kuwait – to suspend Israel.

"We will continue to monitor the situation in Israel and follow the guidelines laid down by the United Nations," said UEFA president Lennart Johansson. "We will consider each case on a match-by-match basis but there are no grounds for a suspension at this stage."

FIFA sources later said the world governing body would likely take the same position as UEFA.

Last month the Saudis sent a letter to FIFA on behalf of the Arab Football Union in which they called on FIFA President Sepp Blatter "to protect the interests of the Palestinian FA – a full member of FIFA, which has been harmed by Israeli actions." Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon and Oman added their names to the letter.

FIFA's move to discuss suspending Israel is likely connected to Blatter's bid for re-election in a vote on the eve of the World Cup finals in Seoul on May 29. Blatter's standing as the most important functionary in the world's most important sport has taken a severe knock lately following allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

Even if the move to suspend Israel fails, Blatter realizes he must pick up votes, especially from Third World countries, if he is to fend off a challenge to his leadership from Cameroon's Issa Hayatou, the African confederation chief, who is also standing for election in Seoul.

The 24 members of FIFA's executive committee will vote on the proposed boycott. Secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen, who has recently fallen out with his boss, will also take part in the discussion but is not allowed to vote.

The balance of power in the committee appears to suggest the proposal has only a slim chance of being adopted. Apart from Blatter, there are eight European members of the committee, three of whom are vice-presidents. All of them, except perhaps Belgium's Michel D'Hooghe, are expected to vote against the proposal.

UEFA president Johansson and Italian Antonio Matarrese are long-standing friends of Israel, as is Scotland's David Will. All of them are expected to adopt the UEFA line, which invariably opposes FIFA and its boss, Blatter.

South Korea's Chung Mong-Joon, Julio Grondona, the president of the Argentina FA, and Jack Warner, president of CONCACAF, the soccer federation for North and Central America and the Caribbean, are also not expected to support the proposal.

Other members also expected to vote against are Spain's Angel Maria Vilar Llona, Brazil's Ricardo Teixeira and Chuck Blazer of the U.S.

Votes in favour will undoubtedly come from the representatives of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Qatar, Botswana and Mali.

Israel Football Association chair Gavri Levy sent an urgent personal letter to Blatter last week and also asked for a meeting as soon as possible before the committee convenes.

"We will act swiftly and decisively and I hope that it will all come to nothing, but in the disgusting world in which we live, anything is possible," Levy said.

A TEL AVIV CYCLE: **The Tel Aviv Fairground was the site of a recent bicycle rally. Cycling is becoming increasingly popular in Israel.** **[Isranet photo]**

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Bridge with Gitelman

As Canadians, we know that one of the most exciting moments in sport is when a goal is scored in a Hockey playoff game that has gone into overtime. If you don't think that a bridge tournament is capable of evoking the same kind of suspense and drama, then watch this:

The year was 1993. I was 28 years old and playing on Team Canada in one of my first major international bridge tournaments - the Maccabiah Games in Tel Aviv (where bridge has long been considered a sport). After almost a week of play, 12 teams had been reduced to four. Canada faced Israel in one semi-final match while Great Britain did battle with the United States in the other semi-final.

Our 128-deal match against the Israelis ended in an exact tie, a very rare occurrence in a bridge tournament. The conditions of contest called for eight overtime deals. Canada had not done well on the first seven of these deals. We knew we needed a good result on the last deal to have a chance to win the match:

Geoff	Fred	The bidding:	
♠ QJ3	♠ K754	Fred	Geoff
♥ Q965	♥ K	1♦	1♥
♦ 932	♦ AKQ654	1♠	2♦
♣ 542	♣ KJ	3NT	

I was the declarer in 3NT after some questionable bidding by both my partner, Geoff Hampson, and myself. My only excuse for the dreadful contract that we reached is that we knew we could not win the match if we played in a partscore.

If my left hand opponent had led a club, the unbid suit, then 3NT would have had no chance. He chose to lead a heart, however, and I gratefully won the first trick with my ♥K. I played six rounds of diamonds. Both defenders followed twice, discarded two small spades, and then two small hearts. I continued with a spade to dummy's Queen and my right hand opponent's Ace. The inevitable low club was returned and then time stood still.

I had a decision to make and I knew that I had better make the right decision if Canada was going to win the match! Playing the ♣J would win if the ♣Q was on my right. Playing the ♣K would win if the ♣A was on my right. What card should I play? I sat there and I thought and thought and thought…

It seemed like a complete guess. The opponents had not given anything away with their discards, tempo, or mannerisms. I could think of only one thing on which to base my decision – the heart opening lead. Why had my left hand opponent not led a club? Perhaps he had the ♣A and did not want to give me an undeserved trick with the ♣K (which I was likely to have from the bidding).

I really did not want to play a card at all, but eventually I convinced myself to play the ♣J, hoping it would draw the ♣A. Well, it drew the ♣Q and a club was returned to the ♣A on my right. The defense had the rest of the tricks. I was down two in 3NT and Canada lost the match. Israel went on to defeat Great Britain, thereby winning the Gold Medal at the 1993 Maccabiah.

And in bridge, as in hockey, when you get knocked out of the playoffs, there is always next season to look forward to…

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Toronto-based company, Bridge Base Inc, is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in The Canadian Jewish News. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

Where were the rest?

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Irwin Cotler was there (but then, Irwin Cotler is nearly everywhere). Where were Canada's four other Jewish members of Parliament and five Jewish senators at the recent rally for Israel in Ottawa? Where was a statement of welcome on behalf of the prime minister? Why no representation from any of the opposition parties? (Okay, we can do without the NDP, at least these days.)

Questions...

I concede that the last thing almost any Jewish gathering needs is more speakers, but one must note the conspicuous absences from the April 21 Ottawa rally of Jewish MPs Elinor Caplan, Anita Neville, Jacques Saada and Raymonde Folco. Were they lost in the crowd of 25,000? Doubtful. If there, they likely would have been on the dais, even if they were not slated to speak.

So too should the absences of the Jewish senators be noted: Jack Austin, Jerry Grafstein, Leo Kolber, Mira Spivak and Richard Kroft. Again, their presence would surely have been acknowledged by the speakers had they attended and shown their support for Israel when it's needed most. Senators have a low enough profile as it is and they abide by a different, perhaps more sober, set of rules when it comes to partisanship. But you'd think they might want to show their faces from time to time and take a stand that risks upsetting none of their constituents, since they don't have any.

Now, as a cabinet-minister, Caplan is bound by altogether different rules than a regular MP. The cabinet, after all, runs the country and sets the tone for debate. Not much room for one-sided declarations. Of course, that didn't stop a florid Caplan from declaring during the last federal election that the Canadian Alliance was a haven for "Holocaust deniers, prominent bigots and racists." But that was during an election campaign. Assigning the same epithets to those who now seek to murder Caplan's brethren is apparently off limits.

The absence of Jewish representatives was not a failing of the rally's organizers. Canadian Jewish Congress tells me that invitations went out to all Jewish members of Parliament, local politicians and the 47 MPs who make up the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group. Organizers lament that so few politicians showed up at all, never mind the Jewish ones. (For the record, Toronto-area Liberal Joe Volpe was there and spoke. Cynics might say this is because Volpe has a large Jewish constituency, but as a cynic, I don't believe that. I really think his heart is in the right place.)

As for a letter of welcome from the Prime Minister's Office: This would have been a small but nice touch. It was not to be; curious, given how warmly Jean Chrétien lauded Israel four years ago at the country's 50th anniversary celebrations at Ontario Place. Now that Israel is in real danger and has turned to its friend Canada for help on the international stage, it's a different story.

To be fair, the rally was hastily organized. MPs' schedules are made up weeks in advance, and weekends (the rally was on a Sunday) are almost always when members journey back to their ridings for constituency work. On the other hand, the Quebec ridings of Saada and Folco are less than two hours from Ottawa. And Folco attended (but did not address) the recent rally for Israel held in Montreal.

Neville, a rookie MP from Winnipeg, was also a no-show at the huge April 14 rally for Israel held on the steps of the Manitoba legislature – a 15-minute drive from her riding.

All this strikes me as alarming and sad at the same time, and brings to mind an old saw: Sometimes, issues are too important to be left to politicians.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

In the early '90s, I worked for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Siberia. Knowing that our post-Soviet brothers and sisters were natural readers, we preceded our first visits with shipments of libraries, Russian-language books of Judaic and Zionist content.

On my first trip to Khabarovsk, I found about 15,000 Jews who were fast making aliyah. Some, however, chose to stay and build a community. When I arrived, there was only one woman who had taught herself enough Hebrew to teach the children the alephbet. Judaism and its rich heritage were both a fantasy and a Soviet-era stigma.

The Hebrew teacher challenged me about one of the books we sent. She read the six chapters of Pirkei Avot over and over, but she couldn't believe it was a Jewish text. It was too noble, too civilized. I was shocked that she was so stigmatized by her recent Soviet past, but delighted at the way she found this ancient jewel of ours and immediately understood its enduring beauty and purpose.

Some months later, in a New York hotel, I was decorating the walls with posters we had created for Russian Jewish classrooms, preparing the room for a meeting of the JDC's lay leadership. An influential women in that leadership approached me and asked about a specific poster. "It's beautiful, Epi, but what is it?" I explained that it was one of our new classroom posters. "Yes, but what is it? What does it say?" I was shocked and embarrassed to realize that this famous American Jewess did not recognize the Hebrew alphabet.

Here was a powerful and committed Jew with no Jewish knowledge. She was raised with all of the comforts and luxuries of a wonderful general education in a country where Jewish schools and synagogues are freely available, but she hadn't learned the basics.

My Russian friend, on the other hand, had discovered her Jewishness in the most barren environment and had already learned to speak the language, read the letters and appreciate the noble beauty of our most cherished literary treasures.

This being the season of Pirkei Avot, I suggest you try to read a chapter as if you just found this jewel of our heritage for the first time.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

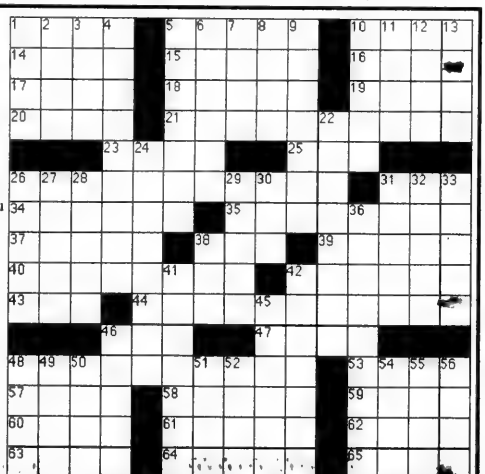
The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

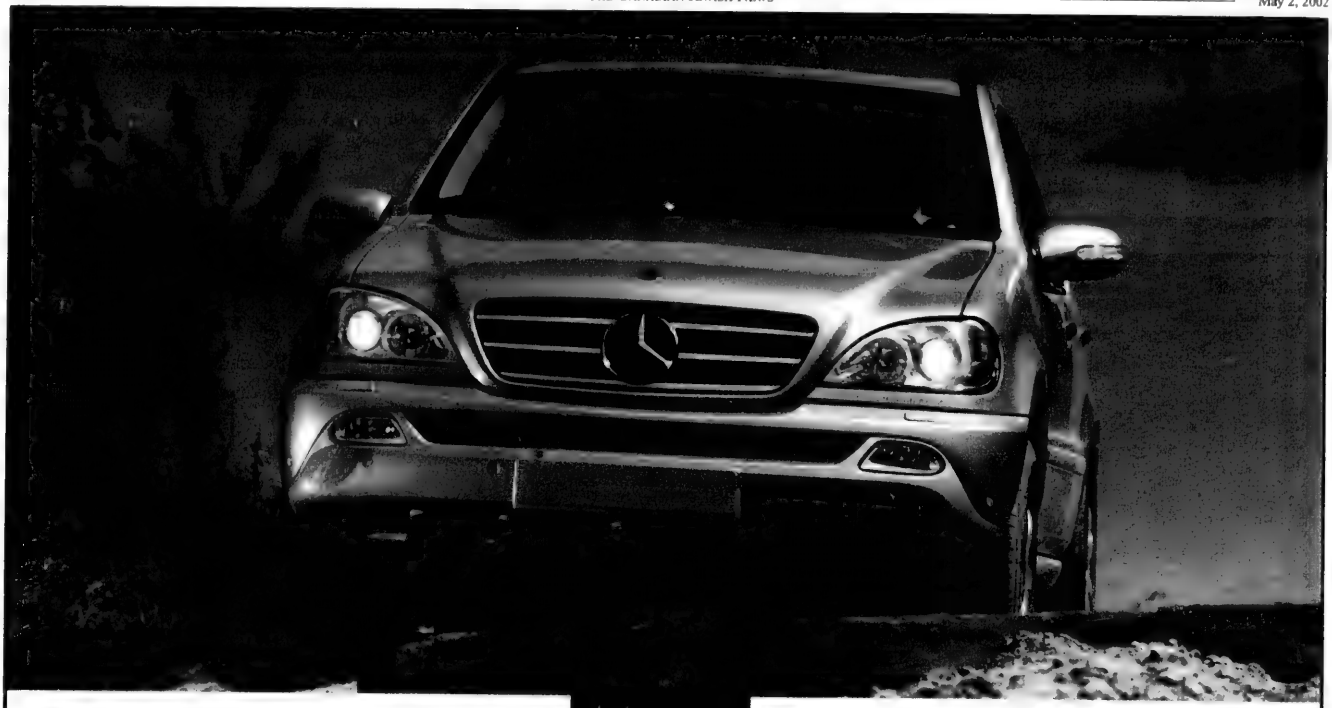
(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Shells by the Seashore
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann/Legacy Crosswords

Across
1. Male of "The ___, upon your heights has fallen" (David's Eulogy for Saul and Jonathan)
6. Prophecy, Old English
10. Enough ____
14. A worker in the vineyard
15. Amer. adversary
16. Ratio words
17. Intangible cloak
18. Kibbutz near Gaza
19. Loon's home
20. ____ me a line!
21. Health spot at Ein Gedi seashore
23. Arabian prince
25. My father, in Israel
26. Where Sally sells shells
31. Kiner and Gore
34. Home turf, to some, in Yiddish
35. Y'all ___ _____ fer it!
37. Top performer
38. Balsam tree
39. River, Switzerland to seashore
40. Most far out, notationally
42. One who'll lose a few
43. The elected, or favoureds
44. Atoll, seashores and all
46. Golfer's average goal
47. Donkey, in Darmstadt
48. They fringe Eilat's seashores
53. Spirit, vim
57. Labor, in Haifa
58. To a beast, in Bayeaux
59. To a king, in Cannes
60. Nature, in Nahariya
61. How you get on the Net
62. Track event
63. Bauxite and such
64. About, concerning — old style
65. This, in Ravenna

Down
1. This fish makes a run for it
2. Gig on the road
3. High flying prefix
4. Find one or more in your raw Merlot
5. Long before the digital watch
6. Willows
7. Hebrew girl's name
8. Frog's cousin
9. ___ ___ the bottoms of skirts
10. Site of Sharm e-Sheikh's beaches
11. Peer Gynt's mother, and others
12. Recipe measure
13. You may connect Point B to this
22. Adam's early request to sleepy wife?
24. Arranged to a beat
26. My turtle, in Tiveria
27. A way of designating the rhinoceros' as the biggest
28. Lab burners
29. ____ _ cab
30. Hockey Bobby
31. City of northwest Honshu
32. An ephod was sewn of this material
33. Mortimer
36. Sally's after-hours sport?
38. Not near at all
41. The horse pen, first one you get to
42. Not what a stern ruler wants to hear
45. _____ __ base´
46. Tools, in Toledo
48. Roman denouncer of Carthage
49. Hebrew measure
50. Kind of review
51. Real black
52. Fifth in a series of brain recordings?
54. Angers
55. Curly's sidekick, Homer's bartender
56. Felafel wrap





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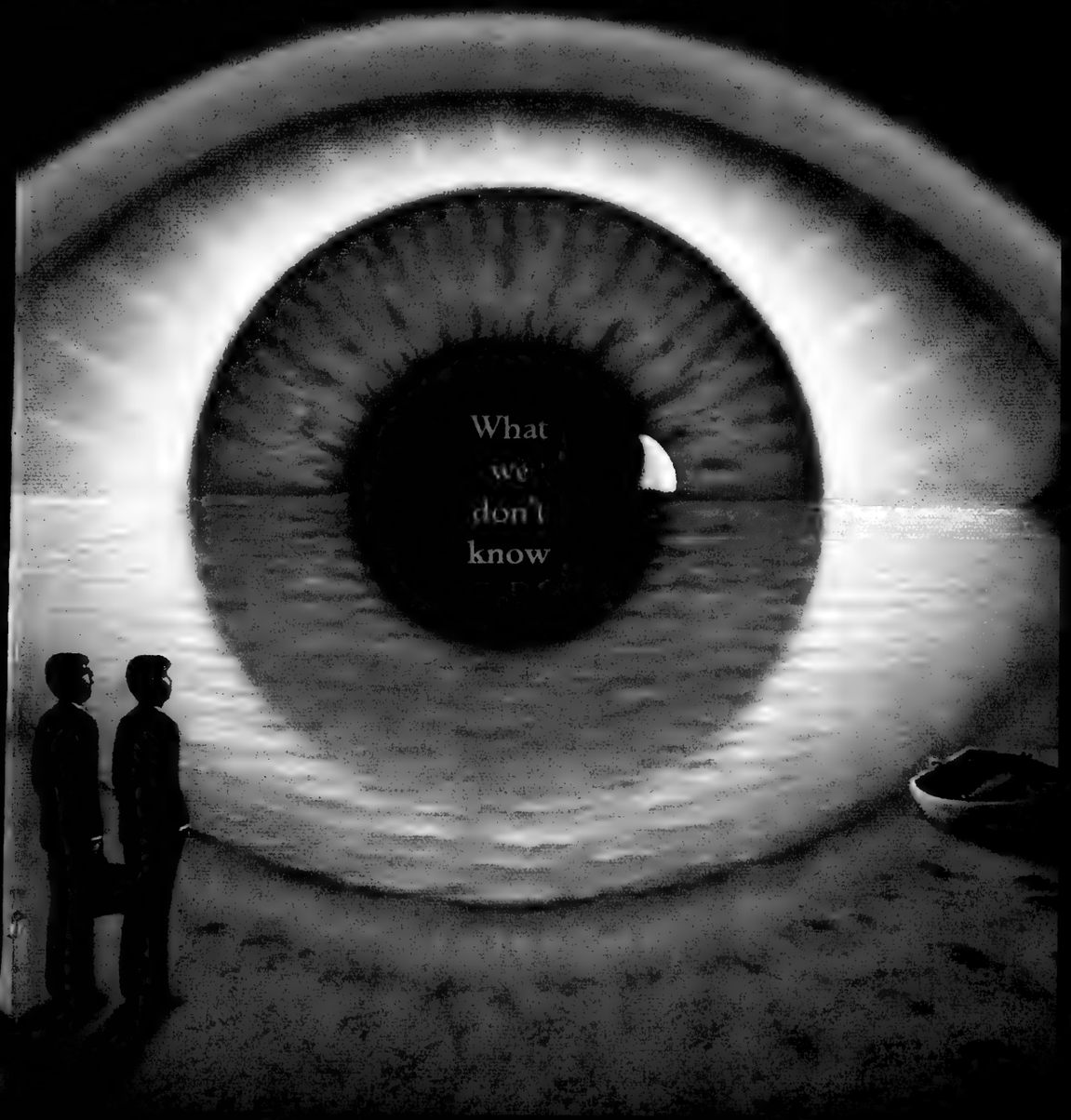
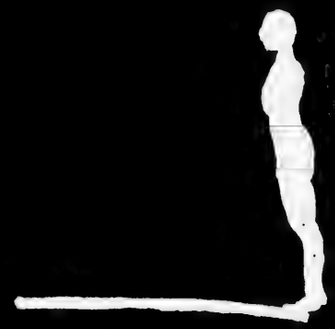
OLAM

Summer 2002 / 5762

Enjoy the journey





What would you love to know that you don't, or suspect you never will? How is "not knowing" different from ignorance? When does certainty breed smugness? And is it possible to be spiritually nourished by doubt?

For two years now, OLAM has delved into the modern relevance of timeless Judaic ideas, like the Sabbath, protecting the environment and honoring our parents. In this issue, we celebrate perhaps the oldest tradition of them all:

THE ART OF ASKING QUESTIONS

If there's one thing that has kept our tradition alive across the millennia, it must be the fact that we challenge everything, even God, and especially ourselves. We hate closure.

In that spirit, we have assembled a list of soul-searching writers who will explore what keeps *them* up at night. If after reading this issue you're left with more questions than answers, well, that will be enough closure for us.

Enjoy the journey.

THE EDITOR ASKED US to write about love, thinking we'd know just little enough having been married for three years to be sure we knew nothing. We assured her that indeed, we knew embarrassingly little about love, which was just what she wanted to hear. "Perfect," she said. "You can write about what you don't know." Only in a Jewish magazine could the fact that you know nothing suddenly make you a big expert, so here are just some of the things we don't know about love.

First, Janet and I can't really agree on what love is. Janet BELIEVES it's something you FEEL, I FEEL it's something you BELIEVE. We are still arguing about this as the paper goes to press. Let us know if you figure it out. (You can speak your peace about it, even).

Second (even as Janet and I continue to argue about this last point, which is certainly going to color the rest of this column and isn't that how it always goes – you try to do something nice for the world – the "Olam"– and you end up in a big argument with your wife as Reb Yosi Haglili said, "No good deed goes unpunished... "), okay second – we don't know why we fell in love with each other. Why didn't we fall in love with some other person entirely? Is it fate? Is life a series of accidents? If it is, can you get insured for them? And what would the premiums be?

Third, how much does love weigh? And what color is it? After all, astronomers just now figured out that the universe has a color. They thought it was a light magenta, but now they know the terrible truth – it's actually beige. What about love? Pink, like a valentine? Reddish-purple, like a heart getting ready for transplant? Blue, like the jazz form? Some day they'll find out, and it'll be really important, but so far we are clueless.

Fourth, we don't know why, but it seems that love means never having to say you're sorry only BEFORE the wedding. After the wedding, love seems to mean a constant stream of having to say you're sorry (and by the way, the wedding is not the marriage, contrary to how some may think. Children dream of growing up and GETTING married. Very few dream of BEING married. One is a party, with a big band and an open bar).

Next to finally, two crucial things that Janet and I don't know are Janet and I. Oh sure, she'd know me to pick me out of a police line-up, which is not to say she WOULD, after all, how was I such a genius as to end up in a police line-up? My point is that even in the most intimate relationship, two people never ever KNOW what it is to be in each other's center, to experience the world exactly as the other does. Often, Janet and I will say to each other, "I wish you could see you the way I see you." We don't know what that really means, but it has scored points for both of us.

We do suspect, however, that it is in this precise kernel of ignorance (okay, call it "mystery" if you insist) that the rash of love keeps its itchiness.

And finally, Janet and I agree on one thing we do know. If you want to be happy, find a person who deserves to be happy and make them happy, then claim her two Scottish Terriers as your own, and make them happy. Then, magically, somehow, for some unknown reason, you will be happy too.

If everybody does that, we'll have saved the Olam, with what we don't know about love.

Bill Grundfest has three Emmy nominations as a writer-producer. His muse and wife, Janet, is a recovering attorney.

inside OLAM

OLAM magazine: A modern conversation on the timeless and the spiritual.

OLAM

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DEDICATED TO MAURICE AND SUZANNE SUISSA, AND ALL THE WORLDWIDE OLAMBASSADORS WHO ARE HELPING IN THEIR OWN WAY

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The Midrash teaches: "The commandments were only given in order to unite all creatures."

"THAT RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS IN MAN'S experience which is most preferred and most elevated, which penetrates to the very depths and the very heights, is not that simple and comfortable. On the contrary, it's exceptionally complex, rigorous and tortuous. Where you find its complexity, there you find its greatness. The consciousness of *homo religioso* is in a condition of spiritual crisis, of psychic ascent and descent, of contradiction arising from affirmation and negation, self-appreciation and self-abnegation. Religion is not a refuge of grace and mercy for the despondent and desperate, an enchanted stream for crushed spirits, but a raging, clamorous torrent of men's consciousness with all its crises, pangs and torments."

Such are the anguished reflections of my rebbe, Rabbi Yoseph Dov Soloveitchik, z"l, in his groundbreaking essay, "Halakhic Man."

Rav Soloveitchik, of course, represents the demanding intellectual tradition of the Gaon of Vilna, and one would expect that his religious philosophy would promote a life of tension and struggle. However, similar sentiments also emanate from the Hasidic world of ecstasy and devotion, as expressed by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in the opening paragraphs of his classic *God in Search of Man*. He writes, "It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive and insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion, its message becomes meaningless....

"The primary task of philosophy of religion is to rediscover the questions to which religion is an answer. In our quest for forgotten questions, the method and spirit of philosophical inquiry are of greater importance than theology. Theology starts with dogma, philosophy begins with problems. Philosophy sees the problem first, theology has the answer in advance."

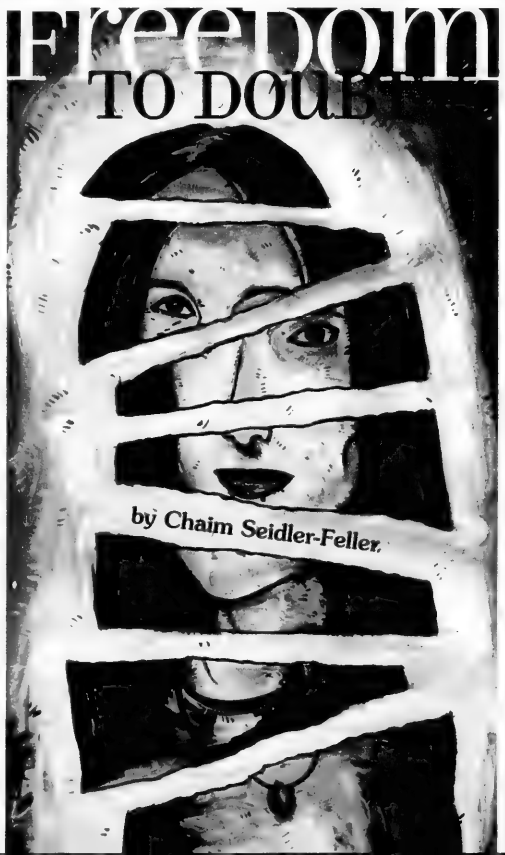
Indeed, that is the precise assumption of the author of the Passover Haggadah, who has made questioning the central focus of the Seder meal of liberation. The message is that free people must learn to live with problems, with doubt, with controversy and with uncertainty. In one of the most insightful comments on the provocative nature of the seder's wicked child, Rabbi Shlomo of Radomsk suggests (Tiferet Shlomo) that the word *avoda* in the phrase "Whatever does this *avoda* mean to you?" (Exodus 12:26) refers to the inner struggles of daily existence. The intent of the rasha (wicked child) is to ask "Why do I experience this war (of good and evil) day and night, with no repose and no calm, why must I constantly make decisions?" Says R'Shlomo, "You should explain to that child: understand well that all of this is intended to benefit each human being in the world... If not for the evil inclination one would have nothing remaining to do in this life; one would have no vitality at all and would be compelled to depart this world and venture into his resting place in the next world. Indeed, this was the essential purpose of creation: to struggle with one's impulses all the days of one's life and not heed the call of one's seducer who attempts to trap you in its nest. This is the significance of the Exodus from Egypt: the struggle with one's inclinations."

"Heschel writes:

It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive and insipid."

In Egypt, there were no choices, no independent thinking, and no room to doubt authority. For the slave, every aspect of life was determined. The individual as a bundle of instincts and desires did not exist. In that context, the gift of freedom was the gift that legitimized doubt and questioning. It granted us the ability to appreciate the fact that initiative and creativity, which were totally absent in slavery, were the product of a life of struggle and of confrontation with innovative ideas and challenging problems. It paved the way for the development of the Jewish culture of controversy that produced Talmudic Judaism. And it allowed us to grasp the fact that uncertainty defined the human condition.

The Seder, with its freewheeling discussion and question-and-answer format, is the means by which the rabbis attempt to educate the people to the reality of freedom and its consequences. It is the quintessential celebration of a life of struggle. Argument and debate are the medium of communication as the table becomes an open *beit midrash* (study hall). Only the wicked child would ridicule the proceedings and demand certainty. Only the rasha would reject the excitement and innovative spirit generated by an openness to alternative explanations, by the indeterminacy of halakhic discourse, and by never knowing with certainty.



Pharaoh is the one who claims to know "God's name", viewing himself as a god; and he enslaved. Moshe, who to the contrary, searched for God's name and was devoted to a life of quest for truth, was the liberator. Indeed, Pesach itself is the memorialization of the search – commencing with the search for *chametz* and concluding with the search for the *afikoman*. The bold response to the wicked child is that the freedom to struggle and to embrace the divinity of uncertainty is the key to our survival.

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller is director of the Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life and lecturer in Jewish Studies and Sociology at UCLA. His last article in OLAM was "King David's Greatest Victory."

"A Sick Sparrow Sang Six Sad Spring Songs Sitting Sighing under a Simmering Sun"

Kirk Douglas on re-learning how to speak

MY FRUSTRATION AT trying to communicate by speech is always there. Since my stroke I have developed an appreciation for language, an avenue of communication that is the richest and most nuanced (not to mention appropriate) means to express our inner thoughts and feelings. But the more I concentrate on our English language, the more I wonder: How do people without strokes ever learn to speak it? The spelling is so crazy!

So many words spelled the same way can have different meanings and different sounds. Look at these sentences:

The bandage was wound around the wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

The buck does funny things when the does are present.

How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

I think this was done to be mean to stroke victims.

Then, as every third grader knows, there are the words that sound the same when spoken, but are spelled differently when written:

He threw the ball through the window, too, and when it broke in two, he felt terrible when he saw the damage he had done to the brand-new car ... who knew he could throw a ball so well?!

As you regain your speech, the spelling can confuse you.

I always have trouble with my "S". One night some friends took me to an Italian restaurant (I love pasta). In ordering my dinner, I couldn't say "spaghetti." All I could say was "paghetti." We all laughed.

That week, I concentrated on S. This is how you say it: "Spread your lips, teeth almost touching, tongue flat against your bottom teeth and make the S sound. Remember to place your tongue lightly on the front teeth and allow the air to exit over the tip. Do not allow the tongue to rest between your teeth for any of the sibilant sounds. Practice for 10 minutes, twice a day. Say the words with care. Allow time for your lips and tongue to get around."

Did you get all that?

Now try it. Of course, with practice, it becomes automatic.

Not long after, I was in the same restaurant and there were my friends at a corner table. I walked over to them, leaned down, and said, "Spaghetti, spaghetti, spaghetti." And then, haughtily, walked away, my heart filled with the S of smiles.

I had more trouble with the word "is" than President Clinton, until I realized that "is" is "iz." I couldn't say Mexico until I realized it was Mek-siko. One exercise helped, but drove me crazy: "A sick sparrow sang six sad spring songs sitting sighing under a simmering sun." I don't know if I could have handled that even before my stroke!

Constantly, I had to remind myself, "Don't lose your sense of humor." My son Michael was very sympathetic. We had been planning to do a movie together.

"'Dad, don't worry. We'll do the movie, just keep working with your speech therapist,'" he said.

"Michael, why don't you work with my speech therapist?"

He looked at me.

"And when you talk like I talk, we'll do the movie," I challenged.

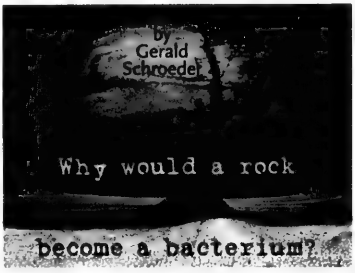
We both roared.

Kirk Douglas, who suffered a stroke in 1996, has starred in nine plays and 83 films, including Champion, The Bad and the Beautiful, Spartacus *and* Lust for Life. *He has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his humanitarian work and currently serves as a goodwill ambassador for the U.S. State Department. He lives with his wife, Anne, in Beverly Hills. Reprinted by permission of the author from* My Stroke of Luck *(William Morrow, publishers), ©2002 by Kirk Douglas. His last article in OLAM was "Don't Forget to Light, Issur."*

FOLLOWING EVENING prayers at the Kotel (the Western Wall), a friend wondered aloud why he could feel the warmth of the Kotel stones even from a distance. As I explained the nuances of how radiant energy is absorbed and later re-emitted, I hoped that his spiritual moment wasn't diminished by all that science. For me the "hows" behind the phenomena of the universe add to my own appreciation of the creation.

Unfortunately, not all questions have such accessible answers as those related to radiant energy. There's a category of puzzles relating to the inherent nature of nature – such as why is there a universe? – that cry out for philosophical as well as scientific scrutiny. For me, those are the really intriguing areas of science.

So while I'm at the Kotel I'm not wondering about heat from the stones, or how ancient King Herod managed to stack those massive rocks so neatly. I want to know why we have stones in the first place, and – looking at the plants growing between the stones, the doves that perch in the crevices and the human beings rocking in prayer – how stones gave birth to life.



All scientific data imply that the universe first appeared as a mass of extraordinarily condensed, exquisitely hot energy – in essence, super-powerful light rays. That energy then metamorphosed into matter, and the matter somehow became alive. Yet when I try to figure out how seemingly inert matter acquired the intricately ordered symphony found in every form of life, I get stuck. The standard model of evolution, taught as dogma, is that random mutations and natural selection were the driving forces behind life's climb to ever greater complexity. The more it evolved, according to this theory, the better each organism could survive.

But let's take a step back to a time before life – when all the earth offered was rocks, some simple molecules and water. What advantage for survival or aspect of natural selection would drive a rock to become a bacterium? All forms of life are less stable, less durable, than a rock. And yet life was parented by these seemingly inert substrates.

To explain life's genesis, Nobel laureate and organic chemist Christian de Duve envisions some undefined auto-catalytic processes forced upon matter by some undefined natural properties inherent in matter.

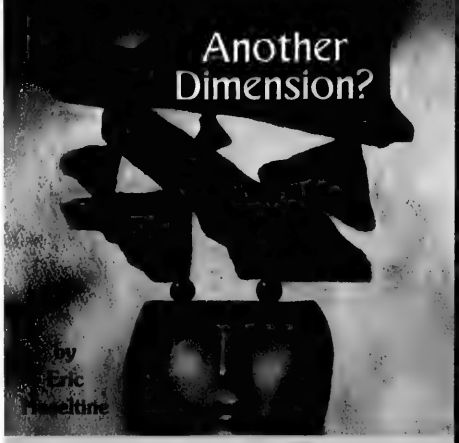
As a scientist, I too struggle to see all events as having natural (i.e., scientifically explainable) causes. The problem with a natural version for life's origins is the awesome rapidity with which life appeared on the earth. Most people are unaware of the fact that no sooner had the once molten earth cooled than life flourished. Yet even the simplest bacteria contain an encyclopedia of information and operating instructions. From where did all this information arise, and in a geological flash?

We scientists always defer to "the laws of nature" as if those laws were out there in some abstract way, pushing the pieces of nature around. Recent discoveries reveal that those so-called laws of nature appear as an inherent wisdom, a form of information present in every particle and every ray of light. Physicist Freeman Dyson of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study put it this way: "Atoms are weird stuff, behaving as active agents rather than inert substances.... It appears that a mind is to some extent present in every atom." In Torah talk, we say "I am Wisdom.... God made me [Wisdom] first of all His works." (Proverbs 8:12, 22)

Life could arise from matter and matter from energy because every aspect of existence carries within it the imprint of a Divine wisdom that is creation. As de Duve wrote: "Faced with the enormous sum of lucky draws behind the success [of life]... one may legitimately wonder to what extent this success is actually written into the fabric of the universe."

But even as I accept that Wisdom is couched in all existence, my powers of imagination are too limited to conjure up how the scent of wild thyme on a Jerusalem hillside, the chatter of the doves, the wiggling toes of a baby under his father's prayer shawl, and life itself, were all written into the creation at that moment just before the Big Bang, when all that existed was the wisdom of the Divine.

Gerald Schroeder earned his B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is the author of Genesis and The Big Bang *(Bantam Doubleday),* The Science of God *(Free Press of Simon & Schuster) and* The Hidden Face of God *(Free Press). He served in the IDF and lives in Jerusalem with his wife, the author Barbara Sofer, and their five children. His last article in OLAM was "Existence – What the Meaning of the Word 'Is' is."*



WONDERING ABOUT THE REAL NATURE of gravity leads eventually to wondering whether there are more than the four dimensions we can easily observe. To get to that place, we might first wonder if nature is, in fact, schizophrenic: Should we accept that there are two kinds of forces that operate over two different scales – gravity for big scales like galaxies, the other three forces for the tiny world of atoms? Poppycock, say unified theory proponents – there must be a way to connect the three atomic-scale forces with gravity. Maybe, but it won't be easy.

In the first place, gravity is odd. Einstein's general theory of relativity says gravity isn't so much a force as it is an inherent property of space and time. Accordingly, Earth orbits the Sun not because it is attracted by gravity but because it has been caught in a big dimple in space-time caused by the Sun and spins around inside this dimple like a fast-moving marble caught in a large bowl. Second, gravity, as far as we have been able to detect, is a continuous phenomenon, whereas all the other forces of nature come in discrete packets.

All this leads us to the string theorists and their explanation for gravity, which includes other dimensions. The original string-theory model of the universe combines gravity with the other three forces in a complex 11-dimensional world. In that world – our world – seven of the dimensions are wrapped up on themselves in unimaginably small regions that escape our notice. One way to get your mind around these extra dimensions is to visualize a single strand of spiderweb. To the naked eye, the filament appears to be one dimensional, but at high magnification it resolves into an object with considerable width, breadth and depth. String theorists argue that we can't see extra dimensions because we lack instruments powerful enough to resolve them.

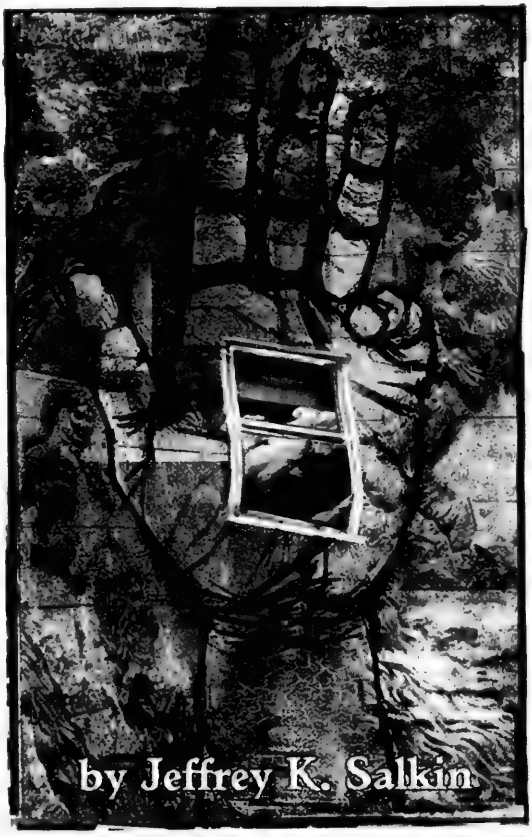
We may never see these extra dimensions directly, but we may some day be able to detect evidence of their existence with the instruments of astronomers and particle physicists.

From "The 11 Greatest Unanswered Questions of Physics," Discover Magazine, *February 2002,* *©2002. Reprinted with permission.* *To read the rest, visit* www.discover.com.

"Rabbi, it's about my windows" Because I am a rabbi, people ask me all sorts of religious and not-so-religious questions. "Rabbi, is my six-year-old child too young to take to his great-grandmother's funeral?"

"Rabbi, do you know a way to make pizza that would be acceptable to eat on Passover?" "Rabbi, can my son's bar mitzvah ceremony be on a Saturday evening so that our guests don't have to wait around all day until the party?"

Those are all good questions. But nothing – no amount of seminary or post-seminary education, no amount of collegial conversations or extra-curricular reading – could have prepared me for the question that a congregant asked me in the wake of the September 11 disaster.



"Rabbi, I live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan," she said. "My windows are covered with the grime that has drifted uptown since ... you know. I need to clean my windows, but I've got to believe that there are ashes of the dead in that dust. It doesn't seem right to just have the windows cleaned. What do I do?"

What does this wondering Jew already know, even as the words of the question leave her mouth?

She knows that Judaism views the human body with reverence. She has seen the horrific scenes of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel gathering the mangled scraps of bodies that terrorist bombs have torn apart – and they pursue this seemingly morbid quest because people are made in God's image, and everything of us is precious. My wondering Jew knows that the sanctity of the body lingers after death, way after the body has been reduced to its elements. Judaism frowns on cremation, and yet the ashes of the dead are routinely buried in Jewish cemeteries.

She knows something else. Yes, the American rabbi, version 2001, is often a master of ceremonies and an administrator. And yet the traditional role of the rabbi always wins out. That role is as teacher with a life embedded in a wisdom tradition, as someone who hears questions and who uses a millennia-old tradition to find answers.

But my questioner, alas, has grabbed me in the synagogue lobby right after services, and I am on my way to visit someone in the hospital. I don't have the time to repair to my book-laden study, much less to write to a Jewish legal authority and ask the question. Perhaps her answer is buried somewhere in the piles of questions that Jews asked the last time we encountered sacred ashes – questions about how the ashes of Holocaust victims should be buried.

Out of somewhere, my answer came out. "This is what I would do," I said. "Use a paper towel to wipe the windows clean as much as possible. Then put the paper towel in an envelope, take it to a Jewish funeral home, and ask them to bury it the next time they do a funeral." She nodded and thanked me for the advice – and that is precisely what she did.

There's a Hasidic saying: "If you want to find a spark, sift through the ashes." As we continue to sift through the ashes of September 11, there are sacred sparks. That woman's question was a spark. She reminds us that religion matters more than we had ever thought. Religion is about real, get-your-hands-dirty questions and tentative replies.

"No amount of post-seminary education could have prepared me for the question a congregant asked me in the wake of September 11."

Some of my colleagues are silently yelling: "How can you answer a question like that on the fly? You must go to the texts! You have to find what others have said about this kind of issue!"

Guilty as charged. And I still do not know if I gave her the right answer.

But there are times when we consult a different kind of Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law). It is a multi-volume tome that is found within the sacred library of the soul.

At those times, the answers to the things we do not know emerge of their own accord, from between the letters of words already written on a faded inner parchment, and with more to teach us than the things we think we know.

Jeffrey K. Salkin is senior rabbi of The Community Synagogue in Port Washington, New York, and the author of five books on spirituality and everyday life, including Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

A Q and Q with Jerry Brown

by Joelle Keene

OLAM: MAYOR BROWN, WHAT QUESTIONS KEEP YOU UP AT NIGHT?

JERRY BROWN (JB): I try not to ever let things keep me up at night.

OLAM: All right then, so what are some things that you just don't know?

JB: Well, there's a lot I don't know. Where's cloning going to end up? I don't know about that. The using of body parts, where does that go – what's progress and what's regression? I don't know. I assume it's going to happen but I can't tell you what the implications are, other than to change some of our basic self-interest. We're getting away from the concept of creation into an autonomously regenerative system, with the human mind being a part of all that.

OLAM: Do you ever wonder if there are issues that are unsolvable?

JB: The great issues as I see them are, first, the rather large gaps in income and wealth, and the system does not seem to have anything on the agenda that will remedy that, and secondly, the destructive impact of industrial activity on global climate and species. This seems to be a serious problem but it is not one that lends itself to political discussion.

Instead, the electorate is getting a very restricted diet of issues like terrorism, abortion, guns, taxes and crime. But political leaders should be working to, one, alleviate suffering, and two, minimize the negative impact on the environmental systems on which human life depends.

OLAM: Maybe we don't know how to protect the environment while still producing enough to alleviate suffering.

JB: Actually the gap between what we know about the environment and what we're doing is huge. The Union of Concerned Scientists has laid out clear warnings that say, in a nutshell, that humanity's on a collision course with nature. All of a sudden the tornadoes and rains and winds will become more devastating, and there's going to be more suffering.

OLAM: Polls show that people do care about the environment. Why would politics lag behind?

JB: Because it's complicated, the science is complicated, and then other people raise questions, say that everything's fine and so on. It's a complex equation, so it allows the immediate desire for money and advantage to triumph over a wise and restrained course of action.

It's like the prophets of the Old Testament, who often were not listened to. The warnings of the Union of Concerned Scientists sound like the Lamentations of Jeremiah!

OLAM: Do you wonder why people don't listen to prophets?

JB: Well, the Catholic explanation is that "sin darkens the intellect and weakens the will." And in fact, the seven basic deadly sins – pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed and sloth – are not viewed as evils today in the way they were in the past. Now we have a reversal, temporary though it may be. Take pride – we call pride self-confidence and self-esteem and we promote it. But if you're always worrying about your appearance, puffing yourself up, thinking you're the best – well, let's just say there's not a lot of preaching of humility today. Envy – the desire to keep up with the Joneses, get a bigger house and a fancier car, well that's built into the system now.

OLAM: Maybe what we don't know is how to conquer our human impulses.

JB: Well, we have the seven heavenly virtues – humility, kindness, abstinence, chastity, patience, generosity and diligence. That's a heavy spiritual challenge. And I don't think that quite fits in our secular culture, or into television revenues either. You've got a system that is being validated by its incredible productivity, which is impressive with a world of so many poor people. But it doesn't tend to build the virtues.

OLAM: Is it possible for a tolerant, democratic society to build spiritual virtues?

JB: This is one of the great issues of capitalism. Boundaries have to come from outside the system, but there IS no system outside the economy. We even know from Clinton that the key to our condition is "the economy, stupid" – if you don't see the economy as the all-enveloping frame of reference, you're stupid. Any other view would be marginalized or stigmatized as "private" or "your point of view." But the economy is not a point of view; it is the reality, the air we breathe, the being of modernity, and those who would offer some restraint, based on Judaism or Christianity or Hinduism or Islam or Buddhism or Zoroastrianism, just have a particular point of view. And that is to be tolerated, whereas the economy isn't tolerated – the economy is the ground on which we show up.

OLAM: How can we know what to do as individuals?

JB: We are in a certain conversation, and you have to be in that conversation. Pick up the newspaper and see what the conversation is. That's why some people withdraw, become Orthodox or fundamentalists; then they have a world view that's more consistent with traditional wisdom. But such views don't have the authority of the marketplace.

The challenge is to derive values other than economic values from an economic world view. And it is difficult if not impossible. The human mind is pushing back all manner of frontiers. But the full consequences of progress are not clear.

OLAM: Does THAT keep you up at night?

JB: Well, I don't like to lie awake at night. And the culture has a lot of resources: good principles, good examples in history, great thoughts by presidents and leaders, as Abraham Lincoln said, "the angels of our better nature." There is that positive that we have to generate, and I know we can. That's why I sleep okay.

Jerry Brown was governor of California from 1974 to 1982, and is currently the mayor of Oakland.

©LAM

How many Bob Dylans?

How many musicians were there?

How many Albert Einsteins,
one, two, three?

How about the writers,
how many Yehoshuas, Singers,
Roths?

How many Saul Bellows?
Any Mailers or Richlers?

The thinkers, how many Heschels?
How many Berlins?

The contrarians, the dissenters,
the revolutionaries: Did you see
any Spinozas, Marxes, Kafkas?

And oh yes, the doctors:
Any Sigmunds or Rambams?
And can you tell us what diseases
they would have cured?

Did you come across any famous
rabbis, any Soloveitchiks,
Schneersons, Carlebachs, Kaplans?
How many Ben Gurions did you see?

And what about the women:
Who did you meet? Any Golda Meirs,
Hanna Seneshes, Emma Goldmans,
Lazaruses, Streisands?

I'm almost done: How many Woody
Allens were there? And Spielberg,
of course, how many Spielbergs?
Were there a few Chagals?

And the musicians: Did you hear
a few Sterns or Perlmans or Dylans?

I mean, six million is quite a number.

You must have seen something,
dear God.

by David Suissa

ignorance

"He is in two places at the same time: the human fate."

AT ONE OF THE CRITICAL moments of his life, Jacob wakes from sleep and recognizes the shape of his own ignorance. At Beth El, the "house of God," he emerges from the dream of a ladder spanning heaven and earth and says: "Indeed, there is God in this place, and I did not know." (Genesis 28:16) What is this not-knowing that Jacob learns for the first time? Why is God-in-this-place such a revelation to him?

"He collided (in Hebrew, *vayifga* – "he arrived at," but literally "collided") with the place, and he spent the night there, for the sun had set. And he took of the stones of the place and put them at his head. And he lay down in that place." (Genesis 28:11) A powerful midrashic tradition identifies this place – "the place" that Jacob has abrasively, bruisingly encountered *(vayifga bamakom)* – as Mount Moriah. That is, as the midrash hauntingly expresses it, he took the very stones of that place – of the altar where his father, Isaac, had lain trussed for the sacrifice – and lay down to sleep there. There he dreams of a ladder and of angels climbing between earth and heaven.

But, asks Rashi, he is described as being in "Beth El which is Luz"; how can he be in Mount Moriah? And Rashi answers: "Mount Moriah was plucked up by the roots and came to him here." Before he can rehearse the encounter with his father's place of darkness – a place that he has perhaps been resisting all his life – it is upon him. He is in two places at the same time: the human fate. Space and time shockingly telescope and he is caught in the vortex of that place. "The whole world became a kind of wall (*kotel*) up against him," explains Bereshit Raba. His access to his world must be through that place. "Indeed there is God in this place, and I did not know...."

The Zohar reads Jacob's ignorance in a startling psychoanalytic mode: "I – *anochi* – did not know," as "my Self – *anochi* – I did not know." Jacob wakes to an incipient consciousness of worlds unknown within himself. A new way of feeling his own being dawns with this sense of darkness. Implicitly, a new question enters the biblical discourse: Who am I? Behind this question, we hear his mother's similar but different question, as he struggled in her womb with his twin brother: "If so," asks Rachel in Genesis 25:22, "why am I?" The *anochi,* Jacob's selfhood, is shrouded in a troubled darkness known for the first time and associated with a new awareness of God. This is the beginning of a painful unfolding of the complexities and implications of that selfhood.

For this is the man, our father Jacob, who had responded to his father's searching question: "Who are you, my son?" with the answer: "I – *anochi* – am Esau, your firstborn." (Genesis 27: 18-19) Meeting for the first time in unrehearsed words his own fragmented being, he had reached out beyond the primary identity of the "simple man dwelling in tents" to a twin complexity, to a mask of otherness that revealed the strangeness, unknowable, uncanny, familiar, within him. "Every profound spirit needs a mask," said Nietzsche. Grotesquely costumed in goatskins, he masqueraded as Esau, who, according to a classic midrashic tradition, masqueraded as Jacob. The games by which identity is constructed are played out within a mirroring world of twinhood and doublings.

Waking at Beth El, Jacob takes full account, for the first time, of the enigmatic nature of identity – of what it means to have a self. "Who am I?" – the question, as Christopher Bollas points out in *Cracking Up,* that loves to be asked, in spite of – because of – the fact that it is unanswerable. Jacob experiences the generative darkness in which he knows the baffling doubleness of his own identity. He is both Jacob and Esau masquerading as one another. He is the ladder on which angels glorify and castigate him, yielding a fissured sense of Jacob-above and Jacob-below.

He is husband to both Rachel and Leah. Rachel is the wife desired, chosen perhaps not only for her beauty, to be seen and known, but for her capacity to know him, in his conscious, autonomous identity; Leah is the wife who "happens to him," like the place that precipitately comes upon him, the place that he would not have chosen. It is the latter marriage that mirrors his own fissured self back to him and that forces his notions of self to expand uncomfortably. On the morning after the wedding night, as Leah drops the Rachel mask behind which she has played out her own desire, the midrash has him protest: "But all night I called you Rachel – and you responded!" She answers: "There is no teacher without students!" and compels him to recognize the unwitting, unwilled complexity of his own being. Known by the "wrong person," by another masked seeker of self, Jacob experiences the intimate disturbance that will generate a new depth of selfhood.

T.S.Eliot writes in "East Coker": *"In order to arrive at what you do not know/You must go by a way which is the way of ignorance/In order to possess what you do not possess/You must go by the way of dispossession."*

The way of dispossession begins to inform Jacob's consciousness at the moment when he wakes to experience God's presence in a place in which the vital illusions of mastery, of knowledge, of apparent reality, are burned away. There begins a process of encounters with multiple places and persons through whom he reclaims lost parts of himself. Ultimately, it is the encounter with the uncanny, the "not-known," within himself that unfolds into a life with God. "Indeed, there is God in this place, and I did not know."

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg is an internationally acclaimed Torah scholar whose books and lectures combine a wide range of Jewish sources with world literature and philosophy. She is the author of the award-winning Genesis: The Beginning of Desire *and* Exodus: The Particulars of Rapture, *both published by Doubleday. She lives in Jerusalem.*

***ARGUING WITH G-D IS AN** old Jewish tradition. Abraham did it, Moses did it, most Jewish grandmothers do it frequently. But according to our sages, the first to argue with G-d was the moon. And God didn't mind. He was looking for an interactive experience when He created the cosmos, and a lot of that comes from losing arguments with your creations – in fact, losing most of them. The rabbis of the Talmud recount that when G-d lost an argument with them once, He laughed and said, "They beat me! My children beat me!" So He actually gets a kick out of the whole thing.*

Arguing with the moon – and losing – was part of the original plan. G-d set her up for it. The Babylonian Talmud (Chulin 60b) tells the story cryptically. Here, for the first time, is the actual dialogue:

It was early on that first Wednesday morning that the sun and the moon woke up to find themselves initialized into existence, high up in the sky, both illuminating Planet Earth with equal intensity. Right off, the moon complained.

"So we've got two bosses in the same office! Bad idea."

Now G-d is a reasonable employer, open to constructive criticism. He considered the comments of his newborn critic and replied, "Good point. Therefore, kindly make yourself smaller."

Creation being a voice-activated interface, the moon was instantly diminished in size. That's when the real argument began.

"What a crummy system!" the moon exclaimed. "You lay things out the way they are, and you get shrunk for it!"

Once again, G-d was impressed by the biting insight of His creation. It seemed that He really liked the moon and felt for her case.

"Please allow me to make up for this," He said.

"Like how?" she demanded.

"How's this," G-d replied. "The sun only gets to shine for her set 12 hours. But you may shine at night and sometimes for a little of the day."

"Well with the luminence rating you've given me, I might as well be some puny candle in the big blue sky!" the moon replied.

"Speaking of the sky," the dark sky began to glitter as G-d spoke, "I've filled the night sky with pretty stars to keep you company!"

"Well I like the jewelry," said the moon, "but I still don't like being small."

"What's so terrible about being small?" asked God. "The truly great people of history will be small! Jacob will be smaller than his brother, Esau. David will be smaller than his seven brothers. There will even be a great sage who they will call 'Samuel the Small'!"

"Great!" she countered. "And I'll be 'the small, insignificant moon'. No one will even notice me."

"That's not true!" G-d cried. "You will serve a very major function in their lives. You see, although most peoples will fix their calendars according to the position of the sun, I will tell the Jewish people to count their days according to the appearance of the moon."

"But they'll end up making adjustments based on the sun so that their holidays stay in the right season," she said. "Even when I get my own domain, it's tailored to suit that other light. Can't you just make me big again?"

"And what then?" G-d pleaded. "I can't make everybody the same size. You said that yourself. There has to be protocol, or else it just doesn't work."

"So this was already planned!" the moon exclaimed. "Now you want me to be shrunken as if it were all my fault!"

"No. It's my fault." G-d spoke pensively. "I wanted a world. And a world is a place where there is higher and lower, greater and smaller, parent and child. A heirarchy. Where things begin in one place and move on to somewhere else."

"So for you, my pain doesn't even exist."

"Of course it exists! Otherwise, why should I have built in all this compensation?" G-d paused. "Here, let me show you what the future has in store."

The cosmos quickly arranged themselves to the year 2448 after creation. The moon rose over ancient Egypt, no more than a sliver in the sky.

"What do you see?" G-d asked her.

"Pyramids."

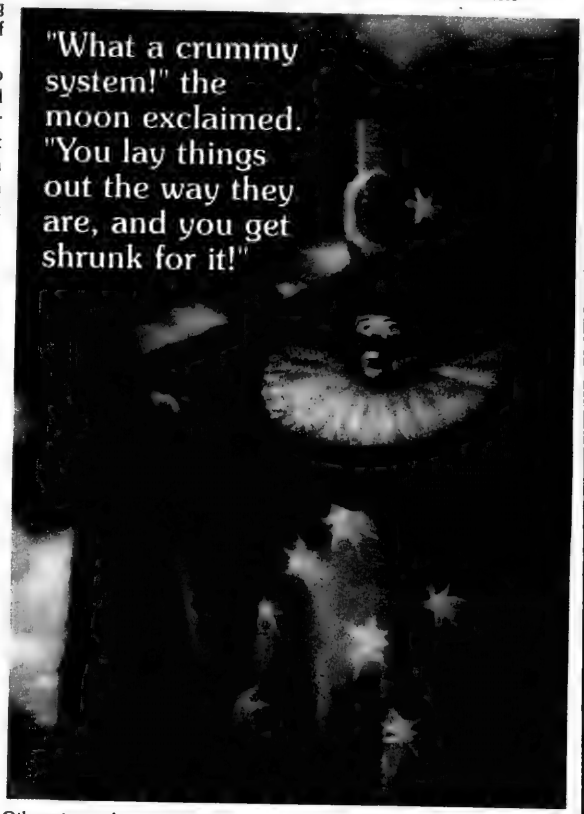
"Yes, this is the land of pyramids. All knowledge, all power, all wealth in a neat pyramid of higher to lower. No one dares question the absolute power of Pharaoh. No one – until my man in Egypt. And now I shall speak with him: Moses!" "Yes Sir."

"You have done a fine job. As your ancestor, Abraham, smashed the idols of his father's house, you have flattened the pyramid of Egyptian authoritarianism. You have championed the plight of the oppressed and brought freedom and liberation into my world."

"Thanks, oh Infinite One. What's next?"

"Now I want to introduce you to your mascot. She is the symbol of all that you and your people must accomplish. She is the moon and she is small, and she is humble and oppressed. You will begin now to redeem her, to uplift her status, by counting your calendar according to her cycles.

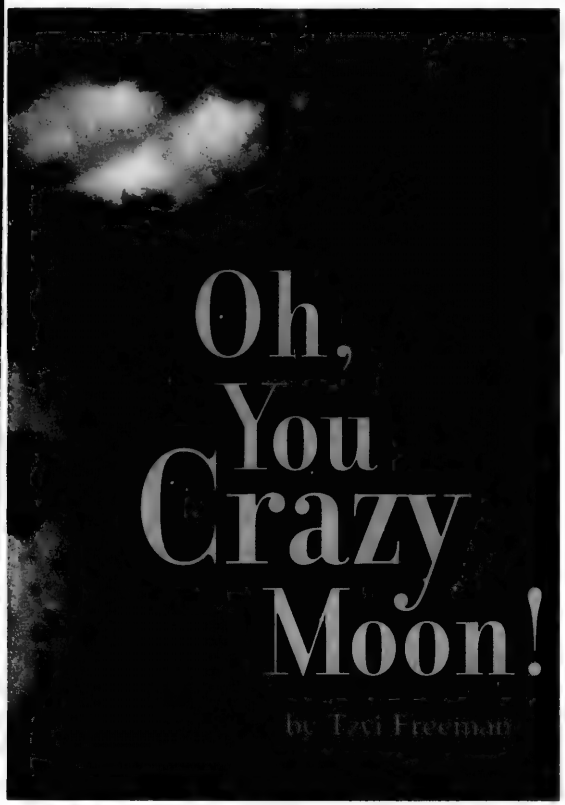
"And this shall be a constant reminder for you and your people of your mission in this world. For in this world you shall not be the most powerful, nor the most numerous. You shall be the smallest of the nations. At times you shall dwindle and almost disappear – as she disappears from the sky at the end of each month. But only to return again, as an imperishable light, once again to champion the cause of the downtrodden and enslaved."



A thousand scenes passed by. Scenes of valiant giving, heroic rescue, boundless compassion, of sharing and kindness. The oppressed were rescued from their plight. The downtrodden were returned their self-esteem. Those suffering pain and misfortune were comforted and healed. A deep joy filled the hearts of those who helped.

"Does that always happen?" asked the moon.

"Always," affirmed G-d. "There are no one-way streets in my world. The poor give to the rich, students to their teachers, children to parents, the small to the great."



"But they are still small!" said the moon. "Not only am I small, but just when I become full and at least visible, then right away I have to start diminishing myself back to zero, night by night."

"Just like the great personalities of history I mentioned to you before," God said. "They, too, become great by becoming nothing. Look at Moses – what did he say? 'Find someone else – I'm not good enough.' Same with King David. At the height of his glory, he will sit in his palace late at night and sing songs to me about what a worthless worm he is.

"And then there's Harriet Goldberg...."

"Who's Harriet Goldberg?"

"She will be a waitress in a greasy-spoon cafeteria where she'll excel at keeping her good deeds quiet. Like you and all the other true greats, as soon as she begins to shine, she'll remind herself of her nothingness and try to disappear. Which will only increase the power of her deeds."

"I bet she'll lead a miserable life."

"She won't think so."

"I bet there's a lot of suffering down in that world of yours."

"Well...."

"Suffering, pain, darkness. If it were up to me, the entire world would be filled with happiness and joy and light!"

"Why is light any greater than darkness?" God asked.

"When there's light, you know the truth," the moon replied. "And you don't suffer the pain of meaninglessness and confusion."

"When there is light you have a ray of the truth," God replied. "In the dark you can touch the essence."

This was going to need some explaining; perhaps a science project.

"Let me illustrate what happens when you diminish to complete invisibility from earth," G-d said. We'll start in full moon mode. Okay, where are you now in relation to the sun?"

"Well, there's the sun, a few planets, then earth," said the moon. "Then, a little further and there's little me. The sun shines onto me, and some of that light bounces down to earth."

"Exactly. Now, let's see where you are when your light disappears from the earth. There. How do you relate to the sun now?"

"Well, the earth isn't between us anymore."

"So are you further away or closer to the light?"

"Closer."

"And so it is with all those who travel through darkness in their lives," said God. "In those places they are closer to the truth than at any other time. And because of those dark moments they can shine toward others."

"Why couldn't You make it so that humanity could reach Your essence without the suffering?" the moon insisted.

"That," He said, "I will not say."

Silence.

Then G-d looked down again to Moses. "Moses!" he called.

"Yes, sir!"

"I have another good deed for you. It has to do with the new moon. When it comes to the beginning of each month, I want you to bring a sin offering for Me."

"A sin offering for Who?" Moses asked.

"For Me. Because I have diminished the light of the moon. And because there is suffering and oppression in My world. And darkness."

"But G-d," Moses asked. "Why don't You just do away with the suffering?"

"That's your job, Moses."

"So why did You put it here in the first place? Who forced Your Almighty Hand?"

"You, too?" G-d paused.

Moses waited.

Finally, G-d said, "Moses, you know I have revealed to you every secret of the cosmos. I have not held back a thing, but have given you My entire Torah, My most essential wisdom, to share and to teach to your people."

Moses stood still.

"But there is one thing that, as long as you live in this world, I cannot reveal to you, one thing for which I must only say, 'Silence! So it must be!'"

"But why, Eternal G-d?" Moses pleaded.

"Moses," G-d asked, "if you knew the answer, if you understood why there had to be suffering from an all-powerful, beneficent G-d, what would you do then?"

"I suppose I wouldn't feel so bad about it then."

"Precisely. And that is just what I don't want. I don't want you to tolerate darkness. You must fight it with every sinew of your flesh, with all the capacity of your soul. Until you redeem every spark of light from its captivity, until you can bring sweetness to the most bitter places, until you have not left a corner of my world untouched with acts of kindness and compassion – until then you must hate the darkness as a blood-sworn enemy.

"So until that time, when I will wipe the tears of sorrow from every face, when all darkness, even the darkness of the past, will become light as the light of the first day of Creation – when, as Isaiah will say, the light of the moon will be as great as the light of the sun....

"Until then, atone for Me."

Tzvi Freeman is the author of Bringing Heaven Down to Earth: 365 Meditations of the Rebbe. *The above is from his "Lunar Files." e-mail: tzvifreeman@sympatico.ca*

desperately seeking the CENTER

I'M NOT ALWAYS SURE WHERE I belong.

Two worlds exist in Judaism that seem difficult to reconcile. Nothing is more inspiring than being in the presence of a true tzaddik (righteous person), someone whose whole essence reflects his pure faith in God and the Torah. There is no need for the tzaddik to reconcile scientific or philosophical contradictions that crop up in Judaism. His belief in Torah is enough to carry him beyond the questions and arrive at the ultimate, singular truth. But other times I feel a mixture of jealousy and incredulity at a tzaddik's ability to keep running on pure faith. What about all the questions? Why shouldn't we take scientific challenges to Judaism seriously? In the presence of the tzaddik I feel less than an "empty vessel," filled with stinging questions.

When I'm in an academic setting, I sometimes admire the exactitude of biblical scholars who can isolate unique textual nuances and see as well the historical backdrop and mores of the author's times. Occasionally I will marvel at the scientific method employed to arrive at their conclusions. These scholars seem able to bridge the gap between modern philosophy and historiography on the one hand and Judaism and all of its Divinity and mysticism on the other. But more often I am filled with resentment toward these scholars who, in their attempt to arrive at the ultimate, singular truth, make a mockery of my holy Torah by dismissing those parts they deem provincial or arcane.

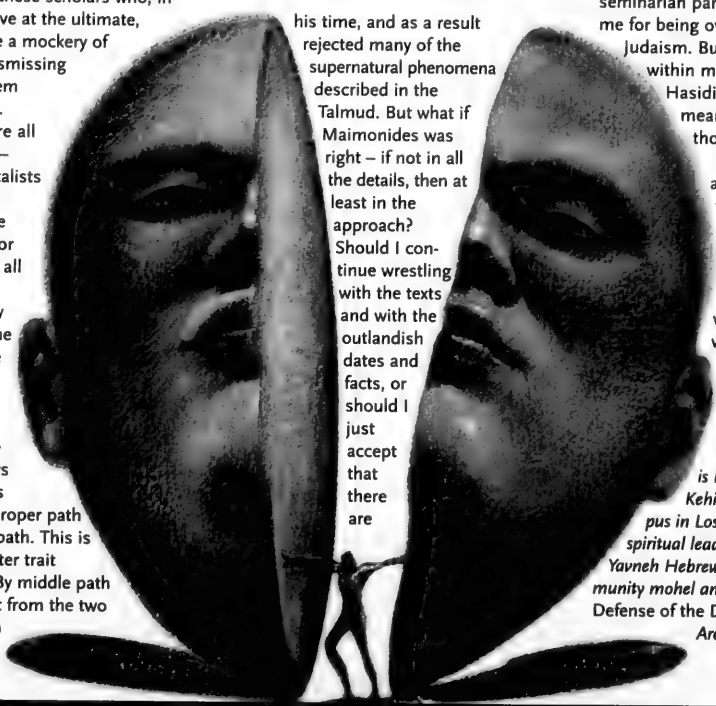
Some people are all heart and no brain – religious fundamentalists who will not even attempt to reconcile Judaism with logic or science. Others are all brain and no heart, rejecting completely any religious doctrine that flies in the face of contemporary wisdom.

Of course, as one would think, the middle road is always the best, and so says Maimonides. "The proper path in life is the middle path. This is true for every character trait possessed by man. By middle path we mean equidistant from the two extremes." (Hilchoth De'oth 1:3) Sometimes it's necessary to use one's intellect to challenge the text, he says elsewhere; don't reject it, but work on understanding it until you can make it both intellectually satisfying and religiously believed. Not all heart, and not all brain, but rather in some place where the two come together in harmonious synthesis.

How do you know if you've reached that golden mean? Anyone can paint himself as a "centrist," because we can always find people to the right or the left of us on any issue. But how do I know that I haven't simply painted the center line to conform to where I am standing, instead of moving over to where the real center lies? Maybe I am meant to reject all the scientific methodology and philosophy of the secular community, as many Torah giants of previous generations advocated. Maimonides himself, they argued, was tainted by the Aristotelian influences of his time, and as a result rejected many of the supernatural phenomena described in the Talmud. But what if Maimonides was right – if not in all the details, then at least in the approach? Should I continue wrestling with the texts and with the outlandish dates and facts, or should I just accept that there are certain things that will have to wait to be answered by Elijah the Prophet, at the advent of the time of Redemption?

Once, when attending a theological conference at a university, I couldn't help feeling sorry for the academics who seemed quite smug about their knowledge of the "truth." These poor souls, I thought, could never really feel the beauty of a Shabbat table or of dancing with the Torah. Alas, their expanded intellects, filled with facts about the Dead Sea Scrolls and the "P" and "J" authors of Isaiah, so dominated their lives as to preclude their hearts' having any sway. My mind conjured up a caricature of a boy with a head as large as a watermelon, but with a disproportionately puny body. A sad being such as this can only sit at the windowsill, I thought, watching the other children at play but unable to join them, or to feel the rush of air they feel when running through a field. How awful, I thought, to be that boy.

"These scholars seem able to bridge the gap between modern philosophy and historiography on the one hand and Judaism and all of its Divinity and mysticism on the other."

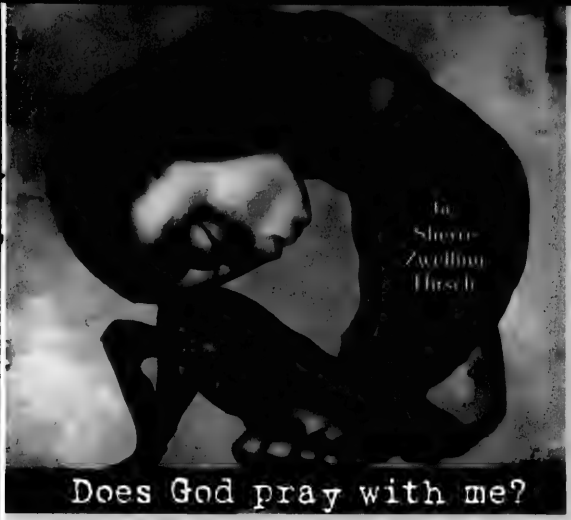


And yet I knew there is the other extreme – those so literal in their reading of the Torah that the word *apikores* (heretic) is at the tip of their tongue, ready to be lobbed at anyone who would have the audacity to suggest that one of the great rabbis of the past had read Kant and Descartes. Not a pretty picture either.

The Litvak within me – the scholarly seminarian part of me – sometimes scolds me for being overly emotional about my Judaism. But then the dancing Hasid within me reminds me that often Hasidim have more fun and meaning in their lives than those stoic Litvaks.

There's room at the table – and even at my inner table – for the academics and the Hasidim. Sitting them down together for the same meal, however, is a difficult task. I look forward to the time when all the protagonists within me will live in harmony. If and when that happens, I hope OLAM will invite me to write again.

Rabbi Daniel N. Korobkin is Rosh Kehilla (dean) of Kehillat Yavneh, a Jewish life campus in Los Angeles, where he serves as spiritual leader of the synagogue and of Yavneh Hebrew Academy. He is also a community mohel and author of The Kuzari: In Defense of the Despised Faith *(Jason Aronson Publishers, 1998).*



What are we?
What is our life?
What is our goodness?
What is our righteousness?
What is our help?
What is our strength?
What is our might?

– Prayers from the Daily Morning Service

EACH MORNING, HALF awake, and usually resentful, I painfully mutter these questions at the beginning of the morning prayer service, Shacharit, as prescribed by my tradition.

It has only been a few weeks since my 58-year-old father died from pancreatic cancer, and I am enjoined for the next eleven months to awaken near dawn to pray for his soul with a quorum of 10 people, a minyan.

I anticipated only having to say Kaddish, the words declaring publicly that I still believe in God, despite this terrible pain and suffering.

Isn't that enough of a challenge?

But each morning, I am faced with an even greater test. I must ponder a series of dense philosophical and ontological questions. I am barely stirring, yet I ask:

What are we? What is our life? What is our goodness, etc.

Often I think to myself: Why questions? I need *answers* now, more than ever, not more questions. God is so frustrating.

I want so much to skip them. But I can't seem to escape their grasp. They are the gateway to the Kaddish. Without them I cannot enter.

Some mornings the questions mock me. Should I know their answers? Am I supposed to have an epiphany and know miraculously the meaning of my life and the essence of my soul? Is God waiting for me to slam closed my prayer book one day and announce, "I finally know the answers to the questions before us. I am going home. I will not be back"?

And yet other mornings, surprisingly, they comfort me. I think God does not have the answers, and neither do I. We will travel this unknown road together, partnered for the journey.

But who truly is this God without answers?

I was told in my youth that God was perfect, all-powerful and all-knowing. In the book of Genesis, when God asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" I was told that God knew all along that Cain had killed his brother. He only asked him rhetorically, giving him a chance to admit his guilt.

That God often was the only driving force behind my ethical behavior. The Safeway manager may not have seen me take the caramel from the bin, but God definitely saw me do it. God knows everything about everyone all the time.

What happened to that God?

What happened to that wise, old man with a gray beard who could answer any question and ease my troubled soul?

Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the outstanding Jewish thinkers of the 20th century, said, "We never say three times a day, in the Shema: 'Hear, O Israel, God is perfect!' Rather we say: 'Hear, O Israel, God is One!' One God means: No one is ever alone."

It seems today God is here to search along with me. God is here to share my prayers, to weep my tears, and to struggle to find meaning through this daunting time. As I question, it seems God questions.

Why did my father die? I know that God and I are without answers. But over the next eleven months and probably over many years, we will keep asking, together.

"Kaddish, page One Hundred and Eleven," the *shaliach tzibbur,* the leader of the minyan, announces. I rise, although I barely heard him. I am lost in my questions. But I am not alone.

Rabbi Sherre Zwelling Hirsch is a rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles. She also serves on the United Jewish Communities Young Leadership Cabinet, where she met her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Hirsch.

Who is

THERE IS NO ONE authoritative Jewish conception of God, although all Jewish thinkers agree that God is one and invisible. Among the range of views, some emphasize God's otherness (transcendence), while others emphasize God's accessibility (immanence). Some emphasize the personal aspects of God, some the impersonal; some stress God's supernaturalism, while others stress God as process. Some see God as a masculine figure, others as a neutral or androgynous being with elements of a masculine and feminine goddess. Each of these views is an authentic Jewish view. They are authentic because they are honest attempts by committed Jewish thinkers to explore ideas about God within the context of Jewish tradition.

Does this mean that all Jewish formulations of theism, pantheism and other views of God are equally valid? Perhaps the diversity of Jewish points of view on God demonstrates that genuine certainty and knowledge of God are impossible. God may be unknowable despite human efforts to find God in heaven, nature, and human relationships. A legitimate point of view, given the range of Jewish conceptions of God, is agnosticism. This is not the agnosticism of doubt but the principled and reasoned admission of the impossibility of knowing about God that is coupled with the impulse to search for knowledge of Him. This search takes place through study of religious texts, intuitive understanding and personal experience.

Excerpted from What Do Jews Believe? *(Schocken Books Inc., New York) ©1995 by David S. Ariel, an OLAM must-read.*

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ACCORDING TO KABBALAH, there is a curtain that divides our reality into two realms, which Kabbalah identifies as the 1 percent and the 99 percent. The 1-percent realm encompasses our physical world. But this is only a tiny fraction of all creation. It is only what we perceive with our five senses – what we can smell, taste, touch, see and hear.

On the other side of the curtain lies the 99 percent, which encompasses the vast majority of reality.

In the 1-percent realm, life has an annoying habit of catching us off guard. We are afflicted with something called the Suddenly Syndrome:

He had a sudden heart attack!
All of a sudden, he walked out on her.
Suddenly, we're short of cash.
The deal suddenly fell through.
She suddenly changed her mind.
The doctors suddenly found a lump.
Life suddenly felt so empty.

But is there really such a thing as "suddenly"? Kabbalah says no. Absolutely not. There is always a concealed, unseen cause that precedes any "sudden" event.

Did you ever wake up in the morning to suddenly find a full-grown oak tree standing tall on your front lawn? Of course not. Somewhere in the past a seed was planted. When a nasty problem suddenly pops up and cuts off the flow of happiness that was fulfilling a particular desire of yours, according to Kabbalah, this is not just some random, chaotic event. There exists a deeper cause. Somewhere in the past, a seed was planted.

"Think of it this way: If you alter a branch of a tree, you change the branch. Modify a leaf, and you change the leaf. But if you can manipulate the genetic information inside the seed, you can affect the entire tree."

There is another side to this curtain – the 99 percent – and it is ultimately far more important. According to Kabbalah, the 99-percent realm is the source of all lasting fulfillment. All knowledge, wisdom and joy dwell in this realm. This is the domain the kabbalists call Light. Whenever we experience joy, we've made contact with this realm through some action that has taken place in the 1-percent realm. It might be from the hug of your child. Or perhaps you just closed a significant business deal. But the joy you feel flows from the 99 percent.

Before Thomas Edison, civilization lived pretty much in the dark compared to the 24-hour, neon-lit, fluorescent-glowing, halogen-burning world of today. But did Edison really invent something new when he produced the first light bulb? Or did the information on how to build a light bulb already exist?

Did Albert Einstein actually discover something new with his Theory of Relativity, or was it always there?

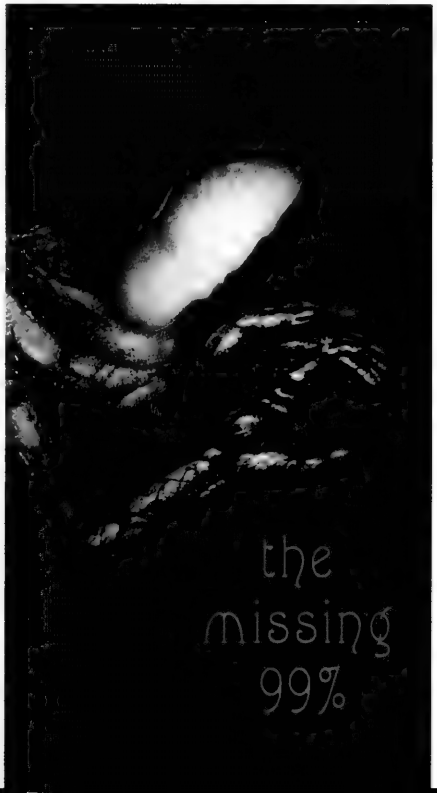
Did Isaac Newton invent gravity when he discovered its properties, or did gravity always exist?

Edison, Einstein and Newton merely uncovered things that already existed. So where was all this information hiding before these great minds uncovered it? The answer is in the 99-percent world.

Mozart said that he was able to conceive entire symphonies in his mind before he wrote a single note. When he mentally experienced an hour of music in just a split second, Mozart felt that he was tapping into another reality. He was transcending the laws of time and space, and entering a spiritual dimension.

Professor Dr. Stuart Hameroff, along with Oxford physicist Roger Penrose, developed The Penrose-Hameroff "Orch OR" model of consciousness.

Dr. Hameroff was intrigued by the ancient kabbalists' description of the 99-percent realm and its similarity to the quantum mechanical view of our universe.



Hameroff explains that for 100 years, it has been known that there exist two worlds, the classical world and the quantum world. We live in the classical world where everything seems "normal" (if unfulfilling). Everything has a definite shape, place and substance. However, at very small scales the quantum world reigns and everything is strange and bizarre, defying common sense.

Science knows very little about the quantum world, but there are indications that the quantum world could qualify as the 99-percent world, and that a curtain does indeed exist between the two worlds.

There is one nagging obstacle – it's our inability to control the moments of connection to the 99-percent realm. Accessing this dimension of Light is accidental and haphazard at best.

Imagine: if we could access this realm at will, we would gain the ability to control all the events in our lives. Instead of dealing with symptoms and effects, we could discover the hidden forces behind chaotic circumstances and maddening events that "suddenly" end our happiness.

Think of it this way: If you alter a branch of a tree, you change the branch. Modify a leaf, and you change the leaf. But if you can manipulate the genetic information inside the seed, you can affect the entire tree – branches, leaves, fruit, the whole shebang.

The realm of the 99 percent is the DNA level of reality: the seed. The root. The cause of all causes.

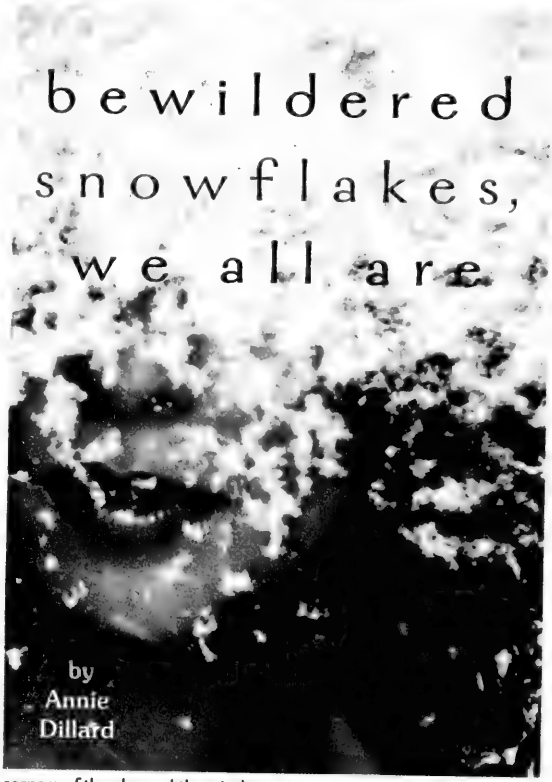
The whole purpose of Kabbalah's wisdom is to empower people with the particular tools that will allow one to connect to this sacred realm of Light. Connecting to the 99 percent is how we remove darkness from this world and from our personal lives. Darkness comes in many shades, including depression, discontent, disease, destruction and even death. A principle feature of Light is its ability to banish any form of darkness.

Put simply, a darkened auditorium must respond to the light of a single candle. But no matter how much more darkness one adds – say, by enlarging the auditorium – no amount of darkness can snuff out the light.

This is a very profound phenomenon. When you grasp this, you've grasped the power of Kabbalah.

Yehuda Berg is an ordained rabbi who lectures around the world on Kabbalah. He is the author of the recently published Power of Kabbalah.

bewildered snowflakes, we all are



by Annie Dillard

THIS HOSPITAL, like every other, is a hole in the universe through which holiness issues in blasts. It blows both ways, in and out of time. Onwards above and below me, men and women are dying. Their hearts seize, give out, or clatter, their kidneys fail, their lungs harden or drown, their brains clog or jam and die for blood. Their awarenesses lower like lamp wicks. Off they go, these many great and beloved people, as death subtracts them one by one from the living – about 164,300 of them a day worldwide, and 6,000 a day in the United States – and the hospitals shunt their bodies away. Simultaneously, here they come, these many new people, for now absurdly alike – about 10,000 of them a day in this country – as apparently shabby replacements.

At the sink in the maternity ward, nurse Pat Eisberg is unwrapping another package. This infant emerged into the world three weeks early; she is lavender, and goopy with yellow vernix, like a Channel swimmer. As the washcloth rubs her, she pinks up. I cannot read her name. She is alert and silent. She looks about with apparent concentration; she pays great attention, and seems to have a raw drive to think.

She fixes on my eyes and, through them, studies me. I am not sure I can withstand such scrutiny, but I can, because she is just looking, purely looking, as if she were inspecting this world from a new angle. She is, perhaps for the first time, looking into eyes, but serenely, as if she does not mind whose eyes she meets. What does it matter, after all? It is life that glistens in her eyes; it is a calm consciousness that connects with volts the ocular nerves and working brain. She has a self, and she knows it; the red baby knew it too.

When Krishna's mother looked inside his mouth, she saw in his throat the night sky filled with all the stars in the cosmos. She saw "the far corners of the sky, and the wind, and lightning, and the orb of the Earth.... and she saw her own village and herself." Wordsworth's "trailing clouds of glory" refers to newborns; they trail clouds of glory as they come.

These immediate newborns – those on the left counter, and those washed ones on the right – are keenly interested. None cries. They look about slowly, moving their eyes. They do not speak, as trees do not speak. They do seem wise, as though they understood that their new world, however strange, was only another shade in a streaming marvel they had known from the beginning.

The Talmud states that fetuses in the womb study Torah, and learn it by heart. They also see, moments before birth, all the mingled vastness of the universe, and its volumes of time, and its multitudes of peoples trampling the generations under. These unborn children are in a holy state. An angel comes to each one, however, just before he is born, and taps his lips so he forgets all he knows and joins the bewildered human race.

In a few hours, this oracular newborn here in the hospital will lose her alertness. She will open her eyes infrequently. She will be quite obviously unable to focus. Her glee will come later, if she lives, and her love later still. For now, she will sleep and cry and suck and be wonderful enough.

The nurse wipes her forehead on a sleeve. The lights are hot. She reaches for another one.

"Now you," she says.

Are we ready to think of all humanity as a living tree, carrying on splendidly without us? We easily regard a beehive or an ant colony as a single organism, and even a school of fish, a flock of dunlin, a herd of elk. And we easily and correctly regard an aggregate of individuals, a sponge or coral or lichen or slime mold, as one creature – but us? When we people differ, and know our consciousness, and love?

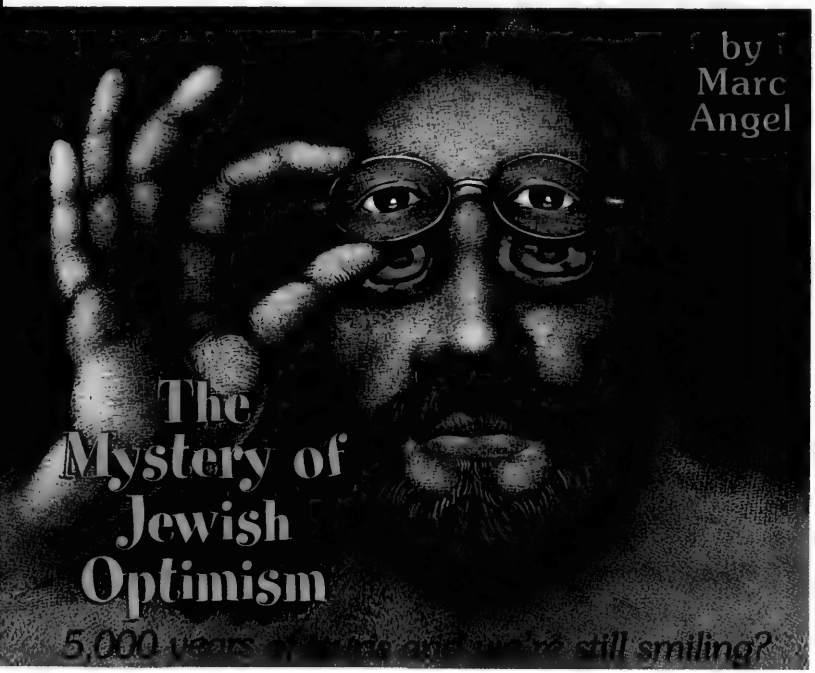
Even lovers, even twins, are strangers who will love and die alone. And we like it this way, at least in the West; we prefer to endure any agony of isolation rather than to merge and extinguish our selves in an abstract "humanity" whose fate we should hold dearer than our own. Who could say, I'm in agony because my child died, but that's all right: Mankind as a whole has abundant children?

The religious idea sooner or later challenges the notion of the individual. The Buddha taught each disciple to vanquish his fancy that he possessed an individual self. Huston Smith suggests that our individuality resembles that of a snowflake: The seas evaporate water, clouds build and lose water in snowflakes, which dissolve and go to sea. The simile galls. What have I to do with the ocean, I with my unique and novel hexagons and spikes? Is my very mind a wave in the ocean, a wave the wind flattens, a flaw the wind draws like a finger?

We know we must yield, if only intellectually. Okay, we're a lousy snowflake. Okay, we're a tree. These dead loved ones we mourn were only those brown lower branches a tree shades and kills as it grows; the tree itself is thriving. But what kind of tree are we growing here, that could be worth such waste and pain? For each of us loses all we love, everyone we love. We grieve and leave. What marvels shall these future whizzes, damn their eyes, accomplish?

"Are we ready to think of all humanity as a living tree, carrying on splendidly without us?"

Annie Dillard, who won the Pulitzer Prize for Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, *has written 11 books, including* The Living, *a novel;* An American Childhood, *a memoir; and* Teaching A Stone to Talk, *a collection of essays. This excerpt is from* For The Time Being, *©1999 by Annie Dillard, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York. Reprinted with permission. An OLAM must-read.*



A STORY IS TOLD OF A Jewish man who was riding on the subway reading a Nazi newspaper. A friend of his, who happened to be riding in the same subway car, noticed this strange phenomenon. Very upset, he approached the newspaper reader: "Moshe, have you lost your mind? Why are you reading a Nazi newspaper?"

Moshe replied: "I used to read the Jewish newspapers, but what did I find? Jews being persecuted, Israel being attacked, Jews disappearing through assimilation and intermarriage, Jews living in poverty. So I switched to the Nazi newspaper. Now what do I find? Jews own all the banks, Jews control the media, Jews are all rich and powerful, Jews rule the world. The news is so much better!"

The sad and painful message of this story is that history has not been easy on the Jewish people. Somehow, though, we have managed to keep our sense of humor!

In each generation, including our own, we have faced vicious enemies seeking our destruction. They do not care to know us as individual human beings; they do not try to understand our ideals, our hopes, our needs. They are satisfied to stereotype, dehumanize and caricature us. They turn all "facts" against us. From generation to generation, they pass on a profound hatred of Jews.

They torment us with their violence and hate-filled propaganda. They pervert truth to make our suffering all the more painful. The Nazis and their sympathizers murdered six million innocent Jews during the Holocaust: and now anti-Semites deny that the Holocaust ever happened! The Arab nations deprived Jews of basic rights for centuries; then made war on the Jewish state, boycotted it, maligned it, discriminated against it in every possible way; and then they got the United Nations to condemn Israel for racism!

Perhaps the anti-Semites have always hated Jews because Jews are the conscience of the world. The Torah has taught great ideals that the anti-Semites find threatening: for example, that all human beings are created in the image of God; that all are responsible for their deeds; that human beings must have compassion for each other and not try to convert or coerce the other; and that generosity is superior to greed. But the anti-Semites prefer the ways of violence and repression, exploitation and dehumanization. They prefer to scapegoat the Jewish people rather than to confront their own shortcomings.

Thinking about the millennia of abuse aimed against us, a question arises: How is it that the Jewish people, by and large, are characterized by an over-arching optimism and a positive, future-oriented view of life? Why haven't we given up on humanity? Why do we work so hard to make the world a better place for all people, Jewish and non-Jewish?

In my 32 years as a rabbi and communal activist, I have often been amazed by the many signs of Jewish commitment to humanity, to the future. Jews are involved in a vast array of social action organizations and causes. We give a tremendous amount of charity. There is hardly a humanitarian, cultural or educational enterprise that has not drawn support from Jews. Jewish men and women, religious and not so religious, have devoted their time and energy to *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place for everyone. In spite of condemnations from the United Nations, in spite of anti-Israel bias throughout the world, in spite of suicide murders of Israelis, the people of Judaism and Israel remain an idealistic nation, committed to a brighter future.

Yes, we sometimes become depressed and frustrated. But only for the moment. In essence, we are imbued with a belief in a better tomorrow. We have not been broken by the thousands of years of persecutions, pogroms and propaganda we have endured; we will not be broken now.

Are we hopelessly naïve? Do we entirely misread the depth and breadth of anti-Jewish sentiment? Is our faith in God and in humanity so extraordinarily strong as to defy centuries of suffering inflicted on us, centuries of evidence that hatred can persist and even triumph?

Are we foolish? Are we the wisest and most idealistic people in the world? Are we all of these things?

The mystery of Jewish survival is one of the mysteries of human civilization. But an even greater mystery is how we Jews have managed to survive a brutal history while still remaining optimistic, idealistic and dedicated to helping build a better world. I don't have a clear answer to this enigma, but I am proud to be part of the problem.

Dr. Marc D. Angel is rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel, the historic Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of New York City. He is the author and editor of 17 books, most recently Loving Truth and Peace: the Grand Religious Worldview of Rabbi Benzion Uziel *(Jason Aronson, 1999); and* But Who Am I and Who Are My People? *(Ktav Publishing House, 2001). He serves as Honorary President of Sephardic House and is on the executive committee of the American Sephardi Federation.*

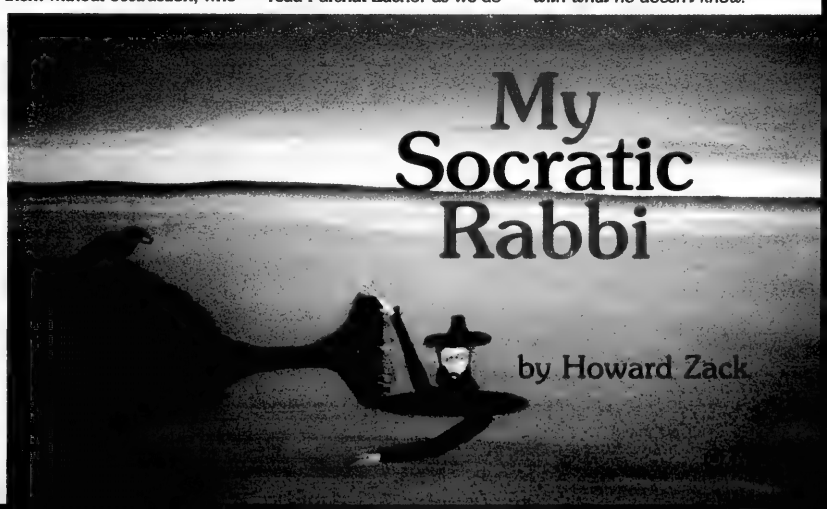
by William Safire

The moral excitement in the Book of Job is the sufferer's outrage at God's refusal to do justice. It centers on a search for the roots of unfairness in the real world, despite the promises elsewhere in the Bible of God's punishment of the evildoer and reward to the good. Even the most devout believers have asked themselves: If life is unfair; if the good often die young and the wicked prosper; if Man cannot depend on God for a fair shake in the end – then what is the purpose of ethical behavior, of faith, of worship? The author of the book (identity unknown, called poet-Job to distinguish him from his character) broke with the pious illusion of divine retribution and came to grips with the mysterious disorder of real life. He tried to answer the hardest question:

How do believers cope with the fickleness of fate?

All of us deal with that unfairness issue, at all levels and throughout our lives. Every parent is familiar with the acute sense of fairness in the minds of children, especially those with older siblings: My daughter, at age four, used to drive us up the wall – for example, on the subject of comparative bedtimes – with the repeated challenge "That's unfair!" (I taught Annabel to say "that's inequitable," an offbeat locution which, coming from a child, puzzled her playmates but made her complaining more tolerable at home.) Later in life, the perception of unfairness leads to deeper questioning. When the system does not produce promised results, where do you go to complain? Who's accountable for moral mismanagement? When God appears to be uninterested in mankind or loafing on the job of moral law enforcement, can there be such a thing as devout defiance?

Excerpted from "The First Dissident" by William Safire, ©1992. Used by permission of Random House, Inc. An OLAM must-read.



SHABBAT AT KOL Shofar, our shul in Tiburon, California, ten minutes beyond the Golden Gate Bridge, comes replete with questions. Our Rabbi, Lavey Derby, has made questions the centerpiece of his Shabbat *d'rash*, the 30 minutes he devotes to exploring the weekly Torah portion. Or more precisely, the 30 minutes *we* devote to the weekly portion, for Rabbi Derby has brilliantly fashioned the best of Socratic pedagogy to engage the congregation in a discussion whose central points invariably are proffered by congregants in response to a core of questions he has posed.

By framing and buttressing congregants' contributions, Rabbi Derby masterfully architects a compelling learning session, with each congregant comment serving as timber for the impromptu house of knowledge collectively being built. Congregants spiritedly challenge one another, evoking the tradition of *chevrusa*, when students pair off to study and debate text. It's a marvel of pedagogic engineering as we productively probe the meaning of that week's text. Visitors to our shul at first are baffled by what they see and hear: a rabbi coming out from behind the Bima (his "stage") to face them without obstruction, who then informs them that their pre-lunch hunger pangs will go unheeded until his questions are suitably taken up.

In other words, this is not your father's sermon, and certainly not your zayde's; rather it is a community learning opportunity, which we interactively embrace through asking questions and positing not so much "answers" as "meanings" or "interpretations."

> "In other words, this is not your father's sermon, and certainly not your zayde's."

Several weeks ago we read Ki Tissa, the portion renowned for the Golden Calf incident, but one that also further describes the construction of the tabernacle and punctuates that with an additional injunction to keep the Shabbat. Rabbi Derby chose to delve into the Shabbat dimension and challenged us to wrestle with the concept of "rest." What kind of rest was intended for Shabbat? Deliberate rest or casual rest? What's the difference? What intentionality lies behind both? How aware of resting ought one to be? We did not rest until we'd rendered a spectrum of meaning.

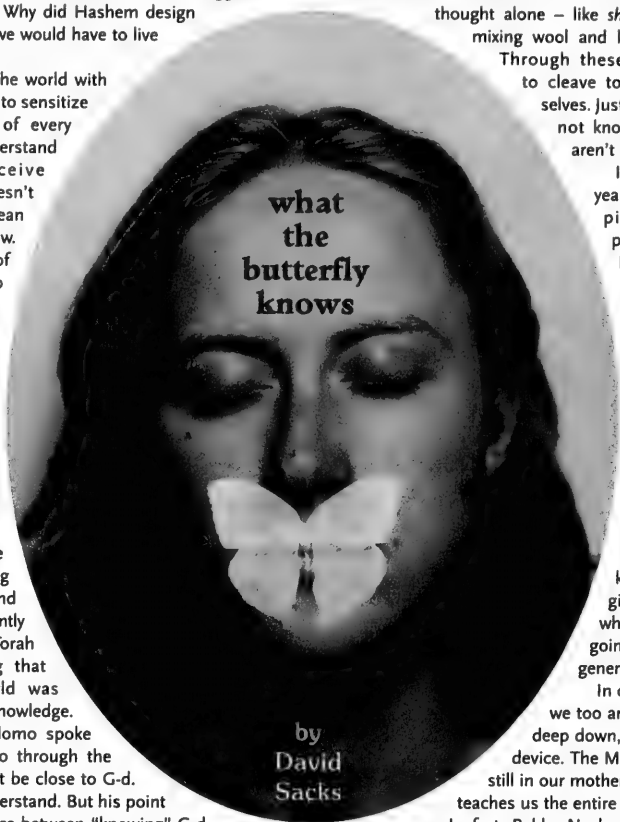
The prior Shabbat, we read Parshat Zachor as we do each year on the Shabbat immediately preceding Purim. "The holidays will be abrogated, the Talmud teaches us," led off Rabbi Derby, "upon the arrival of the Messiah, for there will essentially no longer be a need to observe them and heed their lessons – except for one. Which holiday will live on, post-Messiah?" With the reading of Megillat Esther just two days away, it was a transparent question, but what was not nearly as telegraphed was the meaning of the inevitable follow-up question: Why? What was it about Purim that merits a perpetual retelling? The discourse that ensued was lively and inventive.

Judaism's vaunted oral tradition is a latticework of questions and answers begging for subsequent challenge, in which the former is the mortar that girds our faith. Ours is a faith that treasures the indispensability of not knowing and the strength that comes from the pursuit of knowing. At Kol Shofar, we emulate that tradition and in so doing, deepen our faith and understanding.

Howard Zack is a Jewish community activist and entrepreneur, and a devoted member of Congregation Kol Shofar, where he can be found most Shabbatot coming to grips with what he doesn't know.

what the butterfly knows

by David Sacks



"WHAT DO WE KNOW, WHAT DO WE KNOW?" Reb Shlomo Carlebach used to say these words all the time, and whenever he did, whoever heard them was instantly put in touch with how deep and mysterious life really is. What do we know? Ask yourself a question: Do you know what's going to happen when you walk down the street today? Do you know what's really going to happen tomorrow? Do you know whom you're going to marry? Or what your kids will be like when they're adults? Do you know the day you are going to die? Can you possibly? So many questions and so much uncertainty about life's biggest issues! The question is, why? Why did Hashem design this world in such a way that we would have to live in a state of "not knowing"?

I think Hashem created the world with all its unpredictability in order to sensitize us to the miraculousness of every moment. To cause us to understand that just because we receive something every day, it doesn't make it any less a gift, or mean that it has to be there tomorrow. To see that He is the source of all blessing. In sum, in order to breed nearness to Him.

Not only is it permissible not to know, but grasping the unknowableness of life is the foundation of humility and inner peace. If this is the case, then the first question we must ask is, what's so bad about knowing?

Once we "know" something, it feels old, even dead. The fact that we can look at the stars at night or the astonishing variety of fruits, animals and personalities and not be constantly amazed is death. In fact, the Torah teaches that the very thing that brought death into the world was when we ate from the Tree of Knowledge.

Time and again, Reb Shlomo spoke about how it's possible to go through the Talmud five times and still not be close to G-d. At first this seems hard to understand. But his point was that there's a big difference between "knowing" G-d and intimacy with the Divine. When I got married, Reb Shlomo blessed my wife and me that we should never stop surprising each other. Because when you really think you know all there is to know about someone, the life of the relationship is drained. It follows then that the worst thing would be to reach a state where we feel like we "know" G-d.

"Not knowing" is very different from ignorance. Torah study is one of the greatest mitzvahs possible. This raises a conundrum: How do we go about increasing in learning while still maintaining our freshness and sense of wonder? I once asked Reb Shlomo this question. He said a person has to treat each new thing learned as a piece in a larger puzzle that still has pieces missing. For most people, every new piece of information becomes another thing that they "know" – an attainment in and of itself. But with Reb Shlomo's teaching, each new thing learned can be a gentle reminder of how little we know – a hand reaching out, beckoning us to a previously unexplored realm.

I remember a friend once asked me, at a critical moment in my Jewish growth, whether an ant can out-think a man. I said of course not. And he said, "Then how can man out-think G-d? We make the mistake of making G-d too small, of trying to make G-d fit into our limited consciousness instead of glorying in the fact that He is so beyond what we can ever know. Ultimately the mind is just one of our faculties. There's a deeper, more intuitive place within us. One of the beautiful aspects of Torah is that there is an entire category of laws, called *chukim*, designed specifically to nurture this place within us. These are laws which cannot be understood through rational thought alone – like *shatnez*, the prohibition against mixing wool and linen together in garments. Through these commandments we're able to cleave to G-d with the entirety of our selves. Just because we live in a state of not knowing, it doesn't mean that we aren't being led.

I was listening to NPR a few years ago and heard an unusual piece about the migratory patterns of the Monarch butterfly. Every year the butterfly colony starts in Mexico and travels up to Canada. The unusual thing is that the life span of a Monarch is very short, and researchers found that the ones who actually make it to Canada are four generations removed from the ones who began the journey.

This is amazing! It means that every butterfly heading toward Canada has never been to Canada before, doesn't know how to get there, and yet gives birth to another generation which also doesn't know where it's going, and yet sure enough, the last generation makes it there every time!

In our own lives, and as a people, we too are heading toward a place, and deep down, every one of us has a homing device. The Midrash teaches that while we're still in our mother's womb, an angel comes and teaches us the entire Torah.

In fact, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov says that every step a Jew takes is a step toward Israel. Even if it seems like he's going in the opposite direction, even if he doesn't know where he's going, nonetheless, he's heading toward Israel.

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz, the Mirrer Rosh Yeshiva, gives the beautiful example of a mother and baby traveling together to distant places. No matter how far-flung their travels, from the baby's point of view it never moves – it's always right there in its mother's arms. So it is with us. Though we live in a state where we don't know what's coming next, we do know this: That wherever we go, we're always right there in Hashem's arms, being loved and embraced.

"'Not knowing' is very different from ignorance."

David Sacks speaks frequently on topics of Jewish spirituality, and is a co-founder of the Happy Minyan of Los Angeles. He is also an Emmy Award-winning writer-producer, on shows like The Simpsons *and* Third Rock from the Sun. *His last article in OLAM was "The Place."*

A hair from a cup of milk

BY CARLA HOWARD

Raba was sitting before R. Nachman as he lay dying. As he sank close to death, Raba asked R. Nachman to please reappear to him after he died. Rabbi Nachman appeared to him in a dream, and Raba asked him, "Did you suffer pain?" He replied, "As little as in taking a hair from a cup of milk. And if the Holy One, Blessed be He, were to give me the chance to come back to this world I would not, for the dread thereof." (Talmud, Moed Katan 28a)

THE HOSPITAL CALLED me. Could I go visit a young woman with advanced cancer who was in spiritual crisis? When I arrived, I found Nancy, a woman in her mid-forties whose body looked like it should have given up the fight long ago.

She welcomed me, asked about my life, played Jewish geography with me (turns out she'd dated my brother), and thanked me for coming. I asked if I could visit again and she said yes. We saw each other twice a month for three or four months, with no mention of death. I read psalms to her, to try to open a door, but she set the agenda – talk of her cats, her friends, her ex-husband.

One day I arrived when the hospice nurse, Lenore, was changing the dressing on Nancy's wound. They made light conversation back and forth. I turned to Nancy and said, "Is there anything you'd like to ask Lenore?"

"Yes," Nancy said. "What will it be like at the end?"

She wanted the topography of her last breath charted.

Once the answer came and Nancy was reassured that there would be no struggle, she turned to me to get down to business. She wanted to express her love for her best friend who had been through it all with her.

Through the fog of morphine, Nancy placed two drops of water on her knee. With her finger, she blended the two drops into one. Two drops become one. Was she telling us that she and her friend, who even shared her name, would maintain a bond after death?

To be at the bedside of one who is facing death is to get as close as one can to life itself; it is to watch laboring from one existence to another. The umbilicus that connects and sustains us until we reach our destination is invisible. I was once an apprentice midwife. And now I attend the dying. To be a witness at both gates of life is the highest of honors – to stand at the edge of what we don't know, with another human being.

Judaism obligates us all to be there for the sick – the mitzvah of *bikur cholim* – and all the more so for one who is dying. According to Jewish law, such a person is "regarded as a living being in respect to all matters in the world." (Semachot I)

This means that regardless of which of their faculties may have already left them, they are there, and so must we be. Why? Because something happens when we are. The Psalmist tells us, "Be still, and know that I am God."

"When we care for the sick and dying, the mystery is: Who is healing whom?"

In the profound silence, we find a divine world that we don't know.

Hospice, a word that initially meant hosting a traveler in a way station (as in hostel, hospital and hotel) – a place for those on a pilgrimage to rest – is a way of caring for those at the end of life, to soften the suffering so that it is "as little as taking a hair from a cup of milk." Hospice allows us to manage the pain and cradle the soul, and revere the silence and mystery of life at its end.

A student of mine who had always wrestled with the existence of God was called to the bedside of his dying father. The nurse and other caregivers had been unable to calm his father's agitation as he moved in and out of consciousness. He mumbled words that no one understood. As the son drew close, his father whispered to him in an unfamiliar voice, "What is *kadosh*? What is *kadosh*?"

The son was stunned at the question from his father, whom he had always considered to be non-religious. He leaned in and replied, "Dad, it means holy. It's the chant the angels sing to God."

Having heard his son's reply, the father's face relaxed and his breathing calmed.

The son believed that he had helped his father to understand his vision and to lose his fear of dying, while the father had opened a doorway to God for his son.

When we care for the sick and dying, the mystery is: Who is healing whom?

Rabbi Carla Howard is co-founder and co-director, with Rabbi Sheldon Pennes, of Jewish Hospice Project - Los Angeles, which can be reached at JewishHospiceLA@aol.com

Gaby Wenig of OLAM interviews Master Yoga Instructor Rodney Yee

OLAM: The purpose of this interview is to discuss what we don't know.

Rodney Yee (RY): What we don't know?! I love it! I don't know what I don't know – I just know that I don't know!

OLAM: What don't we know about the way the human body works?

RY: Well, think about what the human body is. Break it down to its smallest part. What is it?

OLAM: A cell?

RY: But what is a cell made of? Atoms. But what are atoms made of? Subatomic particles, spinning around in some unusual pattern. It's miraculous. Why are these subatomic particles spinning this way, to create this thing called the human form? We have no idea what this is.

OLAM: We have no idea of its purpose? What is it exactly that we have no idea about?

RY: We have no idea why it even happens. Why can I look at my hand and actually see something called a hand? Why are the subatomic particles spinning around in this way, instead of spinning around like a lamp or telephone? Why are they taking this form?

To make it more complex, what is the difference between the mind, the body, the breath, or the spirit? Where does one end and the other begin?

OLAM: Are there more things at work in the body than we can identify?

RY: Exactly. There is a huge mystery that we know nothing about.

I mean, what is the awareness behind thinking? What happens when you catch yourself thinking? What is the thing we call the self? This is an age-old mystery that yoga asks, but we can't seem to get a grasp on it at all.

OLAM: What is so mysterious about the mind and the interactions it has with the body?

RY: One of the purposes of yoga is to concentrate the mind. You try concentrating the mind in the body, surfing the movements of the breath and the body, so the observer becomes the observed. That is when the mind fully integrates into the body, without separation – and in yoga, that is reality.

We think that there is a separation between ourselves and the rest of the world, but that is just an illusion. How are you separate from air around you? It's totally mysterious. And if you can start living with realizing that this is all just a total mystery, you realize that there is no identity to hold onto, and that is an amazing freedom.

OLAM: Do you think that identity is a myth? What is identity?

RY: Identity is an orientation. It is a game we play to feel like we know where we are.

I am 45 years old now, but internally I feel like I am 17. Whenever I got this identity, it didn't change until I realized I was holding on to this concept of me because it was convenient, and I could believe in it. But then I thought, "Why should I believe in something that is not real?"

To me, that is the crux and that is the ridiculousness. That is living the illusion, and that is what yoga is trying to break.

OLAM: So you think people should embrace what they don't know?

RY: I think basically they should realize that most people don't know a thing about what will take place. The unknown is always happening and is a major part of your life. So security is a ridiculous thought, because you have no idea.

We are scamming ourselves, believing in identity, trying to feel like there is some permanence. There is no permanence. The unknown is happening to us right now. You have no idea what I am going to say. I have no idea what you are going to ask me!

OLAM: True! What do you think are the enigmas inherent in yoga? What is it about yoga that we don't understand?

RY: Yoga to me is an ongoing experiment in communication between the mind, the body and the breath, whatever those are. It is an ongoing search to clarify – not to identify, but to get a direct relationship taking place.

I think people relate to what they think yoga is, instead of having an ongoing fluctuation of movement of reality. People say, "I did my yoga practice," but what does that mean? You repeated something that you did yesterday? That is not a real relationship. That is a relationship to an image.

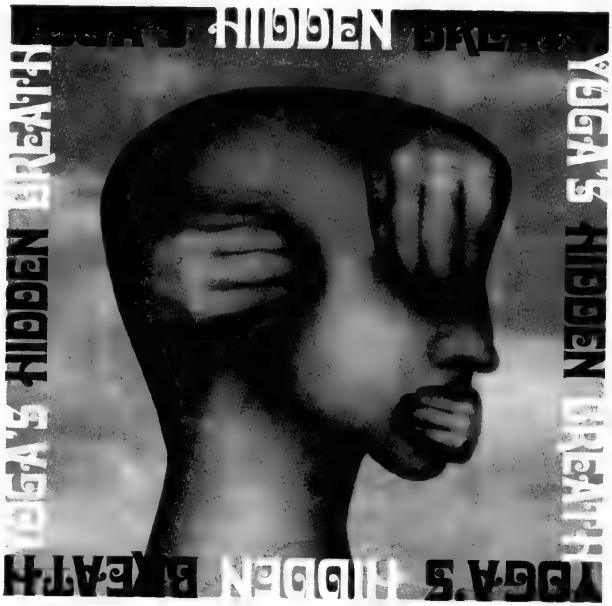
To me, yes, the yoga is the relationship to the mystery, not to something you already know.

OLAM: What is the more pure state? Knowing or not knowing?

RY: I think the state goes back and forth between the two. Is knowledge more valuable than not knowing? Well, if you didn't have the knowledge of not knowing, then you wouldn't know that you didn't know. And if you didn't have the not knowing, then in some ways you could never learn more. The acknowledgement of not knowing leads to curiosity and it leads to finding out.

You have to balance "What do I know?" "What do I think I know?" and "What do I for sure not know?" You need all three.

I mean, people knew the world was flat – that was a fact. We agree that we know better now – but then, is knowledge true? We don't have a clue.



"Yoga is the relationship to the mystery, not to something you already know."

Rodney Yee is co-director of the Piedmont Yoga Studio in Oakland, California. He has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, *and has recently published a book called* Yoga, The Poetry of the Body. *He can be reached at* www.yeeyoga.com.

WHEN I WAS 25, I suddenly got it into my head that my father was going to die. He was perfectly healthy at the time, but I was overcome with a feeling of certainty that he was about to die violently – possibly on his way to visit me where I was living, possibly before he left New York, where he lived. I was inconsolable, and though nowadays this might be called some kind of panic attack, at the time I had plenty to bolster my fear.

Item: My father worked at the edge of the public eye, with important people, including, occasionally, Israeli prime ministers. There had been terrorism abroad and assassination at home. Maybe no one would go after him, I thought, but he could certainly be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Item: My father lived in New York City, and the crime rate then was very high. He liked walking to the corner newsstand around midnight and getting the next day's New York Times. He rode subways at night, too, and especially enjoyed walking home from restaurants after a late dinner.

And of course he flew everywhere, to see family, to conventions, to Israel for work. Once he even took a vacation – to London, when the IRA was bombing department stores.

There is always trouble in the world, but my father came to visit me that spring and nothing happened, and my fear faded away. He died almost 20 years later of cancer in his own bed, having lived in the meantime a life of tremendous energy, variety and fearlessness. Though he, no less than someone who went to work at Cantor Fitzgerald the morning of September 11, never knew what was coming.

We don't know the future, and we can't know the future – and somehow this seems increasingly galling as we humans learn so much about everything else. We can split the atom, track a hurricane, see plaque building up in arteries before there's any hint of chest pain – but still we are powerless to know about the car that will zip around the corner as we're crossing the street, or when the company we work for will go under.

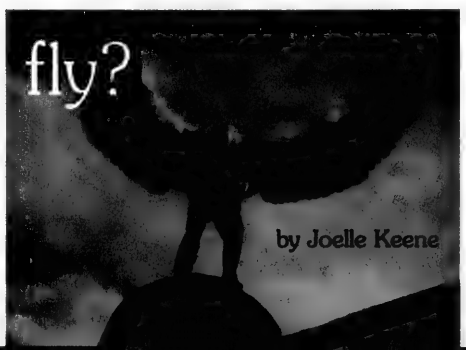
The future is God's. God, it is said, holds the keys to birth, death and rain, rain being both the reality and an archetypal symbol of sustenance for all of life on earth. He hands us pieces of the puzzle, He teaches us how to irrigate and raise crops, and how to conceive a baby in a petri dish. But He does not reveal what's coming. Perhaps it should be said God also holds the keys to time.

As I write this evening, I hold tickets to Israel for my whole family. We are scheduled to leave in just a few days, along with many of our friends, on a synagogue trip. I want to go to stand in God's light and feel His presence as I have heard it can be felt there. We want to pray at the Wall and let God know how grateful we are for all we have, and a little closer to His ears perhaps, to hope that He will really hear our prayers. We want to climb Masada and look out on holy land, and take our children to where the street signs are in Hebrew and the kosher restaurants serve Indian, fast food and Chinese.

We can get there in less than a day, flying over continents a nd seas – and nearby will be people, dozens or hundreds or thousands, who seem to want to kill us, one by one.

So – should we go?

If disaster should strike, would it have been worth it? How will I live with myself if something happens that would not have if we hadn't gone?



"No man can see Me and live," God tells Moses in Exodus 33:20. We make decisions like this in the dark – period. What we know of what to do comes from Torah, which contains so much instruction. It is not given to us to know; it is given to us to serve: to cross that street to get our child to school, to drive around that corner to buy candles for Shabbat, to fly so we can honor a parent on her birthday. We'll cross a parking lot in the dark to buy medicine, or climb the stairs at the World Trade Center to save a life, risking our own.

It's not given to us to know – but we will marry our sweetheart, and we will have children, hoping for the best. We are not like the cow who nibbles each day from the same field, or the squirrel for whom Thursday and Saturday are the same. We yearn, we long, we dream.

For God does give us hope. To deny it is to set conditions for our humanity: I won't be human, God, unless You guarantee it will all turn out well! In that sense, flying to Israel is no different from standing under the chuppah. Demanding to know as a condition for doing what's right is a kind of blasphemy; it seeks a fundamental adjustment of Creation itself. It is a non-acceptance of our humanity, a denial of our holy possibilities.

Since we can't know what will happen, there has to be a good reason for getting on a plane – and, for that matter, for going out into the morning rush hour. Everything we do should be holy work, in which case to turn away from it would be to turn from God Himself.

I thought about asking my father not to come visit me that spring, but something stopped me from even broaching the subject. What was it? It was a respect for his humanity – his particular energy, his verve. Asking him to fear would be asking him not to live. I wanted him to live as long as possible.

"Therefore choose life, that you may live," says Moses in Deuteronomy 30:19.

So we will face Jerusalem and go, knowing we don't know.

Joelle Keene, Associate Editor of OLAM, returned from Israel in February. (It was great!)

Last October, OLAM Founder and Editor David Suissa sat down with Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi at his home in Boulder, Colorado, for an evening of philosophy, learning and song. At one point, David asked, "Tell me – where does our knowledge end? What is it that we don't know?" "Hit the record button," Rabbi Zalman answered. "This is important."

THERE IS A PSALM THAT GOES AS follows: "You fools among the people, try and understand, When will you fools get some wisdom? The One who plants an ear, does He not hear? The One who plants an eye, does He not see? The One who reproves the nations, does He not know? The One who teaches knowledge?" (Psalm 94:8-10)

There is some understanding we gain when we ask ourselves "How do we know what we know?" If something comes through the senses, then I don't know what it is, until I label the experience by joining the collusion of people who say "This is brown, this is white." The senses themselves do not naturally have words associated with them. So we have to give them words. Feelings are even deeper and more deprived of words, because we have to borrow words from sensation to describe them, as we say "this is bitter" or "this is so sweet."

When it comes to the intellect, we have many words, but when it comes to intuition, we have no words at all.

The reason for this is that our brain is made in the following way: The bottom part of the brain is called "The Reptilian." It is very primitive, and it is all about my turf, my food, flight and fight. It corresponds to the lowest level in Assiyah, the world of action.

Then we have another part of the brain called the "Limbic Brain." We share this part with mammals. It loves rhythm, loves to sing, enjoys being an "us" – and this is where feelings are. This is the region that vibrates to our connection with the world of Yetzirah, or formation.

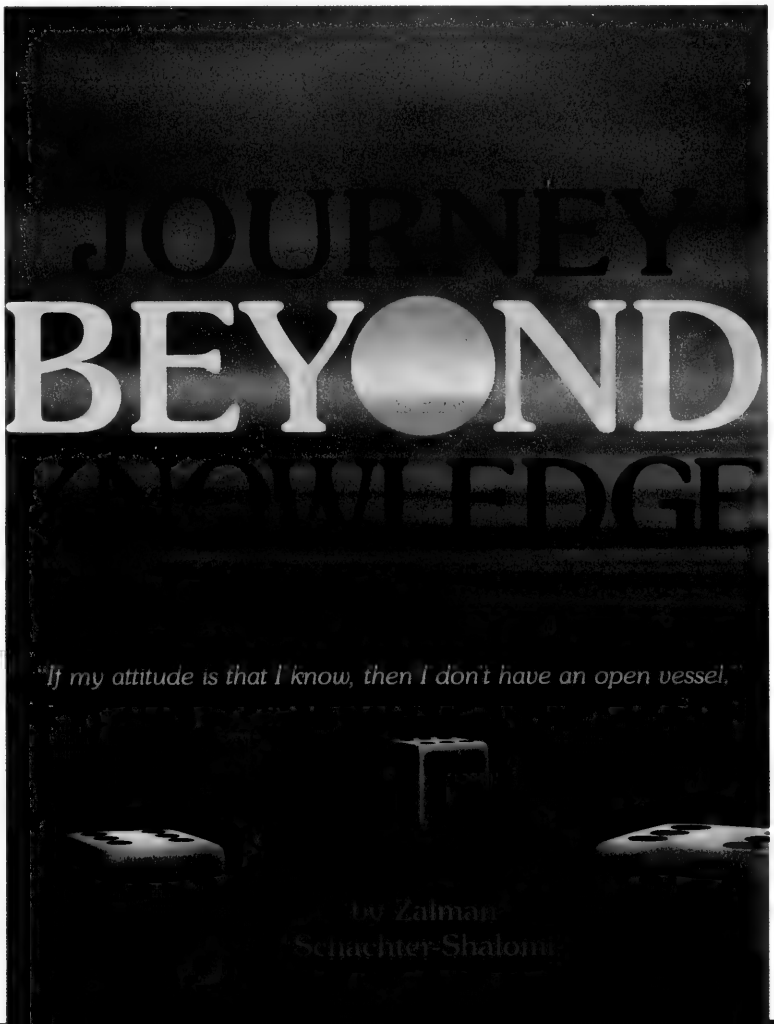
Reason is contained in a third major component of the brain: the neo-cortex. Here we work with ideas and theories. In this part of the brain we can meet God in Torah. Here we vibrate with the world of Briyah, or creation.

Still, even the most conscious of us fail to use 85 percent of our brain capacity. It is like having a big hard drive with only 15 percent of it formatted. That unformatted part, where much of the *neshamah* (soul) is at home, has fractal attributes of the loftiest region. It is "the head that knows not and is not knowable." (Zohar III Idra Zuta p.288b)

When we get information through our intuition, we don't know where it comes from. And most of the time, this shocks people. They ask "How do you know?" and I say "I know, but don't know how I know." Because "The wisdom comes from the nothing place." (Job 28:12)

If I want to get to wisdom, I have to be open to the nothing place.

If my attitude is that I know, then I don't have an open vessel.



There is something about knowing that always has to do with the past and not the future. When I say "I know it already," I am looking through the rear view mirror. When I say, "I don't know yet," I am looking ahead, through the windshield.

In Hebrew there are two words for the English word why. One is "lamah", the other is "madua." *Madua* is etiological, which means that I go back to the past and work out what caused me to do something.

The other word, *lamah*, has its root in the word "l'-mah", which means "To what end." To what end do I want to do it? And that is in the future. In order to be able to get anything from the future, I have to be in the place of not knowing.

People whose minds are closed say, "If it isn't in a text from before, then it doesn't exist." What we are saying is "What do you think? Did Hashem stop communicating with us now? In fact, there is a future that is drawing us."

Of course, we don't have all the answers yet. If we had all the answers, we wouldn't need Mashiach. We do need Mashiach because we don't know. The Talmud says "[When] I don't know the answer to something I say *teiku* – which means Eliyahu will come and give us the answer to that." Now, why should I have to wait for Eliyahu to come and give me the answer? Because our capacity for complexity has not yet been developed. When people want to make everything simple, they see it in black and white and run away from the complexity in the world.

An example of this is the white spaces of the Torah. Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev asked: "Why is it that Az Yashir, the song of the sea, has to be written like bricks – with spaces in between?" He answered his question, saying: "Until Mashiach comes, we are only able to read the black letters. When Mashiach comes, we will be able to read the white spaces between."

Translated into psychology, the black letters are the figures, the white letters are the ground. Reb Levi was pointing out that what connects the letters is the white space. No letter in the Torah can touch another letter, and it is the white spaces that prevent this. Now, there is a verse in Jeremiah that says "A female surrounds the male." (Jerem. 31:21) The female, meaning the Torah of Shechinah, begins with not knowing. About the Shechinah, it says "It does not have anything by herself – she is like the moon. All the light that she has is the light that she receives." Even in her dark light, the moon attracts the water and the tides; so, too, the Shechinah attracts the infinite. How does it attract the infinite? By asking questions, by not knowing.

So the Shechinah keeps asking: "*Mi barah eileh?* Who has created all this?" And when we talk about God, what do we mean? The collection of all the souls. And what do all the souls say? They all say "Fill me, God, teach me, God."

So we come with our not knowing, and our not knowing is the white spaces between the letters – and if they weren't there, if you were to print black on black, we couldn't see anything.

"The admission of not knowing is the prelude to redemption and revelation."

Therefore, if we can create the white spaces that are in our mind, we can achieve the state of not knowing which will enable us to see.

Following these thoughts was a discussion between Rabbi Zalman and David Suissa, transcribed below:

David Suissa: You know, in graphics, the white spaces are also important. They get you noticed. We live in a world where we are so bombarded with stimuli and so talked down to that it is almost suffocating. Ironically, it's the white space – the visual silence – that screams the loudest. It gives the viewer a little space to enter.

Rabbi Zalman: Let's try a shared, socialized meditation: I am going to say half a sentence and you are going to finish it. You don't know what I am going to say, and I don't know what you are going to say. Then you are going to have to say a half sentence in connection with the first, and the same thing. Let's begin.

Rabbi Zalman: One of the functions of not knowing is...

David Suissa: To instill a sense of humility in us, so that we can rise up and...

Rabbi Zalman: Encounter our own souls. Once we realize that our soul is...

David Suissa: Organically connected with God, then we are able to...

Rabbi Zalman: Experience that connection with joy and with ecstasy. That will bring us to a place where...

David Suissa: We can identify with the essential place of every other human being, which gets us to a place...

Rabbi Zalman: Where we see our sameness and the God within the other. When that happens there is...

David Suissa: True love. The love that comes from...

Rabbi Zalman: The shared experience of being children of God.

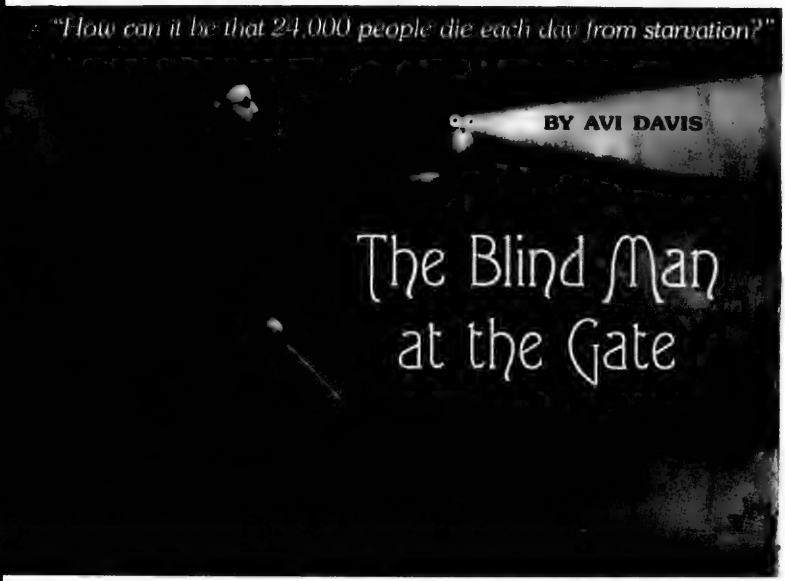
As you can see, David, because we both don't know what is going to happen, it lets the spirit in you come out. It is written, "The question of the wise is half of the answer." If we could provide a list of all the things that bother us, that would be half the quest. From our not knowing we might come to knowing.

If someone says, "I have the question and I've got the answer," then it is a lie. They come with the answer before the question and they construct the answer around the question. Then it is not a real question, because it is tainted by smugness.

Smugness closes all doors so that one is locked in. There is no smugness in the white space of not knowing.

A real question comes from *'Eini yodea'* – I really don't know. The admission of not knowing is the prelude to redemption and revelation. So Moshe Rabbenu himself said: "We won't know with what we shall serve God until we get there." (Exodus 10:26)

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi has been at the forefront of pioneering Jewish spiritual renewal, and is one of the world's foremost experts in Chassidus. His most recent book is From Age-ing to Sage-ing *(Time Warner, 1998). This article was transcribed and edited by Gaby Wenig.*



A WEALTHY STRANGER ONCE arrived in a village and saw a blind beggar sitting close by the village gate. As he approached, he noticed something very unusual about the beggar's situation. Next to him was a large cage, filled with food and drink. "Why do you sit here and beg when you already have plenty of food for yourself?" he asked the beggar indignantly. The beggar smiled and then responded, "I have always been poor and rarely have known what it is to sleep with a full stomach. The food I have gathered here is for those who are experiencing hunger for the first time. For surely tonight they will be far hungrier than I have ever been."

For most of us, too, hunger is also a stranger. We rarely question that at the end of each day there will be food on our table. But questions remain. How is it possible, for instance, that throughout the world 24,000 people die each day from starvation? How can it be that in the United States, the most prosperous nation in human history, 31 million people go to sleep at night unsure of the source of their next meal? Is it really true that the world's aggregate food supply almost triples its needs, yet millions of children still suffer from chronic malnutrition?

Such statistics are numbing but convey only a small part of this worldwide tragedy. For largely unrecognized is the permanent imprint hunger can leave on the human soul.

This lesson was not lost on Rabbi Spira of Bluzhov during the Holocaust.

Deported with his twin sons to the Nazi labor camp of Janowska, Rabbi Spira was assigned work duty one day with one of his sons, cleaning the prisoners' barracks. During the day a particularly sadistic guard shot his son in the leg and then ordered him to stand. When he struggled to do so the guard shot him in the other leg. When he failed to stand the second time, the guard pumped the boy with bullets. He died instantly. Distraught, the rabbi wondered how he would explain the death of the boy to his younger brother. When the boy returned from his work detail that day, extremely hungry as usual, the father told him that his brother was sick and his life might be in danger. In fact, he said, it was possible that he had already died.

The boy began to wail inconsolably. Refusing to be comforted, he blurted: "Today was his day to look after the bread. I left all my rations with him and now what will I eat?" Stunned by his surviving son's callous response, the rabbi reached into his pocket and gave him his own ration.

But years later he admitted that he had finally come to appreciate the true meaning of the adage in Lamentations: "They who are slain with the sword are more worthy than those who are slain from hunger."

The spiral of depravity into which hunger can plunge the human soul is well known to Jewish history. During the three-year Roman siege of Jerusalem from 67 to 70 C.E., hunger and thirst had so maddened the population that some were known to have killed their own for food. As a debilitating civil war raged between zealots and moderates within the city's walls, the citadel's grain stores were set on fire. While the city's military defenders struggled to save what was left, the ensuing riot destroyed any hope of a unified resistance.

From that day forward, the defenders' will to forbear against the enemy collapsed, and Jerusalem's fall became certain.

The world today is, thankfully, not indifferent to starvation. Concerned organizations everywhere devote their experience and resources to the war against hunger. Yet it is rare to find individuals whose love for humanity is so consuming that it will cause them to set their own lives or careers at risk to grapple with the acute moral dilemma presented by hunger.

In Jerusalem, however, I found such a man.

I came across a woman sitting by a wall, her hand out. When I gave her the few coins in my pocket, I noticed that she had a prepared meal, covered in plastic-wrap, lying by her feet. A label on the package indicated that it was from a place called Hazon Yeshaya. I asked her where I could find this place and she pointed to a door a block away. A few moments later, I came face to face with Abraham Israel.

Abraham Israel was a successful businessman in New York when he decided to move his family to Israel. When he arrived, he was alarmed to discover that, in a country with a per-capita income on par with that of Great Britain, there were thousands of citizens who couldn't provide food for their families. Distressed by this, he invested his own money to build soup kitchens in the community. Today he struggles to feed 20,000 people a month on a miniscule budget. But through Hazon Yeshaya, he has saved thousands from destitution.

"To tell you the truth, I don't know why I do it," he told me, sitting on a wooden seat in his spare office. "The hours are long and it is often heartbreaking work. But when I go to sleep at night, I need to know that I have done everything in my power to help others who have not been blessed with my good fortune."

People such as Abraham Israel never ask for recognition. But they should have it. Because they are the guardians who sit by the village gate. They view their own lives through the prism of other people's suffering. They understand how quickly the absence of sustenance can lead to human degradation. And they appreciate, more than many of us, the undeniable link that exists between physical well-being and the moral and spiritual dynamism of the world.

Avi Davis is senior fellow at the Freeman Center for Strategic Studies and senior editorial columnist for the on-line magazine Jewsweek.com. Tax-deductible donations to Hazon Yeshaya can be made to American Friends of Hazon Yeshaya, 2001 East 7th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Or visit www.Hazon-Yeshaya.com.

Changing the Question

by Asher Brander

PEDDLERS OF THE ENGLISH language have the good fortune of choosing from among hundreds of thousands of words. Any given idea may be stated in the Latin, Germanic or Saxon tongues. Are you crazy (Scandinavian), lunatic (French), insane (Latin), maniacal (Greek) or just meshuge (Yiddish/Hebrew)? For those who count these sorts of things, there are approximately 825,000 words and counting. Hebrew, on the other hand, is word-poor (with approximately 5,000 biblical roots) and meaning-full. Its paucity of words allows each root to enjoy rich connectivity. A thing – *davar* – can be an object, an affair, a happening, or a matter; in Hebrew, one word encompasses them all. The great commentator Maharal points out that *davar* is etymologically linked with *dibbur*, speech. Everything that happens in the world talks. Nothing in the world is devoid of meaning.

Instead of philosophizing - in Hebrew, Lamah? - which means "Why?" - let us ask Lemah? - "What can I learn from these events?"

The way we respond to difficult or confusing events in life must start with the question of *davar*: what is it saying? What message can we draw from what has happened?

And there is no shortage of mystery, in life or in Jewish thought. A famous enigmatic Talmudic statement (Tractate Brachot 43b) states: "One should never walk quickly, for a quick gait snatches 1/500th of a person's sight. What is the corrective? Make Kiddush and Havdalah (the symbolic ceremonies that begin and end the Sabbath)."

Got that? Clearly, the Rabbis are driving at something deeper!

Western society functions at a blinding pace. The world is now "24-7". One need never be alone. On any given Tuesday at 3 a.m. in mid-January, the world of TV (100-plus channels), Internet, video stores, 24-hour supermarkets and 7-11 (which no longer closes at 11) beckons. Recreation has replaced reflection. Running has replaced thinking – thus the timeless message of the Talmud: We must all Shabbatize our lives, create an oasis in which to reflect upon their meaning. Not to do so causes existential blindness.

But what shall we reflect upon?

One of the great Talmudic stories (Brachot 7a) relates a discussion between King Hezekiah (720-690 BCE) and the prophet Isaiah. During Hezekiah's illustrious reign, his kingdom becomes a citadel of spirituality. Suddenly he falls ill. The great prophet Isaiah visits.

Isaiah informs Hezekiah that in short order, Hezekiah will die; worse, he will not merit a share in the world to come. Dumbstruck, the great king asks why, and is told that it is his steadfast refusal of all marriage offers and consequent lack of children that angers the Divine throne. Hezekiah responds something like this: "With good reason, for I have seen that my children will be wicked. I have made a practical cost-benefit analysis and spared God the trouble."

Isaiah responds: "In the secrets of God, why do you meddle? What is incumbent upon you to do shall you do!"

Postscript: They live happily ever after. Hezekiah accepts the prophetic rebuke and tells Isaiah he wants to marry the prophet's own daughter (because if his children will be wicked, then Isaiah will be the *zayde*! [grandfather]). Indeed the *shidduch* (match) produces terrible children, among them a world-class idolater by the name of Menashe.

So – wasn't Hezekiah correct? Would the world not have been better off without a Menashe?

When Moses demands of God in Exodus Chapter 33, "Show me your ways," God responds: "No one can see My face and live. Stand behind the rock and as I pass, you may see Me from the back. My face, however, you will never be able to see."

"You may see Me from the back" – those once irrational and purposeless events in your life will be clarified retrospectively. "My face, however" – that is, events as they are occurring – you will never understand.

Mortal man does not understand the secrets of God. Thus the Jewish response to the mysterious has always been humility, along with reflection, looking back. But if we never understand, then what is the purpose of our reflection? We return to the Talmud.

Tractate Eiruvin records that for two-and-a-half years a great debate raged between the two preeminent schools of the Mishna, Shammai and Hillel: Was it better for man to have been created or not to have been created? The conclusion: Better not to have been created, but now that we are created, let us reflect carefully upon our deeds.

Our deeds and not God's. Self-reflection makes our life worth living.

And thus a modest proposal: Instead of trying to play God, let us react Divinely.

Instead of philosophizing – in Hebrew, *Lamah?* – which means "Why?" – let us ask *Lemah?* – "What can I learn from these events?" Let's change one vowel, keeping the root, and change the direction of our question.

Instead of asking, "Why did I lose my job?" let us wonder: What can I do with this time to make myself a better person?

Instead of asking, "Why is my dear friend (or relative or spouse) so sick?" let us consider: What will I do to help?

Instead of "Why me?" let us think: What from me?

After Sept. 11th, for the first time in my life, the humbled world seemed to stop and self reflect. No NFL, no NBA, no Grammies, no Emmys, no Leno, no Letterman, no commercials.

Everything that happens in the world talks. But now the world is almost back to "normal." Let us hope we are not.

Rabbi Asher Brander leads the Westwood Kehilla in Los Angeles. His last article in OLAM was "Is there Godliness in Evil?"

One of the most mysterious omissions in the Bible comes at the very beginning, as a prelude to the world's first case of murder.

Cain and Abel, the world's first brothers, are out in the field together, and the Torah tells us that "Cain said to his brother Abel... and when they were in the field, Cain set upon his brother Abel and killed him." So we all know that Cain killed Abel, and we know that some sort of conversation or exchange of words between them preceded the murder. What we do not know is what they talked about. The Torah is remarkably silent about what was presumably a pretty powerful exchange, given that these words led to an act of murder. It seems the Torah intentionally left the content and details of this conversation out of the text, so that we could sit and speculate on what type of words would lead to murder. And indeed, Midrash offers three different speculations. One posits that they argued about land and material possessions. A second is that they argued about whose land God's Temple should be built on. A third opinion hypothesizes that Cain and Abel actually had a sister, and that she was the subject of their dispute. So let's think about this: what were the causes of the world's first dispute, which led to the world's first murder? Land, religion and jealousy over a woman.

The Midrash demonstrates the power of the Torah's silence. Had it given us the details, we might never have been able to apply the lessons of this first murder to our own lives as well as the Midrash did for us. Because of the Torah's silence on this matter, the Midrash was able to explore the issue of murder and remind us that whether it's Cain and Abel or any other set of people or nations, the issues that potentially lead to murder apply in every generation, in every language and religion, and around the entire globe. This is one of the divine cases when the Torah's silence speaks more powerfully than its words.

BY DANIEL BOUSKILA

Daniel Bouskila is the rabbi of Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel in Los Angeles. His last article in OLAM was "Sephardic Angel."

the terror of not knowing

by Yael Haran

WHEN TERROR strikes there is no warning. At this moment and on this day, humanity is divided against itself and millions of innocent citizens glimpse over the brink into a sea of impending disaster. We don't know what the next days, months or years will hold. Another holocaust of the innocent? The loss of whole American cities? We can't see the future that our grandchildren will inherit. Our imagination lurches into the abyss of uncertainty, and returns with incapacitating images of thousands dead from pulmonary anthrax, of hoards of Kurdish children poisoned by cyanide gas, of millions caught in a holocaust of nuclear terror. In the realm of not-knowing, the phantasm is unleashed and can become the chief propaganda of our enemy – that invisible fiend called Terror.

As you read this, America is on nuclear alert and homeland security teams scan for "loose nukes" that could vanquish 100,000 cherished lives in one small atomic mushroom. While we browse the heavens for answers, armies of medical researchers are perfecting a new class of smallpox vaccine. Every day of every month, the world's greatest minds are working on biological sensors, on new classes of antibiotics, on borders impermeable to smuggled uranium. While we sleep, military ambassadors comb the globe for the weapons of mass destruction that could obliterate the free world. We don't know and they don't know when the serial killer called terror will strike next or what will be its face. And this is not a Hollywood movie, it is the terror of not knowing.

Take a deep breath and begin to relax. Any noise you hear while reading this will just cause you to relax more. You are giving yourself this time, and you know that nothing is important to you right now in this moment except the moment itself. We are enduring a revolution. In great ways and small, a sense of uncertainty prevails. In the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks, we have uncovered new resources of strength that we can tap into for their healing power. As families, communities and nations, we have heard the drumbeat of war, and we begin to see how to generate a sense of protection, on all plains: physical, emotional, mental and spiritual.

Let us imagine we are all young Israelis. In the decade since the 1991 Gulf War, when the entire population was drilled in preparedness for non-conventional attack, we learned about terror and how to deal with its chief weapon – surprise, the unknowns of time, place, method and impact. As Israelis, we are pioneers in facing the persistent anxiety this provokes. We are experienced riders of the unpredictable, of revolutions in our national reality, and we know something of how to turn that vulnerability into a dynamic flexibility. It is a fact as hard as a golden stone that Israeli citizens adapt, create, endure and protect one another.

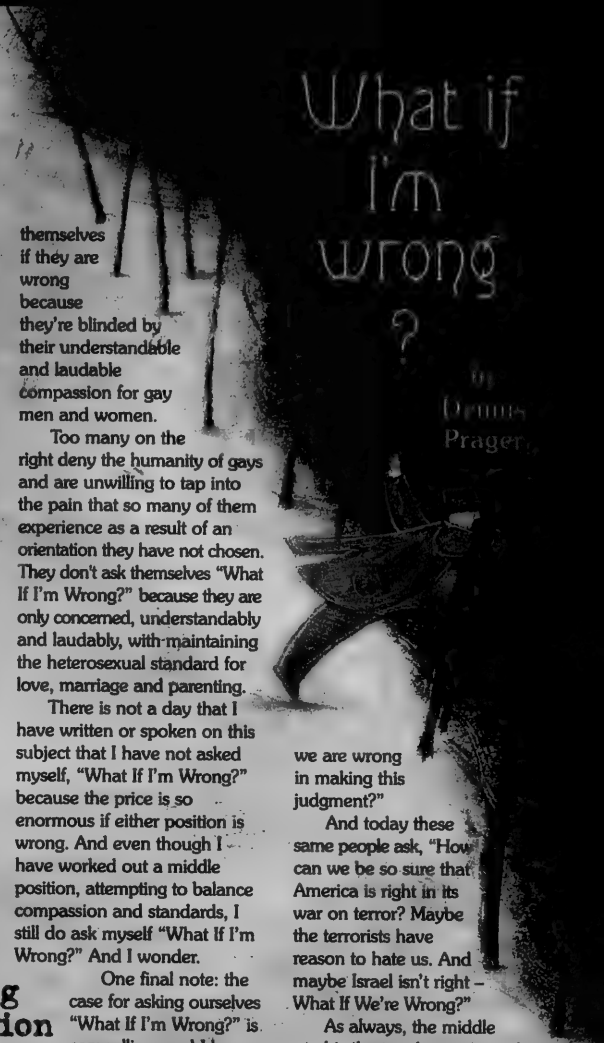
For 20 years, Prof. Moshe Kirshenbaum of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has been compiling statistics to advise Israel's home-front command on preparing populations for non-conventional attacks. His findings reveal an oasis of certainties. The family unit, he says, is the best basis for readiness. Where there are families, there are sealed rooms with filters, there are updated gas-masks, battery-powered radios. After the family comes the community. Forward planning as a community relieves individuals from the anxiety of fear and brings preparedness to the greatest number. Above all, Prof. Kirshenbaum is eager to dispel one destructive myth. "People don't panic," he says. "The more they know, the more empowered they feel. The number one need of civilians in a crisis is to do something to help."

The unknown is terrifying. But clear information and empowerment of communities are the antidotes. Information, because we will find that even the most apocalyptic threat has a tangible dimension and can be overcome; community, because where there is compassion, the fearful one within becomes the greatest hero.

Yael Haran is co-founder of www.noble-eagle-operation.com, *part of a network of sites offering threat assessments, news, views and practical information to empower citizens of the free world against terror. She lives in Jerusalem.*

What if I'm wrong?

by Dennis Prager



THE EDITORS have asked me to write an essay on the subject, "What If I'm Wrong?" To people familiar with my work, asking me to write on this subject must seem like asking a blind man to write about colors. I fully acknowledge that I have many firm beliefs and articulate them with little ambivalence.

So it may come as a surprise to learn that I *do* always ask myself, "What If I'm Wrong?"

I do so for a number of reasons.

First, it is impossible to maintain any level of intellectual honesty if you don't regularly ask yourself this question.

Second, repeatedly asking yourself this question prevents your beliefs from becoming irrational dogma maintained not because the belief is true, but because it keeps you comfortable.

Third, when you ask yourself this question and reaffirm your original belief, you do so with more vitality and with better arguments than before.

Fourth, it is very rare that opposing views are entirely wrong. The moment you acknowledge this, you have no choice but to ask yourself whether you may be wrong. And when you do, you can do one of three things: change your mind entirely, modify your position to incorporate the truths of the opposing position, or reaffirm your original belief with greater vigor, now that you have honestly encountered the possibility that the opposing view may be right.

For these reasons, I always ask myself, "What If I'm Wrong?"

Let me offer two particularly significant examples:

I have devoted decades to arguing for God's existence in largely secular forums such as radio, television, universities and in print. Yet I have often asked myself "What If I'm Wrong?" For the truth is that while I am as close to certain about God's existence as one can be about anything that is not empirically provable, I constantly work at maintaining my faith. Moreover, while I consider the arguments of atheists and agnostics wrong, they are sometimes quite intelligent. And by incorporating them, my ability to argue for faith in God has greatly increased.

But what *if* I'm wrong about the existence of God?

Frankly, if there were no God, I would become a depressed person. This is not hyperbole. The consequences of there not being a God (or of not believing that there is one, which is the same thing in terms of the consequences) make happiness virtually impossible for anyone sensitive to human suffering. There is so much evil and so much unjust suffering in the world that the thought that there is no God and therefore no ultimate justice, and nothing out there that cares about the tortured souls of this world, is too painful to ponder.

The second example is what I believe to be the single most complex question of our time, that of homosexuality.

> **"Repeatedly asking yourself this question prevents your beliefs from becoming irrational dogma, maintained not because the belief is true, but because it keeps you comfortable."**

Too few people, it seems to me, ask themselves, "What If I'm Wrong?"

Too many on the left are willing to demolish millennia of standards – such as the definition of marriage and the need to give children whenever possible the chance of having a mother and father. They don't ask themselves if they are wrong because they're blinded by their understandable and laudable compassion for gay men and women.

Too many on the right deny the humanity of gays and are unwilling to tap into the pain that so many of them experience as a result of an orientation they have not chosen. They don't ask themselves "What If I'm Wrong?" because they are only concerned, understandably and laudably, with maintaining the heterosexual standard for love, marriage and parenting.

There is not a day that I have written or spoken on this subject that I have not asked myself, "What If I'm Wrong?" because the price is so enormous if either position is wrong. And even though I have worked out a middle position, attempting to balance compassion and standards, I still do ask myself "What If I'm Wrong?" And I wonder.

One final note: the case for asking ourselves "What If I'm Wrong?" is compelling, and I hope I have articulated that case here. But just as there are grave dangers in never asking this question, there is an equally grave danger that always asking the question can lead to moral paralysis.

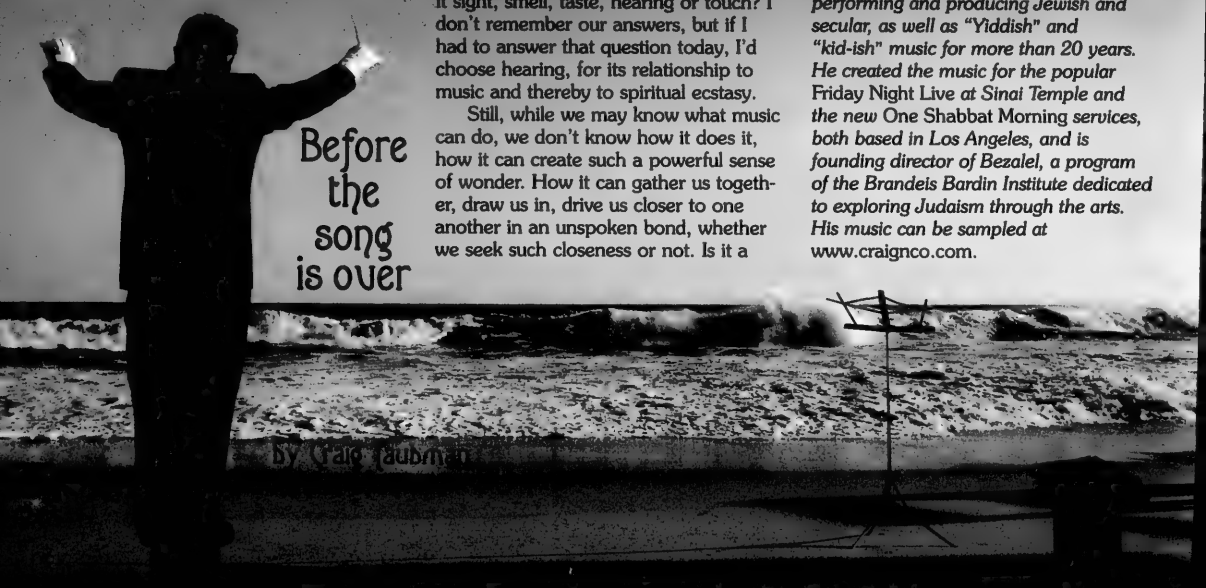
Indeed, that is a great danger in the West today (just as a lack of self-questioning is the frightening danger emanating from the Islamic world today). Too many people in the West have succumbed to a moral paralysis because of this question. "Who are we to call the Soviet Union an 'evil empire'"? they asked. "What if we are wrong in making this judgment?"

And today these same people ask, "How can we be so sure that America is right in its war on terror? Maybe the terrorists have reason to hate us. And maybe Israel isn't right – What If We're Wrong?"

As always, the middle road is the toughest one to travel on. We *do* have to always ask ourselves, "What If I'm Wrong?" That helps keep us from falling into fanaticism and irrationality. But if we were to let that question prevent us from making moral decisions and fighting the good fight, well, that would be wrong.

Dennis Prager, author, theologian and radio talk show host, lectures to communities around the world. His latest book is Happiness is a Serious Problem, *and his last articles for OLAM were "Rewinding 9/11" and "The Gift." He may be contacted at www.dennisprager.com.*

Before the song is over



by Craig Taubman

THE TASK THE EDITOR gave me sounded simple: "Tell us about the mystery of music, in 750 words or less."

I told her that if I could describe music with words, there would be no need for music. Music is like a kiss, or the embrace of a parent or a child: It is one thing to experience and another thing to describe. I sat down with my laptop in search of words. I found many words but unfortunately very little to say.

An idea came to me. I called the editor and asked her if, in lieu of an essay, it would be possible to insert a CD of music into every copy of OLAM. Certainly that would enable the reader to "hear the music," and I could definitely do it in 750 words or less. My idea was hit with a sudden burst of indifference. I went back to my laptop.

How can we explain music? In music, I find a beauty that cannot be expressed verbally or dissected intellectually. Music is so pure, so different from speech or text. The Hasidim know this perhaps better than most. While they are well versed in Torah and other scholarly texts, it is often through song that they reach levels of spiritual ecstasy. Traditional Hasidic songs are often inspired by and rooted in words, but they evolve into melodies that are wordless. These melodies, or *niggunim*, have tremendous emotional and spiritual power.

A great teacher of mine from the 18th century, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov, put it quite poetically when he said, "Come here, I will show you a new way to the Creator – not through speech, but through song! Let us sing and Heaven will understand us." It is nothing that we can understand, but rather that Heaven will understand us!

I'm fortunate enough to make my living in music. Sometimes I am quite pleased with the writing that I've done. Often it's just a clever rhyme, or a neatly fitting lyric that gives me a measure of satisfaction. This I understand, but there are also holy melodies, sacred melodies that sing to me from a place deep in my soul. These fill me with wonder and awe. I don't understand them.

I discover these melodies as if by chance, but I think it is no accident that they reveal themselves to me. When writing them I feel years of history and culture flowing through me. When I sing them over and over, they dance round and round, much like the Hasidim, and take me to new levels. I find myself going higher and higher and at the same time deeper and deeper, merging with the moment and, it seems, everything around me.

I remember how my family would often sit around the Shabbat table when I was a child and argue over which of our senses was the most important. Was it sight, smell, taste, hearing or touch? I don't remember our answers, but if I had to answer that question today, I'd choose hearing, for its relationship to music and thereby to spiritual ecstasy.

Still, while we may know what music can do, we don't know how it does it, how it can create such a powerful sense of wonder. How it can gather us together, draw us in, drive us closer to one another in an unspoken bond, whether we seek such closeness or not. Is it a coincidence that God, the Holy One, placed our voice boxes right between our minds and our hearts? Or is this a glorious, deliberate design, making our voices a fulcrum to help us balance our feelings and our world?

We may be able to describe the particular notes, measure the vibrations and count out the rhythms in miniscule detail. But we never really know how they will touch us or others. Every time we sing, every time there is music and song, the opportunity changes and we too can be changed. As we search for new ways to attract and retain Jewish souls, and to build bridges among us, perhaps sweet song can show us the way.

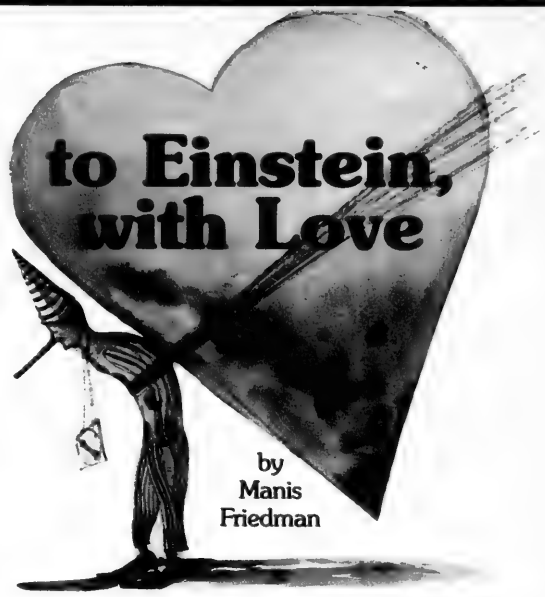
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said: "Mankind will not perish for want of information, but only for want of appreciation. The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living."

What a gift, how perfect: music, one of the great joys in life, which we can never really understand but only enjoy!

So, for just a moment, close the magazine.... remember a song.... close your eyes and open your heart.... let yourself wander in wonder.... and open yourself to the mystery, before the song is over.

Craig Taubman has been writing, performing and producing Jewish and secular, as well as "Yiddish" and "kid-ish" music for more than 20 years. He created the music for the popular Friday Night Live *at Sinai Temple and the new* One Shabbat Morning *services, both based in Los Angeles, and is founding director of Bezalel, a program of the Brandeis Bardin Institute dedicated to exploring Judaism through the arts. His music can be sampled at* www.craignco.com.

to Einstein, with Love



by Manis Friedman

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE unknowable is not only inevitable, it is also ennobling. What we know makes us intelligent. What we don't know makes us nicer people. Let's understand this:

"To You silence is praise, G-d in Zion, and to You shall the vow be paid. You hear our prayer – to You shall all flesh be brought." (Psalm 65)

Praise creates a bond of closeness between the praiser and the one being praised. As in the ladder of prayer that stands on earth and reaches into heaven connecting the worshipper to G-d through the praises in prayer, the very description of that which is G-dly and noble raises the worshipper out of his workday existence; he transcends it. He is nobler.

"To You silence is praise" means that our connection to You (G-d Himself) comes about through silence. What then is this silence that is capable of connecting man with the *ein-sof*, the infinite light?

A thinking person knows that the realm of knowledge comprises the known and the unknown. The thinking person takes great pleasure in understanding a subject clearly, thoroughly and conclusively.

When he encounters something unknowable he does not abandon the subject, he studies it through a process of elimination. He cannot understand infinity for he does not know what it is, but he will be very clear as to what it is not. He will know exactly what it is about infinity that is inexplicable and what exactly makes it so.

Albert Einstein, contemplating his finite universe, is moored to a cosmic religious experience – "the most beautiful, profound emotion is the sensation of the mystical. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who cannot wonder in rapt awe, is as good as dead." This he describes as "the truest religious experience."

But the thinking person does not stop there. The quest continues. For he knows that understanding must yield to what is above it, namely *gehfil* – insight that results from understanding but also transcends it. Logic may be captured in words, *gehfil* cannot be. *Gehfil* is neither strengthened by evidence nor weakened by contradictions.

The great physicist Max Planck writes, "Science is the unending endeavor towards an aim which the poetic intuition may apprehend but which the intellect can never grasp."

Every conclusion reached in the realm of knowledge is debatable. All logic can and will eventually be replaced by greater logic. The thinking person wants to arrive at an immutable truth or an undeniable reality. This takes him beyond the realm of knowledge into the world of *hergesh*, a *gehfil* or recognition of truth. A place in our soul where the ring of truth is apprehended – "poetic intuition."

This *hergesh*-truth, once attained, cannot be challenged by arguments or logic. It is immutable.

Thus great minds speak of the humbling effects of awe and wonderment. Those who most appreciate the magnitude of creation, tiny specks of protoplasm dwarfed by a universe that is itself a tiny speck of matter in an infinite void, lift their eyes to heaven and wonder, "Who created all this?"

"Rapt awe," "wonderment" – this much Mr. Einstein experienced.

The beautiful mystery is in the transition moment when the mind goes from logic to *hergesh*. When the mind reaches the outer limits of the knowable it is stunned into silence. It enters a place in our soul where there is no 'noise' – all desires, urges, needs, fears, and opinions are still. Everything that makes a person who and what he is cannot enter this place in the soul and so it is silent.

"Mr. Einstein, don't stop at wonderment. Go for the hergesh!"

Dear, Mr. Einstein: A true religious experience is a relationship *with the Divine. It is not enough to marvel at your wife's beauty or stand in awe of her unconditional devotion and wonder at the sweetness that turns even a great brain to mush. If your wife says, "I'm hungry," you can't say, "Shhhhh, I'm in awe. I'm marveling. I'm adoring you." And when she says, "But I'd really like something to eat," you can't say, "I love you." You must move from the realm of observation into the realm of* hergesh, *where her hunger is real, undeniable, and you must respond to her reality.*

The silent place in the soul is not passive. The refined mind appreciates the subtle stirrings within that silence: a stillness, a yearning, a hopefulness. In the stillness is a yearning to recognize the truth. The yearning awakens a hopefulness. He waits and yearns, waits and hopes, for a *hergesh*.

This part of the soul is called *tzion*, a marker or sign. A marker exists not for itself but to indicate the existence of another. This part of the soul is silent of all self-need and exists only to recognize the needs of another.

Mr. Einstein, don't stop at wonderment. Go for the hergesh! *You've discovered the Creator, now see Him as He is. What does He want with creation? What are His needs? What can you do for Him? And feel your wife's needs. Serve her the way she needs to be served.*

Tzion is the G-dliness of the soul. "G-d in Tzion." And in that place we carry a vow. The vow we made before birth – "Be righteous and be not sinful." It is the vow we made at Sinai. "We will do and we will hear." In that place we know that "To you our vow will be paid." A vow must be fulfilled. Inevitably, all vows will be paid. So, "All flesh will come before You." For He desires for the mitzvah to be performed in the flesh. From the awe and wonderment we move to *hergesh*, feel His need, and put on the tefillin, eat the matzoh, immerse in the mikvah....

Mr. Einstein! The Creator, before Whom you are humbled in awe, created the universe, you and your awe. Shouldn't you yearn to know Him? Follow the path to hergesh *into His reality. Hear your wife the way she sounds in that place of silence. Fulfill your vow. Go into the stillness and serve her the way she needs to be served. In simple language, Mr. Einstein, go over and hug her.*

Rabbi Manis Friedman is a world-renowned speaker and author of Doesn't Anyone Blush Any More? *The insight into the silence of the soul is based on* Likkutei Dibburim, *an anthology of talks by Rabbi Y.Y. Schneerson, father-in-law of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe.*

What about Mashiach?

Who will it be? When will he be here? Let's see what the great Maimonides (1135-1204) had to say about it in his Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings, Chapter 12, Law 2:

"All these matters concerning the Messianic times cannot be known by man until they actually occur, for they are mysterious and undefined in the words of the prophets. Even the sages have no clear established tradition regarding these matters beyond what is implied by these verses. Hence, there is a divergence of opinion among them. In any case, neither the sequence of these events nor their precise details are among the fundamental principles of faith. One should not occupy himself at length with aggadoth and midrashim that deal with these and similar matters, nor should he deem them of prime importance, for they bring one to neither the awe nor the love of God."

"We cannot know"

a LETTER to the EDITOR

Our last issue, "Jerusalem In Living Color," generated a tremendous number of responses. Here is one of them, from the Speaker of the Israeli Parliament, Avraham Burg, which coincidentally fits the searching theme of this issue.

My name is Avraham. The name of the founder of the Jewish nation. I was born 47 years ago in the city that is closest to the heavens. I was born in the capital city of God on High: Jerusalem.

My city, Jerusalem, is not a simple city. It is a city whose heart beats with the hearts of billions of believers every day of the year. It is the city whose fate will be decided soon.

Israel has gone to considerable lengths in the pursuit of peace. Because it is clear to all of us that where there is no peace, innocent people die.

We, the Israelis, await the compromise that will be the Palestinians' response. And from this OLAM forum I call to them, in the name of all Israel: Do not say no! This is no time for stubbornness! Think of the history, think of the children of the peoples of the region, and say yes to compromise. Do not wait for absolute peace because war will come first. Do not wait for the next opportunity, for it may never come.

I hope that the entire world will join me in my prayers for peace – that the days of suffering and war in our region have ended – and in the hope that innocent people will no longer perish in the battlefields.

I was born in this city, this beautiful and tortured city. I know and respect its many faithful and its many faiths.

I would be the last to dismiss or belittle the holiness of this city to the followers of the monotheistic religions that sprang forth from Judaism. I will defend to my dying breath the rights and religious freedom of all those who love Jerusalem. The Children of Abraham, the believers in Jesus Christ, and the followers of Allah, the merciful and compassionate, and Mohammed his Prophet (Rasul Allah).

At the same time, I will demand no less respect for the holiness of Jerusalem from the millions of Jews who cast their eyes to her, who died in their quest for her over the three thousand years of Jewish civilization.

Only a formula for peace that is built on a foundation of "respect for the sacred" will enable all of us to dwell for generations as respected citizens in the city of God.

Jerusalem of peace, in accordance with Israel's position, will not only be the capital of Israel, the only Jewish state in the world, but will become the world capital of democracy.

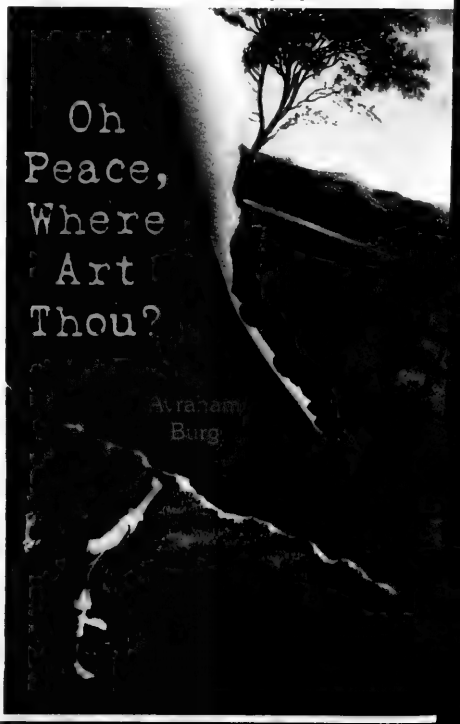
A city of peace and understanding, a city whose sovereignty belongs to God, but whose existence depends on understanding, mercy and love between men and women – in the vision of God.

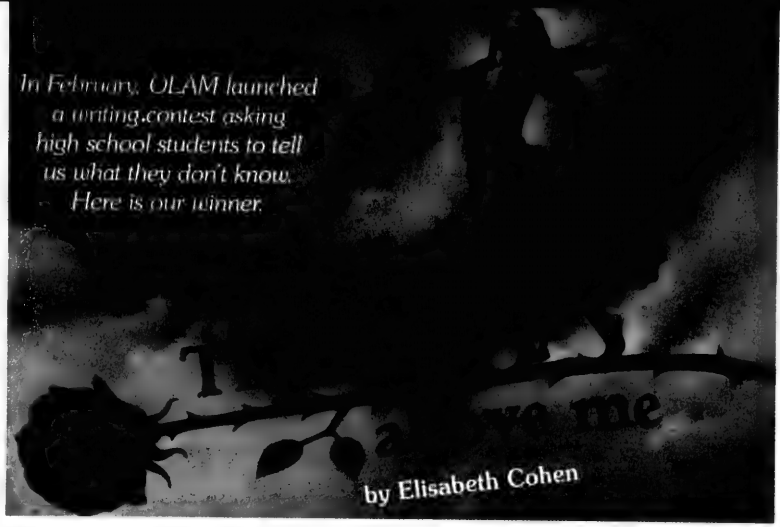
I would like to invite all of you to the Holy City. I would like to extend a hand of peace to all those who have not yet joined the circle of peace in the Middle East.

I await the day that the leader of Iran, the President of Syria, the President of Iraq, the President of Libya and the entire Islamic world come to Jerusalem in peace and in the joy of the faithful.

What better place than Jerusalem, the cradle of Western civilization, to be the city where our nations shall begin the dialogue.

For this is the prophetic vision of the Jewish people for all times: "My House shall be called a House of Worship for all peoples."





In February, OLAM launched a writing contest asking high school students to tell us what they don't know. Here is our winner.

I Know Me

by Elisabeth Cohen

EVER SINCE the Renaissance, humankind has been out to quantify, understand, and thus surpass nature. To master natural laws limiting our motion and our energy, and so no longer fear them. With nearly ceaseless activity, higher and higher again and yet higher and still higher than that... only in the 20th century, in the wake of so much genocide and radioactive ash, did we learn to fear ourselves as we once feared nature, and to accept the possibility of human self-limitation. We gave up perpetual motion along with faster-than-light travel and immortality. Yet in an ultimate irony, in our own age, having given up on the invention of a perpetual motion machine, we have created one by accident. It sprang up spontaneously, out of that other less-regarded by-product of devastating world war ... pain.

This is Human pain, which can self-perpetuate indefinitely once it reaches a critical point in a terrifying chain reaction. Pain which begets violence, which begets pain, which begets violence. People are distorted by pain. They are radicalized. Pain and reaction to pain takes over other human functions; it stands in lieu of moral authority, in lieu of reason. We can – and do, and always will – continue ruminating upon the disastrous state of the world, but it is hardly constructive. The question, then, is much harder, because it moves a step away from easy despair and towards assumption of responsibility. So then how can we – as individuals, as societies, as a human race – learn to stop hurting one another? In what way can we break the escalating cycles of victimization, self-fueled by an experience of pain that transcends the rational?

How does one stop a perpetual motion machine?

How are we advised to deal with pain? Our society is full of answers: "Put it behind you." "Don't fight it – ride it out." "You have to get help to accept what happened." The idea is that humans have the power, through affirmative action, through muckraking exposes, through a peace process, through hundreds of self-help books, to "deal" with pain such that it will no longer have to be dealt with. Is the human memory so short? Does remembered agony, like the poet Langston Hughes' dream deferred, "dry up like a raisin in the sun" until it is nothing? And do we really want to live in a world where after a sin is atoned for it disappears? I think restitution should be made, however possible, to those who have been victimized – but I am profoundly disturbed by the proposition that there are easy solutions to human suffering.

"Yet in an ultimate irony, having given up on the invention of a perpetual motion machine, we have created one by accident: pain."

"Does it explode?" the poet asks. The simplest reaction to pain is to strike back. Agony leaves the tightness of the well-conducted soul. It flows freely, through the hand and into the trigger. It is transmuted from a nightmare turned inward and becomes a nightmare shared, a nightmare made real in the world and thus liberating the lonely imagination. At least for a moment, if feels good to lash out. It feels right. Except that the nightmares don't go away. They enter into the tight places of those hurt; they enter into the nightmares of children who once believed in a safe world. They withdraw again into the victim-turned-killer, undiminished, seeking once again their outlet. And the nightmares grow, and as the world goes on, so too does the pain. The mechanism is simple, and it is chilling. And the worst part is that it is understandable. It is satisfying, if only for a moment. Scratching a mosquito bite makes it worse in the end; knowing this doesn't stop anybody from scratching. Taking charge and denying responsibility – what a temptation.

Jews lived for two thousand years in a situation where violent response to pain was impossible. What did they do? Perhaps they internalized it, managed to shoulder the burden quietly, to live the role of the victim who can't fight back. Strength or weakness – who can say? And now that we have our own state, what can we take from that exile? What strategies do we dismiss as crippling? Which can we adapt to the current crisis? A. B. Yehoshua said, when I met him as a member of a student group traveling in Israel, that the most fundamental truth of the Arab-Israeli conflict is that these two peoples will live side by side *forever*. Forever, with everlasting memories of the pain we give and receive today ricocheting from generation to generation.

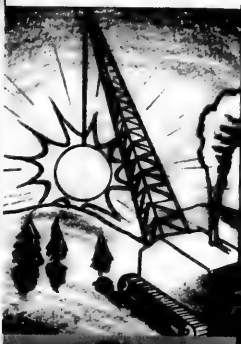
I am 17 years old. I live in the United States, which is surely as safe as anywhere, despite everything. The roaring of these winds is above my head, for the most part. I do not suffer greatly. But I do care. And I yearn to understand. And when I think I do understand a little, I see myself no closer to understanding. I look into a future that I cannot see, a future that should be new and exciting for a young woman about to venture out into the world. And when I look as myself, it is. When I look as part of a larger and more frightening world that somehow must take responsibility for itself, as a small cog in a vast perpetual motion machine, I shudder.

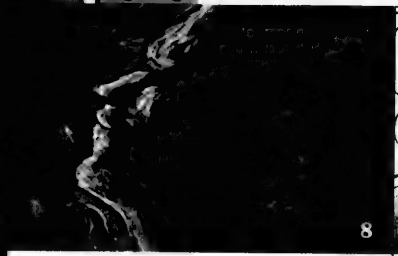
Elisabeth Cohen is a senior at Milken Community High School in Los Angeles. Last summer she traveled to Israel as a Bronfman Youth Fellow, to which she credits many of the insights of this article.

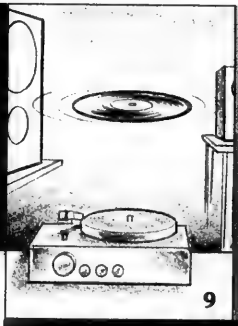
Got questions? So do we, a new one every week! Here's our hit parade:

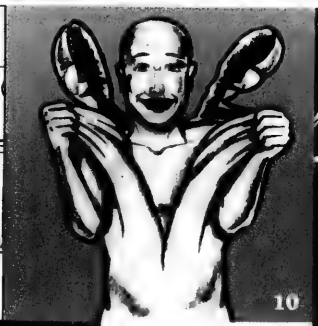
1. What does it mean to have higher consciousness?
2. Do men and women marry for the same reasons?
3. Do you fear changes in life or embrace them?
4. Can you name a physical location or a time in your life where you feel the most spirituality?
5. Who do you consider to be your spiritual leader, and can you tell us why?
6. In your conception of God, does God need help?
7. What do you consider a spiritual gift?
8. Is our spirituality affected by the environment in which we live?
9. What makes music spiritual?
10. What is your spiritual resolution for 2002?
11. Is destruction part of God's creation?
12. Do you believe in miracles? If so, what kind?
13. Does your life reflect your beliefs?
14. Is there ever a justification for hate?
15. What does Passover mean to you?

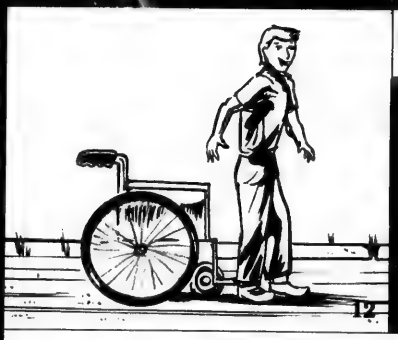
All illustrations by Malcomb Davis except #14 by Ginna Ladd.

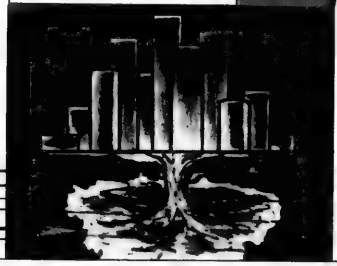












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Hit us with your best

What really happened at Sinai and who was standing next to me there?
– Laura Geller

How truthful and accurate is one supposed to be when writing recommendations on behalf of others?
– Joseph Telushkin

Why should some people expect God to intervene in their lives by performing miracles?
– Allen Freehling

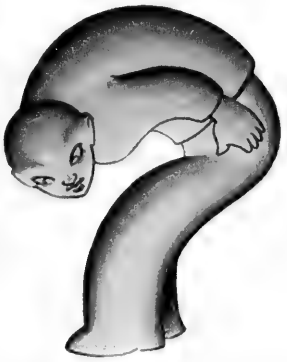
The Hasidic masters taught, "If your child has a talent to be a baker, do not ask him to be a doctor." How can we raise young children "in the way they should go" when we're not yet sure who they are?
– Wendy Mogel

The question is: what are the questions we have answers for, and what are the questions that are beyond Man's grasp and are more in the realm of faith?
– Joshua Bittan

How do great Hasidic rebbes find the strength to deal each day with a succession of stories of pain, suffering, strife and disappointment, and still respond to their interlocutors with sensitivity and insight, while I cannot read the morning headlines without feeling crushed and drained?
– Yitzchok Adlerstein

How do you cook for twenty and still find time to laugh?
– Isabelle Suissa

On the Shabbat before Rosh Chodesh, Jews recite the words: "Haverim kol Yisrael" (all Israel are friends). What are people thinking when they say this?
– Yosef Kanefsky



(Give us your answers at OLAM.org)

What are the magic words I can plant in my students that can give them the strength and inspiration to grow many years later?
– Shira Smiles

Why does fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?
– Bryan Shapiro

Why has it taken so many years for me to realize that when the Torah says "Be kind, don't be arrogant," etc., the Torah is talking to ME?
– Sterna Citron

Why is it that many of our people will pay scalpers to get front row seats to a Broadway show or a hot concert, but insist on sitting in the back rows of the synagogue?
– Ron Wolfson

What does Judaism have in common with Islam?
– Harold Schulweis

Is it right to laugh at someone who slips on a banana peel?
– Jerry Stiller

Will we ever get along – with ourselves, with each other, with humanity, with creation?
– Bradley Shavit Artson

"If Moses had had room on the Tablets for an 11th commandment, what would it have been?"
– Daniel Landes

When our souls return, can they choose their form of reincarnation?
– Gahl Sasson

If a husband eats fleishik (meat) while his wife eats cheese, is it kosher for them to kiss?
– Sherri Ziff

Will Mashiach be AshkeFardic UltraRefoConservaDox?
– Tova Suissa

Is it politically incorrect to be called the Chosen people?
– Stuie Wax

What would the child I was think of the adult I have become?
– David Wolpe

Is it better to have been the fifth Beatle, than to never have been a Beatle at all?
– Mike Indgin

I have five daughters and seven sons, six of them married with children. They were all raised Chassidic Jews in LaLa Land, and they're all still Chassidic. Is that a miracle?
– Shlomo Schwartz

We have many stories of the men of the Talmud and their practices, but we know little about the women. What would it have truly been like to be a woman living in the time of the Talmud?
– Mimi Weisel

What does God laugh at?
– Stephen Kessler

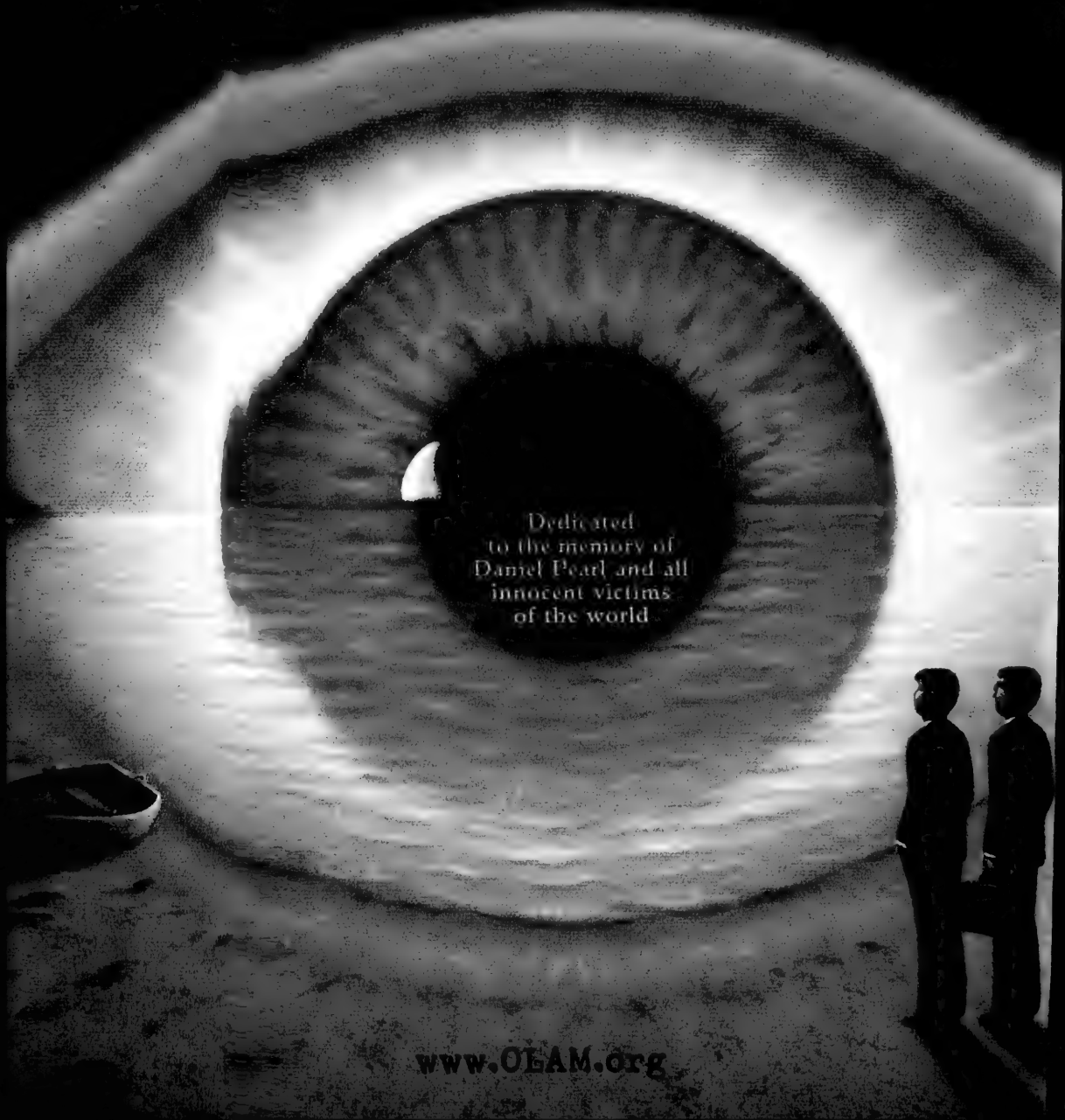
What happens at the moment before death – a wrenching from one reality to the next, an overwhelming sense of the failures and regrets of one's life, or the sensation of wholeness and oneness and light?
– Yossi Klein Halevi

What if I'm wrong?
– Shiraz Venokur

My mama told me something that can change the world: Finish every sentence with a question mark – Udi Shamay

עולם

כסלו 2002 / תשכ"ב



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This Week

National

Muslim cleric says intifadah contrary to Islam.
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Israel like canary in coal mine, Bar-Ilan president says.
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Israel Under Attack

Special report on the current crisis in Israel.
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Arts & Travel

Therac 25 is a totally believable one-act play.
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Sports & Leisure

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Legislators return from Israel

Record number on CIC mission

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

A record number of Canadian members of Parliament and senators returned from a mission to Israel last week with a better appreciation of the country's plight, says the trip's organizer, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC).

"I don't think they feel they went on a mission. I think they feel they're now *on* a mission," said CIC national executive director Shimon Fogel, who took an unprecedented 22 MPs and five senators on a trip to Israel from April 26 to 29.

Normally, the CIC's annual parliamentary mission takes eight to 10 MPs to Israel, and in the summer, when the House of Commons is in recess.

This time, the House was in session and the CIC had to secure the approval of party whips to allow the parliamentarians to attend.

"It was a challenge. It was quite an undertaking," said Fogel. "But people should understand the extent to which Parliament accommodated us."

The CIC didn't need to advertise the trip too much, either, as lawmakers came forward of their own accord. "Word spread quickly," said Fogel. "We didn't have to recruit anyone."

In fact, it was the largest single Canadian parliamentary mission anywhere, he noted. And the delegation was warmly received everywhere in Israel. "There was a palpable appreciation for their presence."

Participants included two Jewish MPs (Jacques Saada and Anita Neville), two Jewish senators (Jack Austin and Richard Kroft) and at least two MPs with large Jewish constituencies.

The jam-packed itinerary included meetings with Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, military and security briefings, and meetings with Knesset members and academics on both sides of the ongoing conflict.

Continued on page 36

Jordanian prince stresses moderation

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Exclusive interview

TORONTO — Even in these times of intense conflict, His Royal Highness Prince Firas bin Raad of Jordan believes that peace in the Middle East is attainable.

In an exclusive interview with *The CJN*, the Harvard-educated prince focused on the importance of dialogue at all levels in changing the psychology of the conflict and developing an ethic of peace.

Accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Dana and their nine-month-old daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Safa, Firas was here recently as the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program's (CISEPO) visiting professor for peace.

Prince Firas bin Raad of Jordan
[Munk Centre for Int'l Studies photo]

Reflecting the vision and leadership that facilitated the 1994 Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, which has withstood the current crisis, the prince talked about the importance of personal alliances in moving the peace process forward.

Continued on page 34

Jurists discuss Mideast human rights

A group of lawyers and jurists from Ontario visited Israel last week to explore human rights issues. Former Ontario premier Bob Rae (second from right) was part of the trip, which was organized by Ed Morgan (right). Seen here, the delegation meets with a number of social activists at the community centre of Kyriat Moshe in Rehovot.

A full report on the visit will appear soon in *The CJN*.

[Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Bamidbar
Candlelighting: 8:11
Havdallah: 9:16

Moroccan, Tunisian Jews encouraged to make aliyah — see page 40

The News in Brief

CANADA

Eggleton's Letter

OTTAWA — Defence minister Art Eggleton has condemned anti-Jewish attacks "in the strongest of terms." In a recent letter to Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Eggleton said he was "outraged" to hear of anti-Semitic attacks in Toronto. "I want to say to you unequivocally that I stand with the Jewish community at this difficult time," he wrote.

ISRAEL

Jews Arrested

JERUSALEM — Two Israeli Jews were arrested last week on charges of planning attacks on Arabs in eastern Jerusalem. A Jerusalem court accepted a request by the domestic security service and refused to allow the two to meet with their lawyer, citing the sensitivity of the case. The court has barred publication of any further details about the case.

Poppy Field

JERUSALEM — Israeli police have discovered a vast field of opium-producing poppies in the centre of the country. Investigators speculated the field had potential to produce opium worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Police are trying to locate those who planted the field.

WORLD

Shul Attack in U.K.

LONDON — Vandals attacked a London-area synagogue late last month. After forcing their way into the synagogue in Finsbury Park, the vandals defiled holy books, splattered paint on the Aron Kodesh, threw prayer shawls and skull caps on the floor, and trampled an Israeli flag. They also daubed a swastika and smashed windows.

...and in Russia

MOSCOW — A wave of synagogue vandalism has swept across Russia. On April 6, a Star of David and a swastika were scratched onto the door of a synagogue in Orenburg. A few days later, vandals painted the words "Throw Israel into the sea," along with a swastika, on the walls of the local Jewish welfare centre. On April 12, the words "Jews go home" were found at a Jewish centre in the city of Yoshkar-Ola. On April 14, the windows of the Rostov synagogue were broken. A week later, the words "Death to the Jews" and a swastika were scrawled on the walls of the synagogue.

...and in Germany

BERLIN — A Molotov cocktail was thrown onto the lawn of the Frankeluefer Synagogue in Berlin's Kreuzberg district last week. The fire was doused and damage was minimal. Police reported no leads.

Kids Responsible

BRATISLAVA — Three schoolchildren have been held responsible for one of the worst desecrations of a Slovak Jewish cemetery since the Holocaust. Up to 135 gravestones were damaged or destroyed in the attack on the cemetery in the city of Kosice last month. Authorities said three children, aged between 11 and 13, damaged the gravestones because they were looking for gold underneath, adding that they were too young to be prosecuted.

Farrakhan Ban

LONDON — Britain's Court of Appeal has upheld the government's right to bar Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan from the country. The court said the ban was based on reasonable fears that Farrakhan's "notorious opinions" were a threat to public order. The court also ruled that Farrakhan cannot appeal the decision to the House of Lords, Britain's highest court.

Aliyah Down

MOSCOW — Immigration to Israel from the former Soviet Union is down 50 per cent this year. More than 5,200 new immigrants arrived in Israel from the former Soviet Union in the first four months of this year, a drop of nearly 50 per cent from the same period in 2001.

Jews Weigh Israel

RANGOON — The remnant of Myanmar's once-thriving Jewish community is considering leaving for Israel. Only 20 Jews from eight families remain in the nation once known as Burma, and many of them are planning to leave for Israel, Jewish leader Moses Samuels told Reuters.

Online Mameloshen

NEW YORK — A digital library of Yiddish books is now available on the Internet. Users can purchase some 12,000 books in the Steven Spielberg Digital Yiddish Library, which has been created by the National Yiddish Book Centre. The library is at www.yiddishbooks.org.

Witness Silent on Bombing Attack

BUENOS AIRES — A key witness in the trial of 20 people accused of helping to bomb Buenos Aires' main Jewish community centre has refused to answer a key question.

Carlos Alberto Telleldin, a used car dealer, is accused of supplying the van used to carry explosives in the 1994 attack, which killed 85 people and wounded 300.

Testifying late last month, Telleldin refused to say who bought the van.

"I am not going to talk about that," he told the packed courthouse.

"I never thought the van was going to be used for a terrorist attack," he said.

Prosecutors had anxiously awaited Telleldin's testimony to see if he would implicate former police officers thought to have been involved in the attack.

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Muslim cleric says intifadah contrary to Islam

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — There is no basis in Islam for anti-Zionism and the current intifadah is, in fact, contrary to Islamic law, says an outspoken Italian Muslim scholar, who publicly condemns the Palestinian Authority and its chairman Yasser Arafat for distorting the teachings of Islam for their own purposes.

During his recent visit to Canada, Sheikh Abdul Hadi Palazzi said in an interview with *The CJN* that the Qu'uran recognizes the Land of Israel as the heritage of the Jews and that the modern State of Israel is the fulfillment of the prophecy that, before the Last Judgment, the Jewish people will return to dwell there.

Those who rise up against Israel in the name of Islam are committing "fitnah," meaning apostasy and sedition, Palazzi said, and those who encourage the ignorant to do so are "terrorist criminals."

He is a harsh critic of Palestinian suicide bombers and what he sees as the sacrifice of children in the current intifadah. No "paradise" awaits those who die this way, Palazzi said. "Islam forbids suicide for any reason."

He accuses "pseudo-Islamic" organizations, like Hamas, of cruelly exploiting the impoverished in refugee camps. "Unfortunately, it is true that their only opportunity for a better future lies in sacrificing their children as suicide bombers, for which they will be paid by these organizations."

The only justification for a Muslim to rebel against the government he or she lives under is if that authority prevents them from abiding by the laws and practices of Islam. That is definitely not the case with regard to Israel and Arabs under its jurisdiction, said Palazzi, who is emphatic that Muslims actually have more freedom in Israel than they do in many Arab states.

Palazzi says there is no need for a Palestinian state and that a nationality known as "Palestinian" never existed before 1967.

"A Palestinian state is inconceivable... It would simply be a time bomb under Israel, Jordan and the whole Middle East," he said. "In two to five years, it would become a basis for terrorism like Afghanistan under the Taliban."

Palazzi thinks the only "realistic" solution is to give the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza autonomous administration, similar to that now extended to the Tyrolean region of northern Italy, where German is the official language. But first the PLO, Hamas and other terrorist groups should be expelled from the area and "not one weapon" should be allowed to remain.

"There are already two 'Palestinian' states: Israel and Jordan. What is being suggested is a third Palestinian state," Palazzi said.

He also dismisses the notion that Jerusalem, because it is the traditional site of Mohammed's ascension to heaven, must be the Palestinian capital. "A city's religious status is not necessary connected to its political role... Mecca, for example,

Continued on page 28

ONE FAMILY: One Family helped Simcha and Yaffa Shumacher deal with aftermath of terrorist attacks. See story, page 15.

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Greater Toronto Area

The Old Man

From the editor's desk

He was called the Old Man, even when he was not very old. Except in his later years, the term never really referred to his age. Rather, it was a reference to his stature as the wise, commanding leader of the Jews of Palestine from the 1930s to 1948 and then, after May 14, 1948, of the State of Israel.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, was one of the last century's rare individuals, a man in whom clarity of thought, depth of intellect, single-mindedness of purpose, courage of conviction and wide, trans-generational, historical perspective merged into rock-hard resolution. More than any other man, he embodied the struggle for the rebirth of the ancient Jewish homeland into a modern, sovereign state for the stateless Jewish people.

As it was my good fortune to be in Jerusalem recently to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, it seemed only appropriate to visit the Old Man's home in Sdeh Boker, a kibbutz in the Negev Desert.

In 1953, Ben-Gurion somewhat tempestuously, as was his occasional manner, left the government and moved to the Negev Desert to join a group of young pioneers who, some months before, had founded a kibbutz called The Cowboy's (or Rancher's) Field – Sdeh Boker.

But by then he was already 67 years old and no longer cut out for punching cows or herding sheep. Thus, 14 months later, in 1955, he ended his retirement and returned to more familiar, more suitable chores in government in Jerusalem as minister of defence and then, again, as prime minister.

This tour of duty in Jerusalem would last eight years. In 1963, the Old Man resigned from the government, again rather abruptly, and returned to his modest home on the kibbutz where he would live the rest of his days, writing, greeting visitors, walking contemplatively if slowly, under the sparkling sky of the cool desert evenings.

Ben-Gurion's home, preserved in its original modesty and simplicity, is now a national museum in which some of the Old Man's personal belongings are displayed and part of his life story is recounted.

Being inside the Old Man's home, seeing some of the very human, very ordinary minutiae of his daily routines, seeing the volumes upon volumes of eclectic reading material and imagining his movement from room to room, gave this visitor a shiver of goosebumps.

Ben-Gurion's grave is a short drive away from his home. Alongside that of his wife Paula, who predeceased him by five years, it forms a lookout onto the hauntingly beautiful Wilderness of Zin. It is there, as recorded in the Torah, that our ancient forebears wandered for 40 years, changing their essence, like metal in a hot forge, from a rabble of slaves into a structured, law-abiding, free people.

The view from the graves is picturesque beyond description, southward onto a valley of beige, brown, grey and gold mesas of crusted sand, seemingly scythed uniformly across their tops by the eroding force of knife-edged winds.

As I sat on the smooth rock wall of the promontory, casting my gaze far into the shimmering horizon, a breeze curled in from the west, between, around and over the flat-topped, rocky plateaus almost whispering its velocity and other desert secrets to my attentive ear.

The scene was simply breathtaking.

It was the day after Yom Ha'atzmaut. A feeling of deep personal gratitude and privilege overwhelmed me that I was looking at that sight at that moment, part of a people whose inheritance and responsibilities – born in the wind, rock and fire of this Wilderness and proudly passed down through the ages - have been so rich and so life-sustaining.

"After thousands of years of wandering and sufferings all over the world," the Old Man wrote in Sdeh Boker, "the Jews have begun a national renaissance in their Homeland. They will not relinquish their profound historic belief in a fusing of national redemption with the redemption of all mankind. Their national movement will not be shorn of its universal implications. In the State of Israel, there is no distinction between the Jew and the human being. The moral values of our prophets – truth and justice, human fraternity and compassion – are based on our belief that man was created in the image of God; not a white man or a black man or a yellow man, but man in the image of the father of all men. This concept is eternal, all-encompassing, having neither beginning nor end, neither body nor form. The story of the creation of man in the image of God is the foundation of the belief in the fraternity and equality of all peoples, revealed by the prophets of Israel to all mankind."

Some 40 years after he wrote those words and 54 years after he helped launch the State of Israel, the "national renaissance" and the "fusing of national redemption with the redemption of all mankind," have not yet been realized.

That they have not been is disappointing but not surprising given that the Jewish state has had to fight and must still fight for its survival every day it is alive. But how different things might have been, I thought, if the leader of the Palestinian Authority would also have been the Old Man of his people rather than simply the deceiving, hate-filled old man he is.

—MBD

The writer was recently in Israel as the guest of the Ministry of Tourism and El Al Israel Airlines.

SeeJN

CALLING FOR ISRAEL:
A week of telethons for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 has helped to raise around $9 million designated for social services in Israel. Telethon volunteers, who called from April 28-May 2, contacted nearly 8,000 homes. The telethons are a key component of Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, which began a month ago, four months ahead of schedule, because of the severe crisis faced by Israel after 20 months of Palestinian terror. One of the most active telethon volunteers was Faye Gold, an 80-year-old veteran of many UJA telethons. "I was so worried about what was happening with Israel, and I wanted to help, and this is one of the best ways to do that."

Use of menorah symbol fought in the courts

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lawyers for Canadian Jewish Congress and Chosen People Ministries (CPM) squared off last week in court in a battle over who can use an ancient and potent symbol of the Jewish people.

Appearing in Federal Court here on April 29, Congress sought a judicial review of the government's earlier approval of CPM's request to register a stylized menorah as a protected official mark, which would allow the Jews for Jesus-type group to use the symbol on all its services and wares, and, potentially, prevent other organizations from doing so.

Congress says the government-sanctioned use of the menorah by a missionary group whose followers accept Jesus as the Jewish messiah would be "scandalous and immoral" and cheapen the symbol's meaning.

CJC lawyers Ben Zarnett and Richard Naiberg argued that the seven-branched menorah "is among the most common and significant symbols in Judaism. It is distinctly Jewish, and holds the same significance for Jews as the cross does for Christians."

CPM, they told the court, "is for born-again Christians whose statement of doctrine is that you must accept the Holy Trinity and the deity of Jesus Christ."

The group's objective "is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to Jewish people in America and elsewhere" and "to persuade Jews to accept Jesus Christ." This, the CJC lawyers argued, "is contrary to the views of Judaism and to the overwhelming majority of Jews."

The menorah, they said, is "synonymous with the Jewish people." It is used by dozens of synagogues, Jewish schools and organizations, and is the official state emblem of Israel.

But CPM lawyer Mervyn White said the semi-circular, modern-looking menorah his client has registered is "highly distinctive" and "in no way" would be confused with other menorahs.

He said CPM sees the official mark as "a defensive measure" and "a shield" that would prevent others from reproducing the design. He also questioned CJC's standing before the court, saying Congress does not use a menorah as an emblem.

White said CPM "very clearly" stated in its application that its objective is to convert Jews to Christianity.

CPM, whose members concede to being Jewish believers in "Yeshua" (Jesus), says it is merely trying to protect a symbol it has been using on its stationery and newsletters since at least 1988. The organization operates a small Toronto branch on Sheppard Avenue West, and claims some 100 members.

A protected mark would allow CPM to use its stylized menorah on a variety of commercial wares, including calendars, clothing, pens, coffee mugs and Bibles. Potentially, the holder of an official mark could prevent others from using the same or similar symbol for commercial purposes.

This tug-of-war over an ancient symbol began in late 1997 when CPM applied to register its menorah as a trademark with the Registrar of Trademarks at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office.

Two Toronto lawyers who specialize in intellectual property spotted the menorah in a journal that publishes trademark applications for the public to see. The lawyers alerted CJC, which filed a strongly-worded protest, saying the attempt by a Christian group to adopt a Jewish symbol was "deceptively misdescriptive."

But unknown to Congress, CPM at the same time had also applied to register the menorah as an official mark, which offers protection that is superior to a trademark.

Anyone wishing to oppose a trademark application can do so with the Registrar of Trademarks. But official marks are not published beforehand and can only be challenged in court after they are approved.

CPM was awarded the official mark in November 1999, on its fourth attempt.

In the meantime, both sides have agreed to put aside their battle over the trademark.

CJC pointed out that official mark protection is only granted to "public authorities," over which the government exercises some control. Congress questioned how CPM satisfies the definition of a public authority, which must operate for the benefit of the public and fill a public need.

CJC's lawyers also said the Registrar of Trademarks did not know the meaning of the menorah, or that CPM targets Jews for conversion. As well, Jewish organizations would be deterred from using the menorah in the future, they argued.

Mr. Justice Pierre Blais reserved his decision.

LAG B'OMER PROGRAM: Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto held a Lag b'Omer program last week along with the Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad, Ohr Menachem School, the Jewish Russian Community Centre, Eitz Chaim, Bais Chaya Mushka, Torah Tots and many others. More than 300 children participated in the program, which began at the Lubavitch Community Centre and continued with a parade on Bathurst Street that headed north to the Beth Avraham Yoseph shul in Thornhill. Seen here are students from Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto in front of a float that led the parade.

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Israel like canary in coal mine: Bar-Ilan president

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — If a poisonous chloride atom and a poisonous sodium atom can combine to form table salt, then surely the secular and religious can come together and create sugar, says the president of Bar-Ilan University.

Not that he would suggest either sector is poisonous, Moshe Kaveh said in a recent lecture here. Coincidentally, or not, the Ramat Gan campus he heads – the only university in Israel where students are required to take Jewish studies – has a student population equally divided among secular and Orthodox.

Kaveh, a modern Orthodox Torah scholar and a physicist, spoke at Beth Tzedec Congregation for the Moshe J. & Louis Weisfeld Annual Memorial Lecture on the Israeli Psyche Today.

The subject is emotional for Kaveh, who mourns the loss of Bar-Ilan students and close family friends in terror attacks. But his message was one of strength and pride. "I would like to uplift you," he said. "Many before [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat tried to eliminate us and didn't succeed."

Acknowledging that some rabbis would not like the analogy, Kaveh said Jews – having survived against the odds numerous times – exemplify Charles Darwin's "survival of the fittest" theory.

Had the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* been around after the destruction of the Second Temple, Kaveh said, its headlines would have read: "This is the end of the Jewish movement."

More recently, in the 54 years since its establishment, Israel's achievements in areas like Jewish study and science, have been "unbelievable," Kaveh said. "We are very proud of our achievements."

Although there is dissension among the various segments of Israeli society, "we are a strong people." He said recent events have made him realize the meaning of being "a light unto the nations.

"We are fighting for democratic values, for enlightenment, and it is a great danger to everyone if, God forbid, Israel will not be successful."

Moshe Kaveh

He noted that it would have been easier and less risky for the Israel Defence Forces to bomb Jenin from the air during its recent operations there. Instead, Israel lost 23 soldiers killed in house-to-house searches. "This is a massacre?" he asked.

After much soul-searching, Kaveh has concluded that, "as painful as it is," there is no choice but to sacrifice Israeli children – soldiers – for the cause of what he called a "purified" war. Because every Jew has an obligation to Klal Yisrael – the community of Israel – it is necessary to risk one's life to save many lives in the community, he said.

When asked in a separate interview about the risks Diaspora Jews are willing or not willing to take to travel to Israel, Kaveh said that visiting Israel in times like these is very meaningful.

"My message to every Jew is, 'If you are afraid today to come to Israel, you should be extremely afraid if, God forbid, something happens to Israel."

On the other hand, he told *The CJN*, he can understand people's fear. "It's very difficult to cope." Following Sept. 11, Kaveh was stranded in the United States for a week. Returning to Israel, he said, he felt like he was going to the safest place in the world.

"I can understand that, from the media, it looks like every place in Israel is exploding. We are very much alive, classes are going on without any delay, professors are teaching, doing research [but] it's very painful, what we see and suffer."

As a scientist, he said in his speech, he cannot ignore a comment made by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, doubting that the entire world could be wrong in its condemnation of Israel.

But Israel has been wrongly condemned in the past, Kaveh noted, citing the bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981. "We have to explain to the world that we have another nuclear reactor danger."

Israel's military offensive is much more than a war of self-defence, he said. Rather, Israel – like a canary in a coal mine – stands at the forefront of a global clash of civilizations. "We must be successful," he said. "Otherwise, evil will overcome the world."

Kaveh believes that "if the time comes that we can settle with the Palestinians," most Israelis would still be willing to compromise for the sake of peace, he told *The CJN*.

Jews and Muslims have a joint past, he said, noting that part of Maimonides' writings were in Arabic. "[Peace] is a big dream, which today looks impossible. I do believe it will happen. It must happen."

Within the Jewish community, he said in his speech, the year-and-a-half long intifadah has united religious and secular Jews. "Suddenly we understand… the blood of the Haredi is the same blood as a secular Jew."

When Kaveh read that the Haredi community in Israel gave candy and cakes to IDF soldiers to show their appreciation, he cried, he said. He urged the audience to remember and cherish that "special sense of unity," even when the war is over.

People connect differently, he said. If he were to force all four of his children to be physicists, he suggested, it would be a disaster.

The son of a rabbi who once considered entering the rabbinate himself, Kaveh spoke out against the religious "monopoly on Judaism" in Israel. "I don't believe it's right, because Judaism belongs to everyone. The secular people take the monopoly on democracy, which is also wrong… You have to find a way to compromise."

He believes modern Orthodoxy should play the key role in bringing people together, particularly when the current crisis is over, he told *The CJN*.

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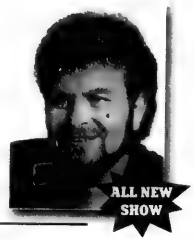

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Greater Toronto Area

'We're standing firm:' Divon

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – Israelis are willing to bear any burden to combat terrorism, Haim Divon, Israel's ambassador to Canada, said last week.

"There is a consensus in Israel to fight terrorism, no matter the price."

He delivered these comments about a week after Israel officially wound up Operation Defensive Shield, designed to cripple the terrorist infrastructure in the Palestinian autonomous areas of the West Bank.

In a speech at Holy Blossom Temple, Divon assured his listeners Israel is resolute. "We're not caving in. We're standing firm."

He said the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, has learned that terrorists will find no haven, even in refugee camps.

"We'll be after you, wherever you are. I hope Arafat got the message."

YOM HASIDDUR: Associated Hebrew Schools Grade 1 students recently participated in a Yom Hasiddur at the Posluns (Neptune) campus. The children conducted a tfillah service and read the Torah, and each received a siddur with a hand-decorated cover to take home.

After Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, Arafat, assuming Israel was weak, thought he could extract further political concessions from the Israeli government by means of violence and an uprising, Divon said.

Arafat, he added, also sought to internationalize the conflict in order to isolate Israel on the world stage.

At the Camp David summit two summers ago, Israel was willing to go to considerable lengths to meet Palestinian demands, Divon said.

"For the sake of peace, we were willing to compromise."

But Arafat held out for even more Israeli concessions, and thereby missed a golden opportunity to achieve Palestinian statehood, he said.

Divon accused Arafat of exploiting Palestinian suffering for political gain and of breaking promises to rein in terrorism.

And he claimed the Arab world is trying to de-humanize Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who, he said, is "the ultimate expression of Israel's resolve."

Despite its current problems, Israel will prevail, Divon said. Thanking Canadian Jews for their support, he said, "We're going to make it, the way we've overcome our difficulties in the past. We're going to endure because our cause is just."

During a question-and-answer session, Divon made the following points :

- Arafat must make a "strategic decision" to abandon violence.
- Unilateral separation is an option Israel can exercise if the peace process dies.
- Saudi Arabia's recent peace proposal, which calls for the Arab world to recognize Israel's right to exist and to normalize relations with the Jewish state in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from lands captured in 1967, is "very interesting and even encouraging."
- Canadian media are generally "pretty fair and balanced" in covering the Arab-Israeli dispute, particularly compared to European media.
- Israel has no alternative but to deal with Arafat, although he is less than an ideal negotiating partner.

Divon was introduced by Canadian filmmaker Robert Lantos, who said the current struggle in the Middle East is not about borders or pieces of land, but about Israel's right to exist.

Lantos lamented that Israel is losing "the war of words," the propaganda battle, to the Palestinians.

"Words create reality," Lantos said. "Words are the battleground."

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"About five years ago we realized that our business was growing so rapidly that we were quickly going to outgrow our facilities," says Hugh Sisley.

"As we started to plan what is now our new Steeles Avenue location we wanted to be able to provide our customers with a new experience in purchasing and servicing their automobiles - an experience that couldn't be provided by a traditional dealership style building."

"So we collaborated with our architects, our customers and Honda Canada to make this concept a reality," states Sisley of his new 42,000 square foot dealership.

"I am a customer when I go shopping and I know how I feel and want to be treated," he added. "It just made sense to talk with our customers about what they would like to see in a new dealership."

OPEN CONCEPT

In addition, Sisley visited other dealerships throughout North America, Europe and Japan to get ideas that lead to his open concept facility.

He says to make our customers more at ease, our sales staff, including the sales managers, are all out on the showroom floor so that our customers can see the entire sales process — including the consultation that goes on between the Sales Managers and their Sales Representative during the price negotiations.

"Similarly, service customers are more comfortable if they can see their cars being serviced and so we created full window access to our 25 service bays. You can actually look into the dealership from the front of the building and see what's going on in the back."

"In essence, we wanted to provide complete transparency for customers in all aspects of the purchase and service experience."

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"Both my late grandfather M.M. Sisley, who opened a Chrysler Dealership in 1946 on Yonge Street just north of Sheppard and my late father A.D. Sisley who later joined him in the business, were strong believers in providing the best service possible."

While the dealership changed from Chrysler to American Motors in 1958, to Datsun in 1967 and finally to Honda in 1977, service has always been a constant.

"Both would be approving of the new open and friendly concept we created at our new Steeles Ave. site," he says. "This approach has been a cornerstone part of my business philosophy since I became President of Sisley Motors Limited in 1993."

Among the many customer-friendly features we offer are a Children's Play Area, a full Café with patio, the "Sisley Dream Shop" where customers can purchase a wide selection of merchandise to augment their automotive experience from clothes, model cars and gadgets as well as our "Performance Shop" where one can obtain a large variety of accessories to customize their cars such as mag wheels, high performance gauges, racing seats, interior trim kits , to name a few.

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- Market our organization through community work and advertising,
- Employ a stable and customer-oriented staff.

"Most of our highly-trained and professional staff have been with the company for years. One of our technicians, Ed Osborne, has worked with all three generations of the Sisley family starting with my grandfather in 1948 and continues to service our customers' needs today!"

He says most of his staff, of about 90 people, live in the north Toronto area.

"As part of our commitment to customer service, we have built a staff training centre to assist our employees with product knowledge, customer relations, and technical training. It all leads to a more open and transparent relationship with customers," Sisley adds.

This same perspective was also taken by Hugh and his father Don towards their industry peers. Both served as President of the Toronto Automobile Dealers Association (TADA) and sat on the board of Canadian Automobile Dealers Association and were involved in developing policies that have lead to better consumer protection.

Under Hugh's leadership, the TADA worked with the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council to greatly strengthen guidelines governing the industry's advertising code that makes all automotive advertising much clearer.

CUSTOMER SEMINARS

"Our experience has been that when customers first purchase or lease their cars, they are too excited to absorb all the information that we have to share with them about their new vehicle. So we hold monthly 'Customer Orientation Seminars' that explain the many 'how to's' of an automobile from changing a tire to providing a better understanding of how a car works in general."

"This allows them to receive this important information in a relaxing environment at a time that they can concentrate and absorb it all without the distraction of waiting to show off their new pride and joy to their friends and neighbours."

We are also proud of our involvement in the ever growing north end of Toronto through the sponsorship of programs such as children's baseball and hockey teams to the Thornhill Community Band, to name a few.

Our new facilities enable us to meet the needs of our customers - today and for the future.

UJA FEDERATION
ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2003

Walk with Israel

Join the largest Israel Solidarity Day in the history of Toronto

MONDAY, MAY 20th

SKYDOME

Check in from 9:15-10:15 A.M.
at Roundhouse Park (across from Gate 6 on Brenmer Blvd.)

- Walk With Israel, starting @ 10:30 A.M. Sharp!
- Experience the Fabulous Festival following the Walk, for the first time ever at SKYDOME
- Hear RAANAN GISSIN, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's principal spokesperson and key advisor, speaking at SKYDOME

Look inside this week's CJN
for our Walk with Israel Program Guide.

On Victoria Day, Monday May 20,
tell the world We Stand with Israel
Let's tell Israel "We're With You."

The Canadian Jewish news

An independent community newspaper serving as a forum for diverse viewpoints

Publisher and Proprietor:
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Head Office:
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Dry Bones
DO YOU THINK THAT A CONFERENCE COULD BRING PEACE TO THE MID-EAST?
SURE!
...AS LONG AS THE PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT COMMITTED TO...
...THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWISH STATE.
WELL... IF YOU'RE GOING TO SET CONDITIONS...

Thirty-five years ago

For the generation born after 1967, only the pages of a text can bring alive that moment some 35 years ago, when IDF paratroopers reunited what had been mockingly, callously divided by Jordanian forces some 19 years earlier: Jerusalem.

The Jews of the old, walled city had been forcibly removed, in 1948, from the quarter in which they had lived for countless years. Synagogues were destroyed, Jewish graves were desecrated, Jewish homes and shops were vandalized.

For the first time in its history, Jerusalem was divided, east from west, old from new, by cinder block and barbed wire.

But for the generation born before 1967, the memory of the city's reunification will always be fresh, tearful, exhilarating and inspiring, a testament outside of time against the attempt to erode truth.

General Uzi Narkiss, born in Jerusalem, was the commanding officer of the forces that liberated and reunited the Old City of Jerusalem. The following is an excerpt of his account of that metaphysical moment on Wednesday, the 28th of Iyar, 5727; June 7, 1967:

"We made our excited way through the streets to the Mughrabis Gate, along a dim alley, turned right down a flight of steps, impatiently faced another right turn – and there it was. The Western Wall. I quivered with memory. Tall and awesome and glorious, with the same ferns creeping between the great stones, some of them inscribed.

"Silently I bowed my head. In the narrow space were paratroopers, begrimed, fatigued, overburdened with weapons. And they wept. They were not 'wailing at the Western Wall,' not lamenting in the fashion familiar during the Wall's millennia of being. These were tears of joy, of love, of passion, of an undreamed of first reunion with the ancient monument to devotion and to prayer. They clung to its stones, kissed them, these rough, battle-weary paratroopers, their lips framing the *Shema*. Returned, it seemed, to the Temple...

"But more exalted, prouder than all of them, was Rabbi [Shlomo] Goren. Wrapped in a tallit, blowing the shofar and roaring like a lion: 'Blessed be the Lord God, Comforter of Zion and Builder of Jerusalem, Amen'...

"The restrained weeping became sobs, full-throated, an uncurbed emotional outburst. Sorrow, fervour, happiness and pain combined to produce this mass of grieving and joyous men, their cheeks wet, their voices unsteady. Again the shofar was blown: tekiah... followed by a shvarim... And Rabbi Goren intoned, like a herald: 'This year, at this hour, in Jerusalem'." *(From The Jerusalem Anthology, R. Hammer, JPS, 1995)*

As we reflect today, on that moment 35 years ago, Jews of all generations, whether born before or after 1967, must carry Rabbi Goren's words deep within our hearts. For us, Jerusalem must always be "this year, at this hour."

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Israeli products a click away

At this most difficult time in our history, the Jewish community's support is more critical to Israel's vitality and strength then ever before.

Throughout its history, the State of Israel has utilized its natural resources and talented citizens to create uniquely Israeli products. Now, for the very first time, a variety of Israeli products are available online in one location: http://www.israelexport.org/. With a click of your mouse, you can order Israeli wine, chocolate, Judaica and much more. I encourage readers of *The CJN* to visit http://www.israelexport.org/.

Haim Divon
Israel's ambassador to Canada

* * *

Things you can do to help Israel

Israel is at war for its right to exist as a free and democratic Jewish state. It is also in a major recession due to its security problems. Here are a few things you can do to help:

1. Buy Israeli products, and boycott those of its enemies.
2. Buy stocks in Israeli companies.
3. Buy Israel bonds.
4. Respond favourably when called upon by the local UJA and the other communal organizations supporting Israel during this time of crisis.
5. Help Israeli soldiers have a better quality of life by giving to charities that help them.
6. Fly El-Al.
7. Write or call your friends in Israel to give them support.
8. Educate yourself about Israel.
9. Fight anti-Semitism.
10. Tell United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan what you think.
11. Contact your MP and other government officials and tell them what you think.
12. Set up or join an Israel action committee for specific projects within your synagogue, community group or circle of friends.
13. Monitor the media and respond to biased reporting on Israel.

For the sake of Israel and Jewish survival, we should act now and devote a few minutes each day to writing a few sentences in support and to sending them to as many people as possible.

Elaine Hoffman
Richmond Hill, Ont.

* * *

Why I'm still in Israel

During the last few weeks, people have constantly been asked me: "Why are you not going back to Canada? Why are you still in Israel when you have a choice and don't *need* to be here?" For some reason, it is difficult for others to understand that I love this country, regardless of the situation.

It is hard for me to find the words to describe my year here. As it comes to an end and I look back on my experiences, I am reminded that it has been unforgettable. Surely my life has changed as a result of the security situation. I do not go to places that I might have gone to in the past. I am forced to be more aware of my surroundings, and in general, to be smart and mature about my actions while continuing to live and enjoy my stay here. I will not lie and tell you that these days are not scary, because they are.

On the other hand, I know that things always seem worse from afar. Being here during these sad times has matured me and made me take a different perspective on life while bringing me even closer to Israel and its people. This country has too much to offer despite all that is going on, and one simply needs to be careful while experiencing his or her year to the fullest. The bottom line is that I am happy here.

Yael Walt
Tel Aviv University

* * *

Where were the MPs?

Congratulations to Ron Csillag on his column about the Israel rally and lack of MPs there (*CJN*, May 2). Thanks for saying what needed to be said so clearly.

Moshe Ronen
Toronto

* * *

Norway's economic boycott

I recently read in *Ha'aretz* that the government of Norway has advised an Israeli company, R.B. Tec, that it is not eligible to bid on a contract to provide technical equipment to the government of Norway – ostensibly because the government of Norway disagrees with Israel's policies and actions with respect to the West Bank and Gaza.

I wonder if the ban on Israeli companies doing business with Norway also extends to any company owned or controlled by Jews who support Israel or perhaps to any company owned or controlled by Jews at all?

I see little difference between this decision and the posting of a stormtrooper outside a Jewish store with a sign on its window that reads "Owned by Jews."

Orie H. Niedzviecki
Thornhill, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Despite everything, still optimistic for peace

By MAYA GOLDENBERG

I was born in Israel and lived there all my life. I served in the Israel Defence Forces for two years. For the past eight months, I have been living in Toronto. This past Passover, I returned to Israel for a brief vacation with my husband and three children.

I found the Israel of 2002 cohesive and strong in spirit, but also sadly skeptical about the future of the peace process. The many of us who witnessed the birth of the negotiations with our Palestinian neighbours with hope and anticipation feel as though we have received a painful slap in the face. For those who never believed in the process, the current events are a prophecy fulfilled.

I have always held a strong conviction – and I still believe – that both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are destined to march together through a deep socialization process that will eventually see us living side by side. I have always believed, as I believe now, especially as the conflict gets more deadly, that there is no other path.

Nineteen months of devastating terror attacks, 19 months of hundreds of dead innocent people, dozens of torn families, and endless pain have left an irreversible scar upon Israeli society. Travelling in Israel for two weeks left me with a feeling of a nation in a war without a frontier. The conflict can be anywhere, at any time.

I found myself between two generations that are seeking answers. On the one side was my parents' generation, survivors of the Holocaust. On the other side were my children who kept asking penetrating questions.

My parents, who survived the Nazi camps in eastern Europe, who believed that they had seen all the horror mankind can produce, as a result of the last 19 months of the "intifadah" have lost their sense of security. The devastating terror attacks have left them and many other survivors in Israel with terrible fears, renewing their war memories that they had tried to repress for more than 50 years. This time, they are reliving the horror in their own country. The mental struggles of these survivors, most of whom are in their 70s or 80s, are almost unimaginable.

As for my children, the continuing terror attacks all over Israel, innocent children murdered and many others left with no parents or relatives, confuses them. Avoiding crowded places like McDonald's, pizzerias and public transportation is no simple restriction for children. My nine-year-old has asked me: Why do the Palestinian suicide bombers target kids? Have I done anything to the Palestinian children? Why do they want to kill me? And so on.

Naturally, as a parent, I feel I must address those questions. But I have found the situation, especially as viewed from the left, extremely complicated.

I feel the need to remind my children how history has unfolded for the Jewish people during the last decades. Wars and regional conflicts do not go on forever. People tend to seek solutions and compromise. Let us not forget that the State of Israel was born May 14, 1948, following the brutal murder of six million Jews. On Nov. 29, 1947, the United Nations affirmed the legitimate right of the Jewish people to establish their own state. To counter the ongoing brainwashing of Palestinian extremists who claim that Israel has no right to exist, I explained that this recognition is not, under any circumstances, to be abrogated.

Israelis dream of and seek peace. The current terror attacks on Israel civilians by extremist Palestinian suicide bombers, and Israel's military response as it tries to excise the terror's origins, will not bring either side closer to this goal. I believe the Palestinian people deserve their independence and sovereignty. But they must realize that under no circumstances is terror an acceptable tactic. In a society where a person is valued only when he or she becomes a suicide bomber, a *shaheed* (saint), there is absolutely no hope for peace. Once the Palestinian leadership understands and implements this, Israel's hopes for peace can revive.

I see a socialization process as a pre-condition for peace. The vast majority of the Palestinian people want peace. Terrorists and other extremists are in the minority. The majority of Israelis also pray for peace. But this is not enough.

Palestinian society is desperately in need of a stable leadership that will fulfil their basic economic and social needs. The Palestinians must eradicate the hatred and desire for revenge from their educational system. Israelis must get used to the fact that making peace requires compromises. Unfortunately, not all of us agree on that fundamental principle. But looking back at our relatively short history as an independent state, who would have believed that then-prime minister Menachem Begin (Likud) would sign the historic peace treaty with Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in 1977 and agree to the painful compromise of returning the Sinai?

Despite having witnessed the current terror attacks on Israel, as well as having to cope with the concerns of both the younger and older generations of my family, I remain very optimistic. My optimism is based, first, on the historical pattern of peace evolving from conflict, and second, on what I saw and felt during the flowering years of the peace process, especially during Yitzhak Rabin's tenure from 1992 to 1996.

I know it may take longer now to get back to where we were. I also know, through meeting with them, that most Palestinians want to live in peace with Israel. Unfortunately, their leadership, headed by Yasser Arafat, missed a historic breakthrough during Ehud Barak's government and former U.S. president Bill Clinton's administration in 2000. Today we know that Arafat's leadership is not yet ready for peace.

But Israel is a strong, democratic state. No obstacle will prevent us from seeking peace with our Palestinian neighbours. In the Middle East's history of wars and regional conflicts, there are unfortunately no shortcuts. We will have to go through the whole confidence-building process all over again, this time hopefully with a mature Palestinian leadership that is truly concerned with the welfare of its own people.

SCENES OF HOPE: Israeli doctor Sion Houri, shown earlier this year, examines 11-month-old Khaldoun Awadi. Khaldoun, from a West Bank village near Hebron, has undergone six heart surgeries at the hands of Israeli medical staff since being taken to Israel's Wolfson Hospital in Holon. Yitshak Frenkel, bottom right, a representative of Israeli families whose sons were killed by Palestinians, shakes hands with Zenab Al Dagour, whose son was killed by Israeli soldiers. The pair, along with others from Israeli and Palestinian families that have lost sons to the ongoing Mideast conflict, prayed together for peace in July, 2000 on the eve of the failed Camp David summit. **[RNS/Reuters photos]**

Maya Goldenberg, a political scientist, served under Yitzhak Rabin's government between 1992 and 1996 as political advisor to the minister of industry and trade. She is a member of Israel's Labor party.

One problem, two views

The other day, I picked up an editorial article that appeared in the *National Post* on April 5. The editorial page had two interesting articles side by side: one was entitled *Israel's just campaign*, written by the editorial board of the paper, expressing the *Post*'s own opinion, and the other half of the same page was a report entitled *Churches identify root causes of uprising*.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The article dealing with the attitude of the churches reveal a significant prejudice against Israel and its policies. The last paragraph begins by stating this: "While feeling deeply for Israeli victims, and passionately for the continued security and well-being of Israel, the United Church nevertheless strongly states that the root of the violence and the instability of the region is Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories."

Just what does this latter geographical description mean? For all too many it means – although it is not expressed in this fashion – that Israel itself is basically illegitimate. After all, Israel inhabits a land that once was known as Palestine, and it strikes me that this lack of clarity in the churches' attitude is not accidental.

There are enemies of Israel who passionately believe that all the troubles in the Middle East are due to the Jewish State – a situation that can only be resolved by Israel's disappearance. Since this is unlikely to take place, Israel remains, in their opinion, the root cause of all the troubles in the area.

That of course is nothing new in Jewish history. How often have we been described as the root cause of the greatest varieties of problems – even if we had nothing whatsoever to do with anything concerning them.

In the view of many "objective" critics of Israel, the Jewish State would satisfy them best by disappearing altogether. They will not say this of course, but a close reading of their literature makes it quite clear.

Therefore, since Israel will not accommodate this desire, the problem will continue to exist. Israel's critics and enemies are of course not very happy with that conclusion – too bad.

The sad part in all of this is that 54 years after its establishment, the Jewish State still has to justify its existence. Not surprisingly, this need has been imposed on the Jewish people as a whole, though we have been around for well over 2,000 years. That would be more than enough for any people, but in this respect too, we are different. For us, of course, the most important thing is not what others think, but that we ourselves have a proper sense of self-worth.

L'Hitraot, for awhile

The time is almost here. Very soon, I will have two hard-earned letters after my name (and a few in front too – I found out recently that I will soon be an aunt!). For the past four years, I simply did not believe the time would ever come when I would graduate. I do not mean to sound naive; it just never occurred to me that there would be a conclusion. With all the schlepping – from a student residence, to a house, and then packing to go back to Toronto for a short time and then repacking to go back to school, to camp, to Toronto, etc. – the past four years seemed like an interesting journey with no real end date.

Darcie Richler in Halifax

As I was packing up my apartment recently (in my usual obsessive manner), I began to really take in how eventful the past four years have been. Going through mounds of papers and books, it finally occurred to me that so much has gone on, despite my not always having noticed it. And while frantically writing papers and exams simultaneously (we can thank the recent four-week faculty strike here at Dalhousie University for that), I found myself wondering what I have been doing while I have been here in Halifax. I wondered if I have even learned anything during the past four years.

While packing up to leave, I looked around and realized that almost everything around me was there because I had chosen for it to be there. I spent four years making decisions for myself: what classes to take, where to live, what to eat, who to be friends with, and this was all because of my university experience. I cannot recall what I wrote in my exam this morning – which is kind of pathetic. But with the utmost amount of clarity, I am able to recall so much of what I have learned these past few years outside of school, as a result of being in school.

> 'I have fallen in love with this place'

In my family, it was simply assumed that my siblings and I would pursue higher education after high school. At the age of 18, I seemed not to care either way, but I chose Dalhousie because it is in a great city and "far enough" away. Going to university also appeared to be the right decision mainly because it would both keep me occupied and my parents content at the same time.

The initial nonchalant feelings dissipated pretty quickly. I have fallen in love with this place – the community, the ocean, indeed, with the entire experience.

So, as I sit here and type my final column from my cozy Halifax home, I find myself feeling a little melancholy. I know that I am closing one great chapter and, hopefully, starting a new one. It also seems evident that it would be impossible to go where I plan to go without having gone through this stage first.

Being away from home and at university has been a pivotal time for me. This place was where I developed a more conscious Jewish identity. It was where I realized that I did not have "all the answers," nor would I ever have them if I had the attitude that I, and most others, did in high school.

It was here that I began to see through the transparencies in people who were not right for me and to embrace those who were. Being here forced me to create my own happiness and take responsibility for things that did not go my way. It was also where I really began to appreciate my family: I missed them whenever we were not in the same city, and went a little insane when we reunited.

I have chosen to drive back to Toronto, to withdraw from the Atlantic Canada experience – for now – as slowly as possible. To all those receiving their university and college acceptances soon, don't think twice, go! If you are struggling to decide where to go, just do what feels right. You can't go wrong. And I hope you all find your own Halifax.

Anti-Semitism: the new trend

We all know about trends: the Gap, Pokemon, Nintendo, Star Wars and even the war on terror qualify. In the last few weeks, a new and fresh trend has resurfaced in our culture: anti-Semitism. That's right folks, anti-Semitism is *in* these days.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

I am in the midst of something that I have never before experienced. It all began just a few weeks ago, when stories about Israel's destruction in Jenin and its blowing holes in the Church of Nativity began saturating the media. These stories made me nervous because they were relentless. Even though there were times where CNN would say that the massacre in Jenin could not be verified by anyone, the damage was already done. People's minds were made up, fallacies were planted in their brains: the Jews have massacred innocent civilians.

I was on a Winnipeg activist list group for a while. No, I'm not an activist, but I do like to know what's going on around town. But the key word in this paragraph's first sentence is "was." Once Israel was in the news, people on this list began to discuss the Mideast issue with messages referring to the Israelis as murderers, and calling for people to send money and support for the Palestinians. I read all of this in frustration until I couldn't take it anymore and left the list.

Then you have the *Manitoban*, the University of Manitoba's main student newspaper, which has been publishing very anti-Israel articles. And you have synagogues being burned right here in Canada, NDP MP Svend Robinson slamming Israel and an anti-Semitic, racist government leader one vote away from becoming the president of France. Sound familiar, anyone?

What does this all mean for Jews? I had a depressing conversation with some relatives recently about the possibility of our not being offered jobs because of our faith. Before this conversation, that thought had never crossed my mind, but since then, I can't stop thinking about it, because they are right. Today, with the way the world is going right now, the possibility of not getting a job because I am Jewish is a real one. When your average person – and I'm talking about people who probably don't know any Jews or who have minimal contact with Jewish people – hear the word Jew, they think of Israel and how awful we are. I read an excellent article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* recently that said when someone is anti-Israel, they are really anti-Jewish. While I actually have not read any articles or heard anyone say, "Jews are the evil of the world," destroying synagogues in Saskatchewan proves this attitude goes far beyond the land or government of Israel.

I really don't want to say it, but I can't help but think that this is a bit like what Jews experienced in the 1930s. Emotions that take turns running through my mind are isolation, desperation, hope, confusion, frustration and anger. The one I have felt the most since CNN began distorting the news is probably isolation. Israel (and Jews) are being singled out in the world, especially by the media and European countries, as murderers and this does make me feel somewhat alone at times.

I have some hope, though. Israel was created mainly in response to the Holocaust. So it is comforting to know there is a place where Jews can go to live as Jews. There are also more prominent Jews taking a stand against anti-Semitism, and there are large and active Jewish communities that have organized successful rallies and are making sure our voices are being heard.

But regardless of what our communities are doing, the fact remains that the latest trend sweeping the nations is anti-Semitism.

Email me at cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Jewish documentary has come of age

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival, which ended on April 28, presented an eclectic array of documentaries this year, from Garry Beitel's *My Dear Clara*, a poignant real-life love story set in Europe and Canada, to Michael Karpin's *A Bomb in the Basement*, a chilling account of Israel's atomic bomb program. These movies, as well as others I managed to see, were thoughtful, occasionally moving and professionally crafted. They signified, to me at least, that the Jewish documentary film has come of age.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

My Dear Clara packs a lot of emotions into 44 minutes. In fact, the fate of a people and of two separated star-crossed lovers are at its core. Clara Greenspan, a 26-year-old Polish Jew living in Montreal, travelled to Poland in the summer of 1938 to visit relatives and friends whom she had left behind in Warsaw. There she met Chaim Blum, a plumber with whom she fell in love. Personal chemistry, as well as a shared belief in communism, brought them together. But could Chaim join Clara in Montreal?

Having been told she could sponsor Chaim if they got married, the young couple took the plunge. She left Poland, certain they would be reunited in Canada. Much to her bitter disappointment, Chaim was ineligible for Canadian citizenship. Canada's outdated and absurd immigration law did not allow a wife to sponsor a foreign husband. Can you imagine?

While she pined for Chaim, he sent her fervent love letters. "I don't want this dream to end," he wrote in one missive. In subsequent exchanges, Chaim described the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Poland and warned of the threat of war looming over Europe.

Clara, in the meantime, asked her uncle to sponsor Chaim. His application was rejected. Little did they know that Canada clung to racially restrictive and anti-Semitic immigration regulations, as historians Irving Abella and Harold Troper demonstrated beyond a doubt in the book *None Is Too Many*.

Shortly after Germany's invasion of Poland, which doomed the country's three million Jews, Chaim and his sister escaped to safety in the Soviet Union's occupation zone in Poland. From Brest Litovsk, they made their way to Uzbekistan. At that point, Chaim and Clara lost touch. But in 1945, she learned that Chaim was alive. Some months later, she received a letter from him postmarked Lodz, Poland. She was elated, but how could she facilitate his immigration to Canada?

Out of sheer desperation, Clara took her case straight to Canada's prime minister, Mackenzie King, who mercifully broke the cruel bureaucratic logjam. Chaim arrived in Canada by steamship on Aug. 12, 1947. Together at last. But there was a hitch. Chaim, having experienced communism first-hand, had turned away from it, something Clara found difficult to accept. Nevertheless, as their two children relate, Clara and Chaim overcame their political differences.

Supplemented by absorbing archival footage and touching still photographs, *My Dear Clara*, its abrupt denouement notwithstanding, is an affecting testament of the power of love and the mountains it can move. That Beitel's film is a labour of love is hardly surprising. Clara and Chaim are his aunt and uncle.

* * *

The strange spiritual odyssey of Oswald Rufeisen, otherwise known as Brother Daniel, transfixed a nation. In the early 1960s, this quixotic Jewish Holocaust survivor, who had converted to Christianity during the war and had become a Carmelite priest, petitioned Israel's Supreme Court for recognition as a Jew in his Israeli identity card and under Israel's Law of Return. "I am a Jew of the Catholic religion," he said, touching off the divisive "Who is a Jew?" debate.

Amir Gera, in *Brother Daniel: The Last Jew*, takes a close look at this unusual man. Born and raised in Poland, Rufeisen was caught up in the trauma of the Holocaust. Having passed himself off as a Christian of Polish and German ethnicity, he was hired as a translator by a local German commandant. In this capacity, he witnessed wholesale massacres of Jews. Tormented by the killings, he gave the Jewish elders of the town of Meer advance notice of their community's imminent liquidation. This heroic act, while enabling some Jews to save themselves, exposed him to hard scrutiny. The upshot of it all was that he confessed to being a Jew, and escaped.

Frightened and alone, he found a haven in a monastery, and sustenance in Christianity. Rufeisen converted. "I was granted a new life," he said. "I was a new human being." Yet he always considered himself Jewish.

Wearing a brown cassock, he arrived in Israel, "my homeland," in 1959, taking up his duties in Haifa's Stella Maris monastery. His goal was to bring Christianity back to its Jewish roots. Despite his vow of celibacy, he had a close relationship with a woman, a German who was a member of Haifa's Hebrew Christian community.

The film, which is riveting, unfolds seamlessly through interviews with Rufeisen (who died a few years ago), his brother Aryeh, his sister-in-law, his mistress, a former Supreme Court judge and a number of other people who crossed his path.

* * *

To David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, Israel's vulnerability was a constant source of deep concern. Having resolved that Israel needed an "ultimate deterrent" to ensure its survival in the face of Arab hostility, he decided to build an atomic shield, the subject of Karpin's *A Bomb in the Basement: Israel's Nuclear Option*, based in part on Avner Cohen's *Israel and the Bomb*, published in 1998. To the best of my knowledge, it's the first film of its kind to deal exhaustively with this topic, and, fortunately, it's first-rate.

Clara Greenspan and Chaim Blum

There was much opposition to Ben-Gurion's idea. The military feared the costly project would drain funds from its budget. The ministry of finance thought it would bankrupt Israel. The United States and other members of the exclusive nuclear club were none too keen to admit an interloper like Israel. And, naysayers asked, where would Israel obtain scarce and guarded materials like enriched uranium?

Thanks to a confluence of events, the war waged by France in Algeria and the rise of Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt, Israel enlisted the support of the French government. France not only sold Israel advanced aircraft, it also agreed to build a nuclear reactor in Dimona.

Shimon Peres, the director-general of the ministry of defence and Ben-Gurion's protege, was placed in charge of the project. He worked behind the back of Golda Meir, the foreign minister, who opposed the acquisition of an A-bomb. Karpin, whose frank interviews with Peres form the heart and soul of the film, chronicles the development of the program and fleshes out its personalities. In addition, he analyzes Washington's nuanced attitude toward it and explains how it had an inhibiting effect on Egypt's strategic objectives in the 1973 war.

Karpin claims that Israel has an armoury of about 200 atomic bombs today, but has armed its nuclear weapons on only three occasions: the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the 1991 Gulf War.

***

The Bombing, by Simone Bitton, turns on a 1997 Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem that snuffed out the lives of five Israelis, including three teenage girls. Bitton revisits the scene of devastation and interviews the parents of the deceased and injured and the family of one of the bombers. A woman who lost her husband in the blast expresses anger at the bomber's family for having instilled hatred in him. The parents of one of the perpetrators are surprised he was capable of such an act. The mother of a victim voices sympathy for the plight of the Palestinians. The father of one of the girls gives voice to his profound pain. The wife of a peace activist who was killed by the explosion can't understand why he, of all people, had to die.

These conflicting emotions shape the movie's tone and tenor.

***

Before the outbreak of the current intifadah, a Palestinian who sought an entry permit to visit Israel stood a good chance of getting one by joining an organized tour. *The Inner Tour*, by Ra'anan Alexandrowicz, taps into the varied reactions of such tourists. It is an exercise in nostalgia, lamentation, fascination, envy and repressed anger. The Palestinians, from the West Bank and Jordan, stop at Rosh Hanikra, Kibbutz Hanita, Acre, Tel Aviv and Jaffa during a three-day bus trip in the spring of 2000. Intriguing stuff.

***

Florentene, Israel's version of the popular U.S. television sitcom *Friends*, lasted three years. Characterized by gritty Sabra dialogue and populated by generally appealing twentysomething characters, *Florentene* was like a breath of fresh air. Alas, it is now gone.

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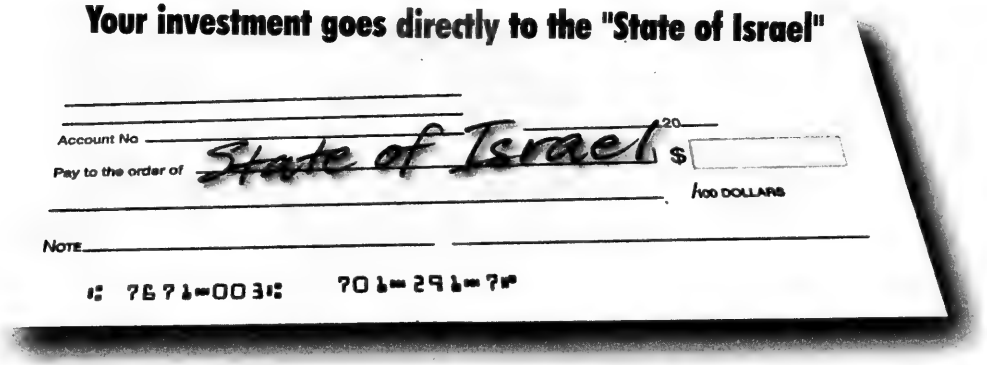

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Greater Toronto Area

Touched by terrorism, family now helps others

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For Michael Shumacher, a transplanted Canadian in Israel, terrorism is not merely an abstraction.

It is visceral, real and close to home.

Last August, Shumacher's 15-year-old daughter, Yaffa, found herself in the wrong place at the wrong time.

She was lined up at a counter in the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem when a lone suicide bomber walked in and blew himself to pieces.

The bomb he detonated killed 15 Israelis and left scores wounded, among them Yaffa and her two close friends.

Flying shrapnel hit her arms and legs and burned her neck. She suffered a broken leg, hand and arm and a shattered elbow.

A few hours later, television images beamed around the world showed Yaffa being evacuated from the destroyed restaurant on a stretcher.

The horrific incident deeply affected Shumacher and his wife, Shevy, an elementary school teacher, who made aliyah in the summer of 1978.

"Our priorities and activities have changed since the bombing," he said.

About seven months later, this past March, their 19-year-old son, Simcha, was also almost killed when a terrorist stormed Atzmona, a settlement in the Gaza Strip.

A student at Atzmona's pre-military Jewish studies program, Simcha escaped unscathed after the armed Palestinian infiltrator slipped in and killed five students and injured 23 others.

It seemed too much for one family to bear. But in both cases, the Shumachers could rely for solace on One Family, an organization founded recently to help the victims of Arab terrorism.

One Family, started by Marc Belzberg, a Canadian resident of Jerusalem, and his wife Chantal, attends to the long-term physical and emotional needs of families touched by terrorism.

It sends volunteers to visit and console hospitalized victims. It also ensures that they receive the best medical care and helps them qualify for government benefits. As well, it disburses funds and distributes goods ranging from clothing to orthopedic beds. And in a new program, Seeds of Solidarity, which runs until May 17, supporters are urged to send a floral bouquet to victims of terrorism or families of Israeli soldiers. (www.flowers4israel.org).

> *'Our priorities have changed since bombing'*

One Family also organizes social events and retreats to help victims deal with their trauma, and it builds support networks.

In addition, One Family funds a camp for bereaved children who have lost a parent or parents, and it sponsors twinning programs with North American communities and builds bridges to the news media.

"We were the recipients of some of these benefits," said Shumacher in a recent interview while here on a private visit.

A 47-year-old accountant who has lived in the West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim for the past 12 years, Shumacher was pleased to report that Yaffa's condition, as well as that of her two friends, has improved.

Yaffa spent two weeks in hospital and then convalesced at home in a warm family environment. "She's mobile now, her arm and hand have healed and her first-degree burns have cleared away."

Yet she still requires therapy for the nerve damage in her elbow, and psychologically she wavers, Shumacher said.

The youngest of four children, Yaffa is "thrown back" by loud sounds and the drumbeat of current affairs, and she no longer frequents downtown Jerusalem.

Through Yaffa's brush with death, the Shumachers and their children have become dedicated One Family volunteers, regularly visiting terror victims.

"It's become a priority, almost a responsibility," said Shumacher, the product of a Bnei Akiva religious Zionist education.

The Shumachers are thankful that Simcha was physically untouched by the events in Atzmona. But they mourn for the five victims, all of whom were 18 years old and Simcha's friends.

Much to Shumacher's relief, Simcha has recovered. "A day after the attack, he said, 'I'm healthy in body and spirit.'" And within a week, Simcha, accompanied by his father, flew to New York City to speak about his harrowing experience at a private affair attended by former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

Shumacher, who lived in Kiryat Arba and Gilo before settling in Maaleh Adumim, believes the suicide bombings have had a marked impact on Israeli society.

"In general, people have become a lot more in touch with their loved ones. But people are restricting their movements."

To Shumacher, Israel's military sweep into the West Bank, Operation Defensive Shield, could not have come sooner. As he put it: "We couldn't be sitting ducks anymore."

Shumacher, who says he is not politically opinionated, doubts whether further Israeli incursions into the Palestinian autonomous areas can provide a long-term answer to terrorism.

On the other hand, he does not really know how Israel can deal effectively with the plague of suicide bombings.

Asked if Jews and Arabs can live in harmony, he said, "Not in this generation."

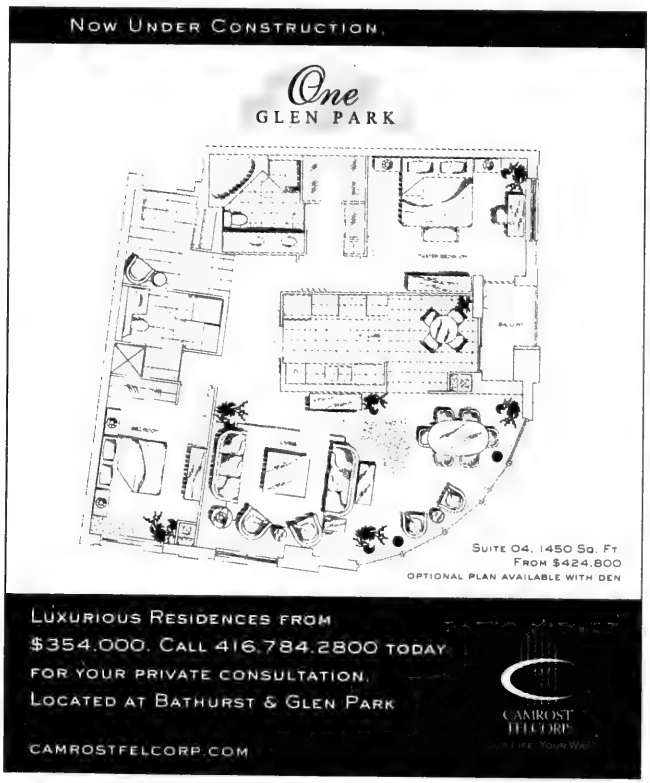
He and his wife do not regret their decision to leave Toronto and settle in Israel. "Never for a moment is it in our agenda to leave," he said. "We're not broken."

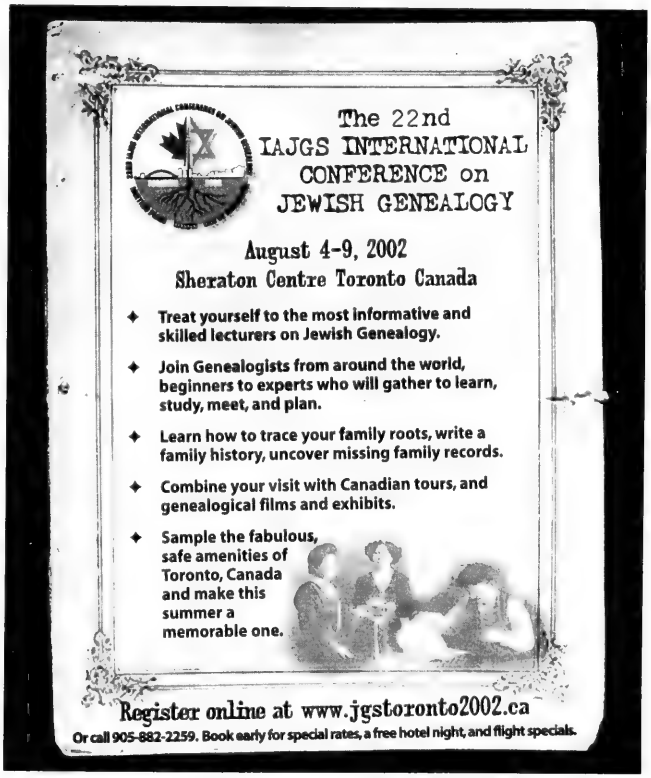
He said their children, including Zeev, 23, a real estate agent, and Meira, 20, a university student, are thoroughly Israeli.

During his visit in Toronto, Shumacher spoke to UJA Federation private meetings. He said he came away convinced that Jews in Toronto really do care about Israel and are ready to open up their pocketbooks.

Shumacher urges Canadians to write letters to Israelis who have been scarred by bombings.

"Solidarity is important," he said.

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Advertising Feature

Where children can grow

Last fall, students from Grades 1 and 2 planted dozens of flower bulbs in front of Associated Hebrew Schools' Posluns campus. Today, as you approach the building, you are greeted by dozens of cheerful yellow daffodils nodding their heads in the breeze.

It's a fitting image for an elementary day school, where Jewish values are planted at a very young age. "Our goal is to have the children know where they're coming from, be proud of their heritage and feel a sense of confidence," says Betty Katzman, Judaic Studies Principal at Posluns. Associated has a second elementary school campus in Thornhill.

Katzman points proudly to the Derech Eretz (good deeds) programme. Every week, each teacher submits the name of one student who performed a good deed. These students' names are posted on a wall for all to see. "We strive to build a better world, one mitzvah (deed) at a time," says Katzman.

Like daffodils, children need the right environment in which to grow. Associated is a well-established learning institution that provides students with a strong foundation in Judaic and General studies. The school gives children the skills to be successful as Canadians and as members of the Jewish community.

Judaic studies are taught in Hebrew and emphasize Torah values, a love of Israel, respect and knowledge of a Jewish way of life. In the General Studies Division, academic requirements meet or exceed the guidelines of the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

Teachers instil a lifelong love of learning in each child. "Teachers use different teaching styles to suit the learning styles of the children," says Sandy Rabinowitz, Principal of Kamin Education Centre. Some students learn best by listening, while others excel in hands-on work. "We try to match children with a teacher whose natural teaching style might meet theirs better." As educators, teachers are provided with ongoing professional development.

Many children have managed to remain in a day school environment with the support of special services. Marvin Sniderman is one of the personnel responsible for tracking children who need a modified programme as a result of a psychometric assessment. He also runs a social skills programme designed to help children in primary grades understand social and emotional behaviour. He uses a dolphin puppet named Dr. Duso to tell stories and role-play with the students. "We try to relate the stories to what's going on in class," says Sniderman.

Associated shares the community's mission that "no child shall be denied a Jewish education due to the inability to pay." Students who are new to Canada and have language issues are supported through an ESL (English as a Second Language) programme. A Russian-speaking social worker acts as a liaison between new immigrant parents and teachers.

Class trips and visitors bring teaching to life. For a unit on medieval times, a knight in full armour spoke to the children in old English. Students built Lego vehicles with motors, pulleys and gears for a science workshop. A sound and rhythm unit included a visit by musicians with drums.

"Parents are looking for a school with high standards, sensitive to children's individual needs," says Rabinowitz.

There are close to 1,100 students at Kamin (Atkinson) and 350 students at Posluns (Neptune), from SK to Grade 5. For more information on choosing the best elementary school for your child, please call the admissions and tuition office at 416-494-7666, ext. 323.

Seen (from left) Rebecca Winer, Yakov Frydman-Kohl, Dr. Reuven Gellman and Moshe Halpern.

Canadian teens among finalists in Bible competition

By JANICE HALPERN
Special to The CJN

Three Canadian teens had the privilege of participating this year in what has become, along with the ubiquitous barbecues, the key event of Israeli Independence Day – the International Bible Competition (Chidon Ha'Tanach Ha'Olami).

Yakov Frydman-Kohl, 17, Moshe Halpern, 18, and Rebecca Winter, 18, all graduates of the Bnei Akiva Schools Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot in Toronto were among the 16 finalists from Israel and the Diaspora to compete. Broadcast live on Israeli television and radio from the Jerusalem Theatre, in front of an audience of friends, family and the lucky few who were able to acquire tickets through "*protectzia*," the contest was an exhilarating experience.

Representatives from each of the teen's families flew to Israel at the last minute to share in the excitement. Cheering sections from Argentina threatened to dominate, but our Canadian team was encouraged by hand-written signs and cheers from their friends who are studying with them in yeshivot and seminaries in Israel. Reuven Gellman, who had inspired these students in their love of Tanach when they were in junior high at Netivot HaTorah Day School and has since made aliyah, was invited as their honoured guest.

Israeli Minister of Education Limor Livnat, Jewish Agency Chairman Salai Meridor and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon addressed the audience, all reflecting on the study of Tanach as a binding force for Am Yisrael and as a deep reservoir of strength for the State of Israel. Livnat thanked the parents of the participants for allowing them to come to Israel in these trying times.

In all, 45 young people had arrived the week before from all over the world to participate in this rich program. During the week, they came to know first hand a country whose history, geography, even flora and fauna, was familiar to them from their studies, and they met with the president, prime minister and Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff.

The program's participants represented Canada, the United States, Australia, England, France, Austria, Spain, Holland, Mexico, Argentina, Panama, Turkey and 10 countries from the former Soviet Union. Their tour guides were members of NaCHaT, Noar Chovevei Tanach, a group of young Israeli "lovers of the Tanach" who share the contestants' passion for the Hebrew Bible.

The results of the contest: first prize went jointly to two Israelis. Avichai Sheli, blind and hearing impaired from childhood, grabbed the microphone from a smiling Sharon to thank his parents for their unflagging support. Second prize also went to an Israeli. Third prize was awarded jointly to Canadians Yakov Frydman-Kohl and Moshe Halpern. Yakov came first in the Diaspora. Rebecca made it to the very last round.

Later, as we joined these marvelous young ambassadors at their barbecue, we felt tremendous pride and hope for the future, a hope firmly rooted in our past.

Janice Halpern is a psychiatrist in Toronto and also Moshe's mother.

Jewish continuity project launched

TORONTO — Associated Hebrew Schools Scholarship and Endowment Fund is taking applications for its new Jewish Continuity Project designed to financially assist children wishing to spend part or all of their summer vacation at a Jewish overnight camp.

Applications are available to Associated students who plan to attend a recognized Jewish summer camp and are receiving financial assistance from the camp. With assistance from private donors, Associated will match funds to qualifying children. This project helps children enjoy the experience of Jewish immersion at a summer camp while relieving some of the financial burden of the family.

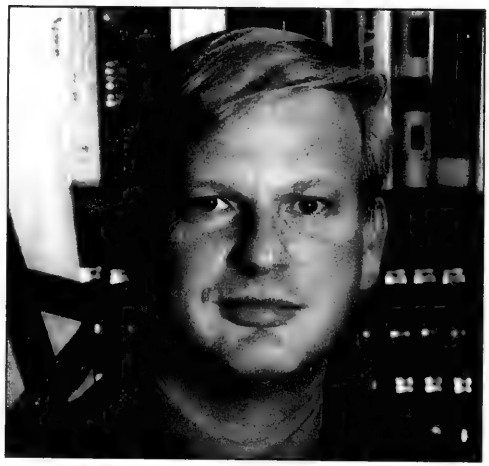
Deadline for applications is May 24. Applications and additional information may be obtained by e-mailing: r.margolis@ahschools.com, or by writing to: Jewish Continuity Programme, c/o The Scholarship and Endowment Fund, 6100 Leslie Street, Willowdale, Ont., M2H 3J1.

Strengthen Israel. Join the Israel Emergency Campaign Community Launch.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003

Thursday, May 9th – 8:00 pm

Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Canadian Room, 100 Front Street West, Toronto



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Dedicating his life to serving Israel, Ambassador Alon Pinkas, Consul General of Israel in New York, has played an integral role in the Middle East peace process.

Born in Tel Aviv, Ambassador Pinkas has, in a myriad of posts, spent years conferring with some of the finest minds in Israel's political history, including Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak and David Levy. The Ambassador has been particularly visible in recent weeks with appearances on CNN and in other media as a guest expert on the current Middle East crisis.

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Hana's story one of tragedy, hopefulness

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When George Brady first stepped into the office of *The CJN* two years ago, he wasn't sure whether his idea for a story had merit or not.

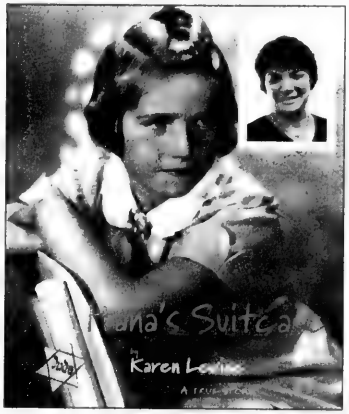
It had to to do with his sister, a teenage girl when last he saw her, who had been deported to Theresienstadt and then on to Auschwitz. In October 1944 she became one of the 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis.

Something incredible had turned up, he explained. The Tokyo Holocaust Centre had contacted him after receiving Hana's suitcase on loan from the Auschwitz museum. The suitcase, with Hana's name on it and emblazoned with the German word for orphan, was turning into one of the centre's most popular learning tools, as children were fascinated by the suitcase's owner and what kind of life she might have led. What's more, the co-ordinator of the centre, Fumiko Ishioka, had tracked him down and was eager to hear more about him and his sister.

Was that a story? he wondered.

More than a story, Brady's incredible tale moved many readers and proved an inspiration for an award-winning radio documentary and a new children's book by CBC radio producer Karen Levine.

Hana's Suitcase (Second Story Press) traces Hana and George's happy early years in the Czechoslovak town of Nove Mesto and describes how their world was torn apart first by the arrests of their parents and later by their deportation to Theresienstadt.



Author Karen Levine (inset) and her book Hana's Suitcase.

Running parallel to that story is one that takes place in contemporary Japan as Ishioka tries to acquire tangible artifacts from the Holocaust to make the era's lessons more relevant to the children she teaches. Ishioka's quest turns into something of an international detective's story as she visits Europe and then tracks down George Brady in Toronto.

The children at the Tokyo Holocaust Centre were tremendously excited when Ishioka told them Hana had a brother who survived the war.

Hana's and George's stories combine tragedy and hopefulness, Levine said. "In that sense it's a great story for children about this miserable period."

For children – as for adults – the statistics of death during the Holocaust can be numbing and impersonal. Hana's story puts a human face to that tremendous tragedy.

"When you come at the Holocaust as history...of 1.5 million children being killed, it's very hard to find a story that will be accessible, understandable and not totally devastating to children," Levine said.

"This is one. It embraces three continents and it has [pre-war] photographs...The little face on the front cover is very compelling. She's us."

"There are two stories here," explains Second Story publisher Margie Wolfe. "You see the worst in people and you see the best. Fumiko is truly a heroine and she's brought George's memory of Hana to the world now."

As far as George Brady is concerned, "a miracle has happened. It keeps going on and on."

When he first came to *The CJN* with his story, Brady simply wanted to do something to keep his sister's memory alive. After their parents were arrested, he felt duty-bound to make sure his sister remained safe.

"I felt responsible to take care of my sister. I couldn't do so. She went to the cellar room (the gas chambers)," he said at the time.

Now it seems, the story has taken on a life of its own. Not only has he travelled to Japan to personally tell his story to the "Little Wings" children's performance group at the centre, but the Japanese media were also intensely interested in his story. "I got my 15 minutes of fame," he jokes.

In Canada, he has been asked to speak on numerous occasions, telling the story at schools in Montreal and Toronto, at synagogues, at universities and before cultural groups.

For Brady, the experience has proven something of a catharsis. Although he carried on with a normal life after the war and started his own family and a successful plumbing business, "I couldn't sleep. Even 50 year after it still bothered me. Now I see the good it does in Japan for tolerance. I feel good about it.

"It's like Anne Frank, who caught the imagination of everybody."

Hana's Suitcase has also caught the imagination of book publishers worldwide. Wolfe recently returned from The International Children's Book Fair in Bologna, Italy, at which publishers vied for the rights to the book in their home markets. Wolfe struck a deal to have the book translated and published in France, while a Japanese edition is to be released in the summer. She expects Dutch, Swedish, Danish and Korean versions to be negotiated in short order and she has been negotiating over the book's rights with American publishers . She expects the book may eventually be translated into 12 or 15 languages.

"It makes the Holocaust a contemporary story with a currency and importance for kids today," Wolfe explained.

Levine, who won the Peabody Award for her documentary, *Children of the Holocaust*, said she has been fascinated by the subject ever since she and her parents visited Buchenwald when she was a teen.

"From that point on, I read and read about the Holocaust.

"At 13 I just found the whole notion of this kind of hatred and mass murder so incomprehensible. I've spent the last 30 years trying to comprehend it and the courage of the people who resisted. I'm in awe of that and that keeps me coming back to the story.

"I have a huge admiration for George and Fumiko for bringing this story of a little girl to life."

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Confronting Israel's Emergency

A Firsthand Report

The View From Jerusalem

Ronnie Appleby, *Chair, Israel Emergency Campaign 2003*

All around me, I am confronted with reminders of the past 20 months of relentless terror Israel has endured. Thousands are suffering from the after effects – physically, psychologically and emotionally. Yet Israel Government funding cannot go far enough, with security as the primary concern. Ben Yehuda Street lies deserted. Restaurants sit empty. The shops open and close at their scheduled times, yet few come in to buy. It is a troubling situation which requires our urgent support.

The View From Toronto

Howard Sokolowski, *Chair, Israel Emergency Campaign 2003*

In Toronto, I am witnessing a response to Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 I would never have thought possible. Donors have been doubling, tripling and even quadrupling their gifts. Last week, our telethons reached 7,500 homes. Gift increases for the Campaign are averaging **70%**. Our community is embracing this unprecedented North American effort on behalf of Israel with remarkable commitment. In Toronto, we have already raised more than $10 million designated for Israel's human services. Together, we are demonstrating our support for the people of Israel as never before. Please join this critical campaign.

Where increased funds from Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 will go:

- **Assistance for victims of terror and their families**
- **Increased security for children in day cares, kindergartens and other facilities**
- **Increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by the crisis, particularly the poor, the elderly and new immigrants**

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Jewish Life

The Diaspora: home, or home away from home?

***Home Lands*, By Larry Tye, Henry Holt and Company $27.50, 2001.**

Are Jews outside of Israel in Galut, or exile? Can only the Jewish State assure the survival of the Jewish people? Are Jews in the Diaspora doomed to slow but inevitable extinction?

Books
Bernard Baskin

To these and similar questions, the author of this optimistic appraisal of the Jewish future answers with a resounding no.

Larry Tye, a journalist with the *Boston Globe*, describes Jewish life in seven far-flung cities – Dusseldorf, Dnepropetrovsk, Boston, Atlanta, Paris, Dublin and Buenos Aires. In each, he discovers a surprising vitality and religious renewal.

Although memory of the Holocaust still lingers, Dusseldorf, with its six thousand Jews is the world's fastest growing Jewish community and already surpasses its pre-Holocaust Jewish population. This city, once the home of Heinrich Heine, Felix Mendelssohn and Rabbi Leo Baeck, is thriving, especially with the recent influx of Russian Jews, many in search of better economic conditions and encouraged by Germany's generous welfare programs.

Once ravaged by pogroms and subject to both Soviet and Nazi tyranny, the Jews of the Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk have been enlivened and reinvigorated, largely through the efforts of a charismatic Lubavitcher rabbi. The mostly untutored and uninformed community now has a religious day school, an old-age home, a weekly television show and even a kosher slaughterhouse.

One hundred and fifty libraries of Judaica have sprung up across the Ukraine, which now boasts 243 communities with at least some Jews, and a dozen with major Jewish populations.

In Buenos Aires, the 1994 bombing of the city's prestigious Jewish centre, with its tragic loss of life, jarred a rather passive declining community into greater religious identity and the determination to defy the anti-Semitic murderers.

Boston and Atlanta are alive with imaginative new programs – religious and secular – reaching out to questing and disaffected Jews seeking new inspiration and wholeness in Jewish life.

The author points out that Jews everywhere regard Israel as their spiritual homeland, but says the notion that "Diaspora Jews are residing in some unnatural exile is a distortion of history… Abraham, father of the Jews, discovered his God outside Israel. The Torah was given to the Jewish people outside Israel. The most important Talmud, or compilation of Jewish tradition, is the one from Babylon, not the one from Jerusalem. Even during the era of the Second Temple, more Jews lived in the Diaspora than in Israel."

Finally the author indicates that in all seven communities "there has been a dramatic reversal of generational roles, that sees children speaking Hebrew better than parents and grandparents, having a clearer grasp of their Jewish heritage and bringing older relatives back with them to the shul and classroom."

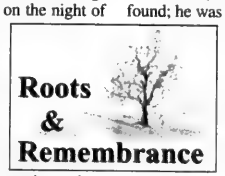
The author concludes that although the overall number of Jews will probably continue to decline, there are nevertheless many signs of strength. He is sure that never in the history of the Diaspora have there been more opportunities for Jews to connect to their Judaism educationally, culturally, and religiously. "In the future there will be fewer Jews, but better Jews."

This is a welcome, highly readable and heartening personal report, even if somewhat superficial in places and, I fear, overly enthusiastic.

The Titanic disaster 90 years later

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Last month marked the 90th anniversary of the S.S. Titanic disaster. The legendary British ship sank on the night of April 14-15, 1912, after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic on its maiden voyage. More than 1,500 of the 2,200 people aboard perished in the tragedy, which has been memorialized in books, popular songs and movies such as James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster *Titanic*.



Roots & Remembrance

That film sparked a resurgence of interest in the Titanic and led to a spate of new books on various historical aspects of the ill-fated ship. One recent publication – *Titanic Victims in Halifax Graveyards*, by Blair Beed – is of particular interest to genealogists since it documents the burial of 150 recovered bodies in the Nova Scotian capital, including 10 ostensibly Jewish victims who were buried in the Baron de Hirsch Cemetery.

In a chapter on the Titanic's Hebrew victims, Beed relates the difficulties that the Halifax rabbi faced in identifying victims as Jewish. Despite the best of intentions, mistakes were made. Ten men were eventually buried in two rows of five, with identically-sized gravestones. But only two were positively identified; it was later proven that one was a Roman Catholic and the other a member of the Church of England.

The most famous Jewish passengers on the Titanic were Isidor and Ida Straus, the Macy's department store moguls, who were returning to New York from a winter holiday on the French Riviera; both died. (Only Mr. Straus's body ws found; he was buried in New York.) The Strauses had established a Jerusalem soup kitchen, and when their fate reached that city, some "60,000 Jewish inhabitants went into mourning… and kept a solemn fast" in their memory, according to a report in the *Chicago Tribune*.

Numerous participants of the JewishGen Internet discussion group have indicated they are researching relatives who had booked passage on the Titanic; several reportedly exchanged their steamship tickets at the last minute. One family did so because the April 10 sailing date was too close to the last day of Passover on April 9.

We'll likely never have a comprehensive list of Jewish Titanic passengers, but American genealogist Gertrude Ogushwitz has compiled a partial list of about 90 people based on whether their names sounded Jewish.

Surnames in first-class: Birnbaum, Brandeis, Goldenberg, Goldschmidt, Guggenheim, Hippach, Jakob, Klaber, Leader, Lewy, Meyer, Rosenbaum, Rothschild, Saloman, Stehli-Frolicher, Straus, Taussig.

Second-class: Abelson, Bowenur, Fox, Greenberg, Harris, Hart, Herman, Jacobsohn, Kantor, Lehman, Levy, Meyer, Milling, Pinsky, Troupeansky, Weitz (of Montreal).

Third-class: Aks, Cohen, Corn, Denkoff, Drapkin, Elias, Emanuel, Gilinski, Goldsmith, Goodwin, Hyman, Jonkoff, Lithman, Maisner, Markoff, Minkoff, Mitkoff, Naidenoff, Nankoff, Rath/Roth, Risien, Sadowitz, Spector, Steinman, Trembisky, Wiseman.

At 162 pages, *Titanic Victims in Halifax Graveyards* is published by Dtours Visitors and Convention Service of Halifax.

* * *

Jewish Year Book & Travel Guide: The British publishing house Vallentine Mitchell, in association with the *Jewish Chronicle* newspaper, recently published two worthy reference books.

The Jewish Year Book 2002 is a thorough compilation of information on the British Jewish community and a thumbnail survey of Jewry worldwide. The Jewish Travel Guide 2002, which lists synagogues and other Jewish facilities in many countries, bills itself as "by far the most extensive guide to the most important places around the world for the Jewish traveller." Both are available in local Jewish bookstores.

* * *

Toronto Conference: The 22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy takes place Aug. 4 through Aug. 9 in Toronto and features more than 100 lectures, as well as a mini-film festival. It's a wonderful opportunity that no local genealogist should miss. If you register before May 15, you pay a reduced fee. For details, visit the Web site at www.jgstoronto2002.ca/.

Jewish Life

Shavuot for kids

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It may not have Chanukah's dreidels or Purim's greggers or the excitement of hunting down the afikoman. But there are plenty of traditions – and delightful Web sites – that will entertain and educate kids about the festival of Shavuot.

Two great places to start learning all about the holiday are at the Torah Tots Web site, which provides holiday history along with recipes, colouring pages, puzzles and quizzes **[http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/shavuos/shavuot.htm]**, and Nurit Reshef's Shavuot Customs and Traditions **[http://www.bus.ualberta.ca/yreshef/pesach/shavucustoms.html]**.

To test your knowledge of the day, you can play their "Replace the Pickle" game, where you are challenged to replace the word "pickle" with the correct holiday-related answer. Two examples: "We eat 'pickled' products on Shavuot" and "We decorate the 'pickle jar' with 'olives' on Shavuot."

Rahel Musleah writes in Jewish Family and Life that she has created a new holiday tradition, a Shavuot "seder." Like that more famous seder, the Shavuot seder one also has four cups, but this time, each cup is filled with a different drink to celebrate the phrase *eretz zavat chalav u'dvash* (a land flowing with milk and honey). For example, to honour the word *zavat* (flowing), fill your cup with fruit juices. Discuss this theme of "sharing our plenty" by recalling the tradition of bringing *bikkurim* (first fruits) to the Holy Temple starting on Shavuot **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/1099.html]**.

And in a tradition usually reserved for another Jewish holiday, Lois Greene Stone has instructions for creating a kreplach costume for Shavuot **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/1115.html]**. Kreplach are three-cornered dumplings which on Shavuot are filled with cheese (unlike the meat variation enjoyed on other holidays), so why not take the opportunity to celebrate them? **[http://www.yipc.org/new_page_63.htm]**

Jill Suzanne Jacobs wants to revive a Shavuot craft tradition that kids may enjoy. Jacobs explains that in late 19th century eastern Europe, it became popular to decorate one's home with small, round paper-cuts called "Shavuos'lekh." She provides instructions for making your own **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/2122.html]**.

On the first night of Shavuot, there is a tradition of stayng up the entire night and studying in commemoration of the giving of the Torah **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/shavuot/tikkun.htm]**. Jennifer Werner writes in the teenagers' Web site JVibe about a special custom her Grandma Bea shared with her on the first night of Shavuot. According to her grandmother, "On the first night of Shavuot, at exactly 12:00 midnight, the heavens opened up for a split second, and if you made a wish at exactly the right second, it was guaranteed to come true." What did Jennifer wish for? Read the article to find out **[http://www.jvibe.com/realife/shavout.shtml]**.

If you are looking for more information about Shavuot, including some Web sites for adults, you'll find dozens of links at Jacob Richman's Hot Sites **[http://www.jr.co.il/hotsites/j-hdaysh.htm]** and stories for kids at Chabad's Virtual Shavuot Web site **[http://www.virtualshavuot.com/]**.

Finally, something that I had never seen – an educational recipe. To celebrate the giving of the Torah at Shavuot, the learn@jts Kid's Corner presents the recipe for the remarkable "Bible Cake." All the ingredients for the cake are hidden in verses from Bible that you will need to decipher. As the Cake's instructions say: "Study first, then bake then eat" **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/kids/shavuot_together/]**.

Here are some of the Shavuot Bible Cake's ingredients:

2 cups Jeremiah 6:20
a pinch of Leviticus 2:13
2 cups (chopped) Nahum 3:12

I guess you *can* learn your cake and eat it too!

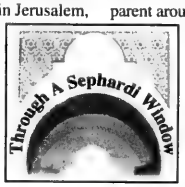
As for that "pickle quiz," we eat "dairy" products on Shavuot and we decorate the "synagogue" with "greenery and flowers."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Thousands of youth going to Israel

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

It's no secret that visitors are staying away from Israel in droves. This sad fact is self-evident from the closures of restaurants and shops in Jerusalem, the near empty hotels in Tel Aviv and the deserted beaches of Eilat. Tourism and the hospitality industry are reeling.



This time, not only is adult tourist travel to Israel virtually non-existent, but the many traditional Jewish youth groups of spring and summer have also all been cancelled. One by one, operators and organizers have opted out to wait for better times, and programs have vanished.

One group alone has, as a group, not cancelled – the foreign yeshiva student population of Israel. Estimates of Anglo and European young people, mostly in their teens or early 20s, spending one or more years of Jewish study in Israeli yeshivot run between 6,000 and 9,000. This figure includes nearly 2,000 post-high school girls studying in seminaries.

The murderous terrorism of this past March was one tragically unparalleled in the short history of the State of Israel. Pesach in April had every parent around the world happy to bring their children home, not just for the holiday, but also to the perceived safety of their home.

As Pesach came and went and terrorist incidents continued to escalate (the Passover massacre, the Jerusalem bus bombing…) the question now was: would these children be returning to their studies as scheduled after the Pesach break?

Yes, was the resounding response. On the days before the yeshiva term was to begin, airline seats to Israel were impossible to get. Planes were leaving full of students refusing to cancel their plans and interrupt their studies. It was reported that on some flights from New York to Tel Aviv, the entire passenger load consisted exclusively of yeshiva boys! The only non-yeshiva person on board aside from the crew was the now very conspicuous air marshal.

Within this very observant group of yeshiva students, the words of the sages naturally carry great importance. In this instance, it was the ruling of a respected authority in Jerusalem, Rabbi Yosef Eliyashev. When repeatedly asked about the propriety of Torah study in Israel during this time, he emphatically declared that Eretz Yisrael is not a *makom sakanah* – not a place of peril. A *makom sakanah* is a halachic designation for a place that is to be avoided. That was the decisive factor in the return of 95 per cent of the yeshiva boys and girls from Europe and North America.

True, among this very special student body, there is very little if any "hanging out" or "going out." Granted also, many parents have charged their children not to stray far from their institutions and not to ride buses, but instead to travel in the perceived safety of a cab. Still, the fact that practically every yeshiva boy and girl has returned to Israel speaks volumes about their commitment to Torah, their love for the people of Israel and their loyalty to the Land of Israel.

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USYers take political action

By SHIRA ZELIGER
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — With their dress suits and Israeli and Canadian flags packed neatly in their travel bags, 18 high school students, accompanied by three staff, recently departed for Ottawa for the Eastern Canadian Region of United Synagogue Youth (ECRUSY) inaugural political advocacy trip.

The students took part in the intensive, two-day seminar to learn how to become politically active in the Jewish community. Out of approximately 300 members in the region (which covers Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes), 20 members from Hamilton, the greater Toronto area, Kingston, Ottawa and Montreal were selected to participate. Acceptance was based on leadership skills and on a personal essay.

"It was important for me to go on this trip because it was important for me to stand with Israel during her time of need," said Tania Garshowitz of Thornhill, Ont. "As well, I wanted to be able to come back to my community prepared to educate my peers about political advocacy and the conflict in the Middle East."

The first speaker the students heard upon their arrival at Ottawa's Agudath Israel Congregation was Ruben Friedman, who has worked in the public relations department of Canadian Jewish Congress. Friedman discussed the importance of political advocacy and how to successfully advocate. Rabbi Arnold Fine of Agudath Israel then talked about the Jewish perspective on political advocacy.

By the end of the day, the students said they felt empowered and optimistic about becoming more politically active and learning more about the situation in the Middle East.

"The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to brainstorm ways in which we, as Canadian Jewish youth, can support Israel from home," said Elise Loterman of Toronto.

Following a Yom Hazikaron ceremony put together by Montrealers Carmit and Liat Tzoubari, participants met with Israeli Embassy representative Amir Meimon, who talked about the current function of the embassy, as well as about Jewish pride, the importance of educating non-Jews about Israel and of countering anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic biases. Meimon also talked to the group about the cultural and industrial side of Israel that is often overshadowed by the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On Parliament Hill, participants met with Jeff Sallot, a journalist for the *Globe and Mail*, who discussed media bias and the Canadian government's policy towards Israel.

"The meeting was a nice warm-up in anticipation of our meetings with parliamentarians over the course of the day," said Daniel Silverman of Ottawa. "The issues discussed gave the group a chance to test their question-asking skills and to let our concerns be known to a member of the Canadian media."

Staff advisers Jonathan and Elise Levinoff and Tamara Kochberg, youth director of ECRUSY, then led an advocacy training program and an orientation about the Canadian parliamentary process.

During question period, participants saw a "full house" of notable political leaders in Canada, such as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham, Canadian Alliance MP Stockwell Day and Minister of Industry Allan Rock, as well as several famous Olympic athletes who had come to the House of Commons to receive recognition for their participation in the 2002 Olympics.

"It was both amazing and amusing to listen to the politicians discuss issues that concern us as Canadian citizens, as well as international issues, such as the conflict in the Middle East," said Rachel Levy of Hamilton.

Following question period, the students had the opportunity to briefly discuss with Day and Rock their concerns and goals.

"The trip gave us, as USYers, the opportunity to voice our opinions and to put our opinions and discussions into being proactive, as well as bringing our concerns to the goverment and to professionals in the Canadian Jewish community and media," said David Goldberg of Hamilton.

Before the seminar's close, the students also met with Elinor Caplan, MP for Thornhill, Ont., and Irwin Cotler, MP for Mount Royal, to discuss Canada's Mideast policies. They agreed that the trip was an excellent educational experience.

"The political advocacy trip could not have come at a more crucial time, allowing USYers from across our region to meet face to face with some of Canada's senior politicians and to discuss matters of concern to us, including the situation in the Middle East and other issues affecting Canadian Jews," said Kochberg. "It was excellent exposure to the Canadian political system through a USY lens."

"After going on [this political advocacy trip], I learned the main essentials to go back to my community and be a successful political activist," added Jeremy Moses of Montreal.

Shira Zeliger is a Grade 12 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. She is president of USY at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation and was a delegate on the political advocacy trip.

Greater Toronto Area

Shavuot study session planned

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In response to the terrorist attacks in Israel, NCSY Canada is tweaking the traditional all-night study session held on the eve of Shavuot, the holiday that commemorates the receiving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

The Jewish outreach organization – an affiliate of the Orthodox Union known formally as National Conference of Synagogue Youth – has planned a "Learn-a-Thon for Israel" to be held by all 12 NCSY regions across North America on the night of Thurs., May 16.

Rabbi Glenn Black, director of NCSY Canada, hopes that not only teenagers but adults in various synagogues will also devote at least one hour of Tikkun Leil Shavuot study to learning about Israel, either through discussion or text.

The NCSY project, in addition to its focus on learning about Israel, will be a fund-raiser for Israeli victims of terror. Learn-a-thon participants are each asking 10 people to donate $18.

In Toronto, NCSYers will study at two locations, Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, in Thornhill, and Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. The event begins with a late dinner and ends with dawn prayers. Refreshments will be provided throughout the night. "We're hoping to have hundreds of kids," said Rabbi Black.

"We urge all teenagers throughout the city and across Canada to join us," said Rabbi Black in a news release. He encourages those who cannot stay up all night to stay up as long as they can. "We must support our brothers and sisters in Israel who are defending the State, *our* State, and putting their lives on the line, every minute. Their existence is our existence."

For more information, call 905-761-6279, ext. 29.

Women to unite in prayer

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Women from across the religious spectrum are joining together to pray for Israel.

The one-hour service, to be held at the Sephardic Kehila Centre on May 22 at 8 p.m., will include prayers, footage from Israel, and a women's musical presentation.

Guest speaker will be Julia Koschitzky, chair of Israel Now, a consortium of more than 100 community organizations united in solidarity with Israel. It is under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel.

Goldie Plotkin, wife of Rabbi Avraham Plotkin, executive director and spiritual leader of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, said the idea for the prayer service came about after a group of women at a Pesach seudah decided that women needed to unite to show their solidarity for Israel.

"Women have conducted many prayer groups, but they have been fragmented; everyone supported their own organization. That needs to be corrected. God needs to look down and see us getting along."

What is unique about the evening, Plotkin said, is that although a variety of women's groups, organizations and synagogues are participating, there is no sponsoring organization. "No one will be recognized. It is an event for women, by women, in order to show Israelis that we support them. Prayer is one way to show support."

Prayers will be posted on the wall in Hebrew and Hebrew transliteration so everyone will be comfortable praying, she said.

The Jewish community is beginning to realize that we cannot be separated, said Plotkin. "This is a new Judaism; labels are over. We are all Jewish, and we have to work together as Jews."

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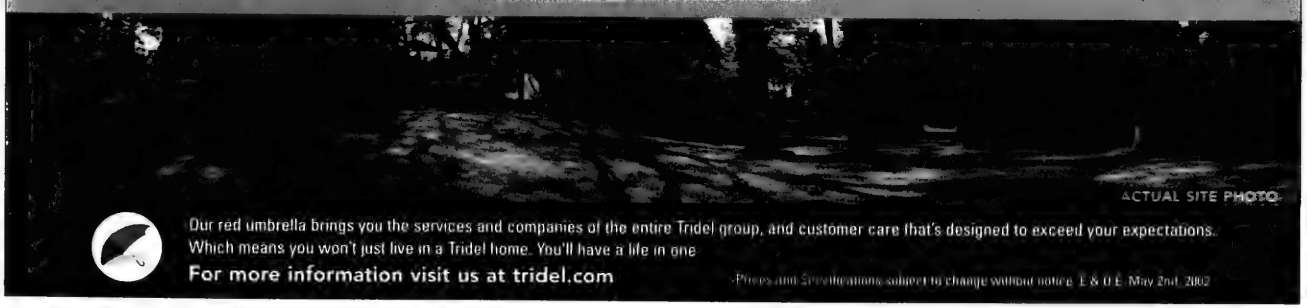

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On Campus

York U seeks input on weekend exam decision

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — York University is requesting input on its recent decision to hold weekend exams.

The Committee on Curriculum and Academic Standards is circulating an e-mail that describes the problems and concerns facing the university regarding the exam schedule and requests comments.

As reported in *The CJN*, York University scheduled examinations on Saturday this year and Sabbath-observant students had to make special arrangements to write them.

In addition, faculty members complained that the decision to hold weekend exams was imposed on them without proper consultation.

Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services, is currently preparing a submission for the committee and encourages other interested parties to do the same.

"York was created with a certain multicultural sensitivity and that was what was special about that university," Kaye said.

"The recent decision to hold exams on Saturdays turns the clock back and has definite negative connotations," he noted.

For Sabbath-observant students, Kaye said, the change in policy has added tremendous unnecessary hardships at a time when they are already under stress because of their exams.

And while York has made arrangements for students to write exams on an alternate date if an exam conflicted with their observance of the Sabbath, Kaye noted that "we are hearing from some students that the system isn't working that well."

Kaye said some students have told him that, on occasion, "accommodations for alternative dates were given by professors reluctantly."

Furthermore, many traditional students who would have otherwise been in synagogue decided to write their exams on Saturday rather than confront their teachers, he said.

The committee is requesting comments and advice on the matter until May 15 so that a report can be presented to the Senate before the end of the current academic year.

For more information, see www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate/committees/ccas/index.htm or submit comments to York's Committee on Curriculum and Academic Standards.

Yeshiva U dean calls for balance in Jewish education

TORONTO — David Schnall believes in balancing Jewish intellectual thought with modern theories on education, family and community in order to ensure that Judaism is a "philosophy in action and not just a bag of words."

Schnall, dean of the Azrieli graduate school of Jewish education and administration at Yeshiva University, has written extensively on Jewish affairs, public policy and management issues.

His most recent book *By The Sweat of Your Brow*, looks at the relationship between various factors related to the workforce as seen through the application of Jewish values.

Schnall attempts to reconcile ethical, moral and religious thought with practical work-related concerns dealing with employer-employee relationships as well as with more esoteric issues such as the pursuit of Torah study as a full-time career.

Schnall was in Toronto recently as a guest of Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University, The Leon Katz Endowment and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood.

In an interview, Schnall noted that the key to the current Jewish renaissance is day school education and its ability to respond to the changing needs of the community.

Schnall notes that while schools may hold a key to religious and cultural continuity, they are not a replacement for effective family.

"Parenting is not absolved simply by writing a cheque or sending children to one school or another."

Nor are problems solved by simply switching a child from one school to another, Schnall added. Parents need to learn to be advocates for their children, he noted.

On the other hand, schools must strive towards providing the most progressive educational experience possible.

Schnall believes that schools need to be more efficient and effective at what they do. In addition, they must also be responsive to the demands of parents in order to remain relevant and important examples of institutional and organizational life in the Jewish community.

Day schools must not only provide "an intense exposure to Jewish life and culture," but must also strive for the best and most forward-looking education that the academic environment has to offer. At the same time, Schnall points to a great redundancy in the school environment.

"Whether a school integrates the curriculum or maintains isolated and separate curricula," the types of things that kids do in their religious studies should "reinforce their thinking abilities, their maturity, their appreciation for others, their tolerance and their sense of insight into life."

It can and should provide values that are a bedrock for effective academic attainment in all subjects, Schnall noted.

It is much more important to be able to teach students "to think in a systematic and cohesive fashion" and to leave them with the "ability to put together different worlds and cultures."

That is the key to creating an integrated human being and that is what Jewish education should be about, he added.

In particular, Schnall noted educators should "take a good hard look at what has been the traditional curriculum for boys" in the Jewish community.

"For all the debate and controversy over the role of women in Jewish education, our daughters are probably getting better schooling than our sons."

In the recent past, there really wasn't much of a definition with respect to education for young women, Schnall said.

Schnall questions the need to make the study of Talmud the centre of all religious education for young men by the time they are in Grade 4.

"In fact," Schnall said, "there are many sources in classic Jewish texts that raise serious questions as to whether young men should be studying Talmud before the age of 15 or 16.

"There is a world of culture that could easily be made to speak directly to the needs of children and young adolescents that have been ignored for them and for their teachers.

"Even within the context of Talmud and Halachah, there are areas of study that have to do with family relationships, communal responsibilities, and personal as well as international interactions," Schnall added.

Besides just mouthing communal responsibilities to Jews around the world, there's no reason our young men and women couldn't be studying texts that deal with issues relevant to their current agendas, he said.

–A.M.

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Ma'ariv at 10:00 p.m. followed by Kiddush and Dessert
Bernie Farber, Executive Director of Canadian Jewish Congress
"Report on the State of Anti-Semitism in Light of the Mideast Crisis" 11:00 p.m.

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11:00 p.m. Text study with **Rabbi Scheim**
Israel in Talmud and Midrash

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 13, is deadline for May 23 issue and Tuesday, May 21 , is deadline for May 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, May 9

GOLF CLASSIC

Temmy Latner Annual Golf Classic being held at Cedarbrae Golf and Country Club welcomes single golfers, corporate packages and sponsorships. Includes great prizes, lunch and dinner. Register, 416-483-0883.

Friday, May 10

CARLEBACH MINYAN

The minyan is not being held at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue this month. It has moved south to the Anshei Minsk Congregation due to the Shabbaton there with **Rabbi Avrohom Trugman** (Rabbi Carlebach's close disciple). The minyan resumes at Shaarei Shomayim June 7. For information on the minyan and the Shabbaton, call the Minsker Shul at 416-595-5723. For details, note item New Horizons in the And What Else Is New section.

Sunday, May 12

THE INTIFADAH

David Zev Harris, chief of news services for Media Line Radio Service, Jerusalem, speaks on The Intifadah: A Frontline Journalist's View at 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast program features **Alvin Abrams** speaking on Life Is Truer Than Fiction. Services 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30 and speaker at 10 a.m. 416-789-3291.

JEWISH WRITERS

Prof. Sarah Horowitz discusses Contemporary Jewish Writers on Judaism, 8 p.m., Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. 416-229-2600.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer.** Come listen, come tell. All welcome. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 178A Danforth Ave. 7:30 p.m. Call 416-699-8914.

RUMMAGE SALE

Forest Hill Lions Club Mother's Day Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at National Council of Jewish Women, 4700 Bathurst St. Clothing, jewelry, small appliances, china, tools, toys and much more. **Lorne Shiels** 905-886-6911 or **Norm Borofsky** 416-482-1224.

Tuesday, May 14

HONOURING MOTHERS

For Mother's Day, Beth David, B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood and Sisterhood present The Shalom Singers. Roses for the ladies. 8 p.m. 416-633-5500.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Prof. Henry Auster of University of Toronto leads a discussion of the novel *The Dark Room* by **Rachel Seifert**, Holy Blossom Temple Book Club, 2 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

Wednesday, May 15

DEALING WITH LOSS

The workshop on Dealing With Loss, at Temple Har Zion, features moderators and temple members **Sim Greene** and **Cheryl Ackerman** and panelists and temple members **Elaine Birnbaum**, **Liz Kalmar** and **Janice Pearl**, 8 p.m., 7360 Bayview Ave. For details, **Sim Greene** 416-221-4227, or temple office 905-889-2252.

A SWEET SIXTEEN

The Markham-Unionville Chapter of Jewish Women International

Continued on page 27

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Continued from page 26

celebrates 16 years of community service and good times at 7:30 p.m. RSVP **Elyse Floyd** 905-472-8521.

And What Else Is New

MITZVAH MISSION

Canadian Women's Mitzvah Mission to Israel May 19-27. This is a small group of Jewish women, acting as individuals, independent of any organization, who will conduct pre-arranged interviews, visit victims of terrorist attacks and videotape, photograph and record their stories. Upon returning to Toronto, an exhibition will be mounted. **Sheila Hecker** 416-223-7139 or **Nancy Weisbrod** 416-782-1400.

JRCC HAPPENINGS

Jewish Russian Community Centre Institute of Torah Study, 18 Rockford Rd. **Chana Weisberg**, dean, 416-222-7195, ext. 30.

Sunday, May12: pre-Shavuot holiday lecture on the magnitude and meaning of Matan Torah, the giving of the Torah, with **Rabbi Levi Jacobson**, 8 p.m. Register.

Tuesday, May 14: Daytime course on Our Matriarch Rebecca with **Chana Weisberg**, Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. Repeat of this course Monday evenings. Register.

Sunday, May 19: A 3-part series Wars of Armageddon (Gog and Magog), with **Rabbi Isser Weisberg**, 8-9:30 p.m. Register.

SHAVUOT DINNER

The 3rd annual Shavuot dinner and learning at Kiever Synagogue, 25 Bellevue Ave., Kensington Market, Friday, May 17, 7 p.m. Guest speakers, special kids program. Dairy dinner following and learning until 11 p.m. **Dave Pinkus** 416-593-9956, or **Rabbi Gedalia Zweig** 905-886-6305.

STEP-PARENTING

Successful Step-Parenting: Learning To Step Together, a Jewish Family & Child Service group to help couples living in blended families build a solid relationship and to discuss guidelines and strategies to help children adjust to step-family life. Starts Wednesday, May 22, for 6 sessions, from 7:30-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.-Lipa Green Building. Register. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

NEW HORIZONS

Art, Science and Torah: A New Paradigm and Mikvah: Secrets of the Cycle of Life, are some of the talks planned for a Shabbaton, May 10 and 11, at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrews St., Kensington Market. Featured speakers are **Rabbi Avrohom** and **Rachel Trugman** of Moshav Meor Modiin, Israel, directors of Ohr Chadash, New Horizons in Jewish Experience. A late night melaveh malka packed with music and stories will follow on Saturday evening. Information/reservations 416-595-5723.

COUNTER MISSIONARY

Counter Missionary Survival Seminar, 8 p.m. Tuesdays, May 21-June 25, at Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., Room 423. Instructor **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, of Jews for Judaism. Advanced registration required. 905-761-0040.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional minyan welcomes the non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz**. Sunday morning minyan 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Road (behind Rockford R. Public School). **David** 416-256-1600.

FOR SENIORS

Cranbrooke Friendship Club presents The Jewish Woman in Song, a lecture-recital by Yiddish musicologist **Naomi Bell**, Monday, May 13, 12:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Lunch preceding. 416-789-5502.

LZA Seniors has a limited number of tickets available for *Joseph* at Stage West Dinner Theatre on June 26. Call **Libby** 416-782-2059 or the office 416-630-9444. The Senior's Cultural Club weekly meetings continue every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for the summer party with live music June 2, 7:30 p.m. Regular programs: May 9, singalong with **Yitzchak Argaman**; May 16, closed for Shavuot; May 23, bingo; May 30, free evening for stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances May 11, 25, at 7:30 p.m.; Casino Rama, May 15, 29. JUne 12, 26; Sunday dances with live band May 19, June 2, 23; Thousand Islands trip. May 28-31; Stage West Dinner Theatre to see *Joseph* June 13; Casino Niagara, June 20; Catskill trip, July 22-28. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave., 416-225-2112.

Lecture on Vitamins and Bone Health presented by the University Health Network, Thursday, May 16, 1:15-2:15 p.m. ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. May 14, Jerusalem Day party; May 21, lecture; May 28, concert. **Anna** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Between Stages Playwright's Workshop Series public reading of *Remember Me*, 8 p.m., Saturday, May 11. Play begins December 1938 and follows Marianne's story during the first kindertransport out of Nazi Germany to Britain.

Mount Sinai Hospital/Miles Nadal JCC health and wellness program, Eat Well, Be Well series, discusses osteoporosis, Wednesday, May 14, 10 a.m. to noon.

Registration is now open for Summer Camps. Programs for children 15 months to 15 years old.

Good Age Club programs: Thursday, May 9, 2 p.m., *Little Italy*, movie by **Sandra Danilovic** starring **Fanny Brass**; Thursday, May 16, 2 p.m., informal singalong.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Sunday, May 12, 2-5 p.m., opening reception for new show at Koffler Gallery, *Regarding Landscape*, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman.** On view at Koffler Gallery, the Art Gallery of York University and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. Every Sunday, May 12-June 30, shuttle bus travels between all three galleries departing MOCCA, 5040 Yonge St., at 2 p.m.(call 416-395-7430 to reserve a seat).

Sunday, May12, Rikudiyah 2002, Israeli Dance Festival for Children, 7 p.m. York University, Tait McKenzie Building, 4700 Keele St. ext. 380.

Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shavuot event at the Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum. ext. 456.

Tuesday, May 14, 1-2:30 p.m., The Art of Rubber Stamping, room 211, **Janet** ext. 259.

Tuesday, June 25, day trip to Port Hope to see the musical *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*. **Janet** ext. 259.

EDUCATION AWARD: Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin won the Ontario Psychology Association's Public Education Award at the group's recent convention for her work on bringing mental health initiatives to the people of Toronto through an innovative program.

WOMEN OF ACTION: Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) honoured four women at a recent Women of Action Luncheon. The award honours women who have made a difference through their achievements, leadership and dedication in the business, medical and philanthropic communities. Seen from left: Amy Newman Brown, president ICRF Toronto; Sharon Prizant, luncheon co-chair; Rose Wolfe, honoree; Fern Reich, vice-president, ICRF Toronto; Dr. Lavina Lickley, honoree; Carol Zucker, honoree; Rona Maynard, honoree; Eva Prizant, luncheon co-chair.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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Mideast crisis spurs special Shavuot Bonds drive

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — With Israel facing an urgent need for dollars in the wake of its ongoing crisis, the city's synagogues will take part in a special Israel Bonds sales campaign that will begin on Shavuot.

The campaign, say Rabbi Sidney Shoham and Rabbi Mordecai Zeitz, is unprecedented, and may well serve as a model for other cities.

"People are looking for ways to support Israel other than just [with] vocal support," said Rabbi Zeitz, spiritual leader of the Congregation Beth Tikvah and a member of State of Israel Bonds rabbinic cabinet in Quebec. "We have to increase the number of persons investing in Israel, who can become true stakeholders."

Rabbi Shoham, spiritual leader of the Congregation Beth Zion and a former chair of Bonds' rabbinic council, said "not one synagogue showed even the slightest hesitancy."

The campaign, which will last about two weeks and finish at the end of May, comes as Israel faces an acute economic crisis, "one of the worst in its history," according to information furnished by Bonds.

The sale of bonds would help Israel cope with $28 billion (US) in losses to its economy – five per cent of its GNP – as a result of the current crisis.

Israel's finance minister, Silvan Shalom, said his government is asking Israel Bonds to supply 50 per cent – an unprecedented level – of its foreign currency needs.

Rabbi Shoham said plans for the Montreal campaign date back to a January meeting of Bonds' North American rabbinic division leaders in Israel, which both he and Rabbi Zeitz attended.

Israel, he recalled, "was in a state I've never seen before. Gloom, doom, a total change" from before the intifadah.

A consensus that emerged from the meeting was that Bonds rabbinic leaders had to galvanize action "in any way possible," Rabbi Shoham said.

The Bonds drive will involve at least 25 synagogues with as many as 20,000 member families, and each congregation is free to gear its appeal in its own way, Rabbi Zeitz said.

While the Bonds initiative coincides with a special Israel Emergency Campaign by FEDERATION CJA also launched in response to the Mideast crisis, the two are different, Rabbi Zeitz said.

The federation campaign involves tax-deductible charitable donations, with funds earmarked for, among other things, medical services and helping victims of terror.

By comparison, funds from Bonds purchases go directly to government coffers and are urgently needed to make up for Israel's budgetary shortfall.

Muslim cleric visits Canadian cities

Continued from page 3

was never the capital of Saudi Arabia. At the time of Mohammed, Jerusalem was, in fact, under Persian administration."

Palazzi said a "Palestinian" people has never existed in history. Before 1967, the Arabs in the West Bank were Jordanians and those in Gaza were Egyptians, he said. Arafat himself, Palazzi claims, is really an Egyptian.

Palazzi, a Sufi, is the chief imam of Italy's approximately 500,000 Muslims and is director of the community's Cultural Institute, which seeks dialogue with Jews and Christians. His mother's family is originally from Syria.

He has strongly condemned Islamic fundamentalism and the dictatorial regimes in much of the Arab world, and has upheld Israel's right to use military force to defend itself.

He charges that if there had been an uprising "one-tenth" the strength of that which Israel is confronting in any Arab country, it would have been "met with an order of 'open fire' and be over in a week."

Palazzi believes many Palestinians realize they would be better off under Israeli administration than in a PLO-ruled state, but they cannot speak out, fearing for their lives or those of their children. "At least in Israel, an Arab can have a new car and be sure he will not be stopped by the police and told to hand it over because it is needed for the state. That happens under Arafat."

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been "artificially created" to focus attention away from the lack of economic and social progress in most of the Arab world, Palazzi argues. "The Palestinian people have been scapegoats to justify everything that is wrong in the Arab world," he said.

His visit to Canada, his first, was sponsored by the Montreal-based Canadian Institute for Jewish Research and the Asper Foundation. He spoke at the Beth Emeth Synagogue in Toronto, as well as in synagogues in Montreal and Winnipeg.

Palazzi was denounced by the Canadian Islamic Congress as an "anti-Islamic campaigner." The Waterloo, Ont.,-based organization accused the Asper Foundation of "playing with fire by using Canadian synagogues as platforms..." for his views.

Yiddish Club holds monthly meetings

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Members of the Yiddish Club of Toronto have been meeting once a month for 21 years to break bread together and speak Yiddish.

The club was started in 1981 by lawyer David Greenspan and the late Ben Kayfetz of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

"We invaded the WASP bastion of the Arcadian Court, Simpson's Tower, with 30 friends, all speaking Yiddish in a loud voice," said Les Nirenberg, one of the first members.

"We held it under the name, Thomson, Rogers Club [the name of the law firm to which Greenspan belonged]. The club was asked to find other premises by the management, who said it was disruptive to the environment."

For many years, Kayfetz chaired the meetings. He collected the lunch money, did the mailings, invited guest speakers and "handled the incredible machinery it took to run it," said his widow Eva, who attended all the club's meetings for the first 10 years.

When Kayfetz, who was suffering from Parkinson's disease, fell and broke his hip more than a year ago, Jack Jacobson, another veteran Jewish activist, inherited the chair.

The club has no set agenda, but sometimes discusses current events (even allowing English if members can't find the right words in Yiddish) and often has speakers who read Yiddish stories written by Sholom Aleichem and others.

Over the years, the club has convened in many places.

"After the Arcadian Court, we went to a little hotel on Jarvis Street, but we were not happy when they put us in the basement, and for many years, we met at Honest Ed's restaurant," said Jacobson. "When the Mirvishes sold the building, we went a few times to the Metropolitan City Hall before we moved to our present location."

Today the meetings are held at Toronto City Hall, under the sponsorship of Councillor Howard Moscoe, sometimes in a committee room, sometimes in the more spacious members' lounge.

The club's early members included Bill Stern, Bess Shockett and the late Bert Newman.

"Our motivation was to speak Yiddish to each other," Stern recalled.

"We spoke Yiddish at home," said Shirley Kumove, author of two books about Yiddish, *Words and Arrows* and *More Words, More Arrows*. Kumove's mother, Rivka, who lives with her, is 93. She and Shirley's late father, Zvi Meyer, were co-editors of *Words and Arrows*.

At the April meeting, Nirenberg, now retired, but continuing to work as an independent producer, spoke about his experiences as an actor-producer-writer, including his time with the CBC and with other performers in the early days of the club.

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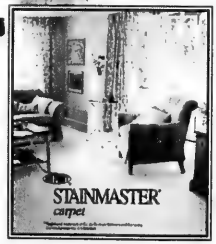

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The Canadian Jewish news

Section B
Special Report

ISRAEL Under Attack
CJN FOCUS

Carnage and mourning: scenes that have been repeated countless times in Israel these past 19 months.

Because of the incessant carnage and the inexpressible sadness of constant mourning, Israel mobilized the IDF.

'A just defensive war against hatred and terror'

Editorial

Not since the days surrounding the Yom Kippur War almost 30 years ago have Jews in Israel and around the world felt such anxiety about Israel's predicament.

Not since the days preceding the rise of Nazism in Europe almost 70 years ago have Jews in Israel and around the world felt such anxiety about the suddenly frequent manifestations of overt anti-Semitism.

It is no exaggeration to say that Israel – the people and the state – are under attack.

After more than 18 months of unceasing, almost daily attacks on its people by Palestinian terrorists and armed thugs, culminating in the wanton slaughter on Pesach of scores of unarmed, defenceless civilians, Israel finally decided to fight back.

Every single state on earth would do the same.

But when Israel fights back, some western observers and governmental leaders, especially in Europe, object. For them, it seems, Israel's right of self-defence is circumscribed, a lesser right than they would afford to themselves and a lesser right than they appear to afford to the Palestinian leadership – which objective, credible evidence incontrovertibly shows incites, instigates and prosecutes a war of hatred and attrition against the Jewish state.

But no objections by western observers will alter the truth, as recently articulated by Marcus Gee of the *Globe and Mail*, that Israel is fighting "a just defensive war against hatred and terror."

To help our readers cope with the anti-Israel and anti-Jewish materials inundating the newspapers, airwaves and television, we provide this special supplement.

First and foremost, the essays published in this section are intended to provide historical and current context to the conflict. With the generous assistance and guidance of the Canada-Israel Committee, we are able to provide articles by leading scholars. Shmuel Sandler reflects on Israel at 54; Gal Luft writes about the unique military dilemmas faced by the Israel Defence Forces as it rooted out the terrorist infrastructure; Barry Rubin reviews the career and "achievements" of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Hillel Frisch writes about the coalition of terrorist organizations Arafat has built. In light of the fact that today is also the eve of Yom Yerushalayim, the day that marks the reunification of Jerusalem, we have asked noted commentator Herb Keinon to share his thoughts on any possible future discussions regarding Jerusalem.

We have also reprinted for our readers the texts of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 that were the result of United Nations deliberations after the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War respectively. In addition, we reprint the only excerpt from United Nation General Assembly Resolution 194 that actually dealt with the status of the refugees after Israel's War of Independence, along with an explanatory letter by famed Israeli ambassador Abba Eban.

We also reproduce for readers Israel's Declaration of Independence, the full text of which should be kept at a retrievable distance. It not only embodies the return of the Jewish people to sovereign history, it also expresses the dreams, aspirations and hopes of Israel for a peaceful, prosperous co-existence with all its Arab neighbours.

Finally, readers will find helpful resource material to assist them in their activism on behalf of Israel.

Israel – the state and the people – are under attack. We must all respond in whatever manner we can. We hope this supplement helps our readers do so.

—The editor

[Photos courtesy of Isranet, Israel Sun and Reuters/RNS]

ISRAEL Under Attack
CJN FOCUS

Israel at 54: A political reflection

By SHMUEL SANDLER

It is the afternoon of Israel's 54th Independence Day. It has become customary over the years that the people of Israel celebrate this day at picnics. While I am sure that my friends fared better than I did by celebrating in that fashion, I stayed at home awaiting the results of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to Ramallah with Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat, watching the show on CNN, BBC and Sky News. The Israeli TV channels did not carry it live, and rightly so, as for us it is a holiday and is kept as such. Indeed, despite the current crisis, there is much to celebrate after 54 years of being an independent Jewish state and more than a century of building in the Land of Israel.

Powell opened his press conference by congratulating the Israelis on their national birthday, wishing us all the best. I did not expect Arafat to mention the fact that it was Israel's independence day as our independence day is Palestinians' *Nakba* (catastrophe) Day. But I was relieved that he did not do so. On the eve of Pesach, he did wish us a happy Passover, and within two hours there was a terror attack at a seder in the Park Hotel in Netanya. Twenty-eight people were murdered and dozens more were wounded. Many Israelis, including myself, now prefer not to see Arafat, nor to hear his wishes.

However, as far as understanding the latest history of the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned, Arafat is relevant. The Palestinians can thank him for their current *nakba*. The symbol of their revolution is now the manifestation of their calamity. And we can thank him that he revealed his real intentions to us before it was too late. Arafat is the main factor behind the rise in the popularity of Israel's right and the devastating condition of Israel's left, including the fall of the Labour party.

It is symbolic that Arafat rejected Powell's proposals on *Nakba* Day. The leader of the Palestinian people turned down a proposal that could have allowed him to force an immediate Israeli withdrawal and also start a new relationship with the United States. This was not the first time he turned down such a proposal.

At Oslo in 1993 some fancied, or feared, that Arafat had finally learned he could get out of the Israelis through negotiations and a political process what he never could accomplish using violence. At Camp David in 2000, Arafat was in a win-win situation, yet he turned away. Most Israeli academics, and the public in general, were perplexed as to why Arafat turned down the generous peace offer made to him by then-prime minister Ehud Barak.

Arafat was offered virtually the equivalent of the territory both Jordan and Egypt lost during the 1967 war, the Arab part of Jerusalem and, on top of it, sovereignty over the upper portion of the Temple Mount. This was the best offer he could have expected from any Israeli prime minister. As far as both Israeli and world public opinion would have been concerned, if the deal had been sealed at Camp David 2000 and then Barak failed to deliver his share, Arafat would have been in a better position to start the intifadah. But that was not the case. Arafat rejected Barak's offer.

According to the Arafat experts in Israel's intelligence community, Arafat sees himself as the modern version of Saladdin, the legendary Muslim hero who defeated the Crusaders and expelled them from the Holy Land. Arafat's self-perception is as the symbol of the armed Palestinian struggle. It is significant that he has never taken off his uniform. Even when he received his Noble Peace Prize in 1994, Arafat accepted the prize in uniform. One is shocked as to why the international community has looked the other way and never compelled Arafat to abandon this symbol of war. Even Fidel Castro recently traded his uniform for a suit.

Protesting the rise of anti-Semitism

But why have Israeli leaders, particularly those on the left, also looked the other way? Why did they decide that Arafat was our partner for peace? There is a common denominator within the Israeli left that may explain why: the well-known phenomenon of arrogance.

I recall an academic gathering with former Labour cabinet minister Yossi Beilin following Oslo where he proclaimed that it had been easier to sign a peace agreement with the Palestinians than to fire a secretary in the Histadrut labour union. If I was a Palestinian, I would have been insulted by the comparison. Beilin also stated that, essentially, from that point on, Israel did not need world Jewry. Instead of the latter helping the Jewish State, the order would be reversed. Also at the time, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres asserted that Israel does not need *hasbara* (public relations), and the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin clashed with AIPAC, claiming that the American Jewish lobby group was too hawkish for his taste.

Watching the pro-Arab demonstrations in Europe today, we can appreciate the importance of the world Jewish community to Israel's survival. Why did Beilin not see the importance of the North American Jewish community while he was a cabinet minister? Was it not clear in the 1990s that, when Eastern European and Asian governments were knocking on our doors, they did not only want Israeli high tech but they also wanted to take advantage of our connection to Washington? Israel's strong alliance with the United States is not only a result of its strategic value. It also has to do with the vigour of the American Jewish community. Beilin, so eager to give up the Jordan Valley, which has hardly any Palestinian population and has been seen as a strategic asset even by Labour leaders, was also in a rush to forgo the strategic value of American Jewry.

Our sages warned us against arrogance. In *Ethics*, this attitude was recognized as befitting Balam, not Abraham. Yet, many Israelis, particularly those on the left, ignored or belittled the importance of Palestinian anti-Israeli, and even anti-Jewish, incitement in the PA's electronic and written media.

Dinner at Camp David, July 2000, the peace talks that failed

Anyone who drew attention to these horrifying and devastating messages in the Palestinian media and education system was immediately labelled a warmonger, or they were called "people of yesterday," Peres' favourite catch phrase for those who criticized his "new Middle East."

The complacency of some people in the academic world was no less shocking. Why were they not ready to listen to critics from among their own colleagues who warned them against disregarding the anti-Israeli propaganda in the Palestinian media and education system? Why did they defend Arafat when he was calling for a jihad against Israel in the midst of the peace process?

Arafat's performance and the Israeli left's arrogance are reasons for the political upset in Israeli politics. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could never have made a political comeback without Arafat's help and the disgrace of the left. The Lebanon stigma that accompanied Sharon, whether correct or not, was adequate to discount him as a serious contender for prime minister.

However, Sharon not only won the 2001 election, he has remained high in the polls, despite his inability to deliver on his campaign promise of "peace with security." Sharon has learned from his past mistakes. He worked hard to create a consensus supporting his national security policy. Yet, the country still had to endure many casualties to fully mobilize behind him. He stays away from frequent appearances in the electronic media. Nevertheless, he has succeeded in mobilizing Israeli public support for steadfastness in the war and in creating an environment of confidence in his leadership. But ultimately it is Arafat and the Israeli left that have assisted most in boosting Sharon's popularity.

The current Israeli mood is reminiscent of the feelings of frustration and resentment after the Yom Kippur war in 1973. Many Israelis felt the behaviour of the international community towards Israel at that time was outrageous. Many believed Israel abstained from striking first, as it had done in 1967, because of world public opinion. The country paid dearly in terms of casualties and was rewarded with a UN resolution that equated Zionism with racism. Arafat was also invited to the UN to address the General Assembly in his uniform wearing a gun, warning the world to accept his proposals or else suffer the consequences.

The Israeli public's reaction to this was the defeat of the Labour government and the election, for the first time in Israel's history, of a Likud government, led by Menachem Begin. It was during these years that Gush Emunim, the settler movement in Judea and Samaria, became popular and was seen as the new Zionist vanguard. It was not until the early 1990s that then-U.S. president George Bush pushed for the repeal of the UN resolution equating Zionism and racism, a small step that also helped contribute to the Oslo process.

Many Israelis feel betrayed today by an international community that accuses Israel of starting a war that Arafat imposed on it. The feeling that the whole world seems to be against us is prevalent in the street. Most Israelis feel today that after Arafat rejected the most generous land-for-peace proposal ever offered to the Palestinians – not only by an Israeli prime minister, but also by their own brethren Arab states – that Arafat's real end-game is not only a Palestinian state but the destruction of the State of Israel.

Instead of a compromise with the Palestinians, the Europeans and other "lovers of Zion" are bringing out a new wave of rigid attitudes. Sharon has remarked that nobody calls him to inquire about Israel's wounded and new orphans – they call to check how Arafat is doing. The feeling one gets is that the enlightened world again does not care when Jews are being murdered. It is easier to blame their fate on them. However, today we have a Jewish state to defend the Jewish people. As I reflect on that state, with all the political difficulties we face, the fact remains that Israel exists as a strong and free democracy. We have come a long way since the dark days before the state existed. Today is our 54th Independence Day.

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Israel's way of fighting terror

ISRAEL Under Attack
CJN FOCUS

By GAL LUFT

Just like in the case of the war against car accidents, the war against terrorism is a frustrating endeavour: one can never establish the number of terrorist acts that have been prevented, only those in which prevention failed.

In the past several months, Israeli security forces have succeeded in foiling dozens of attempts by Palestinian human bombs to enter Israel's main cities and cause terror and carnage. According to the head of the Israeli Shin Bet security agency, Avi Dichter, up to 80 per cent of Palestinian suicide attacks have been prevented. One can only imagine what the Middle East would look like had the terrorists been more competent.

But even a Palestinian success rate of 20 per cent is still too high to bear. In March alone, Palestinian terrorism rocked Israel's main cities 12 times, killing 70 and wounding 548. This is something no country in the world could tolerate. Israel decided to take off the gloves and do exactly what Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat had said he would do but failed to deliver: eliminate the Palestinian centres of terror. On March 28, hundreds of Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers rolled into six Palestinian-controlled cities. One by one, Ramallah, Kalkilya, Tulkarem, Bethlehem, Nablus and Jenin were seized by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as part of Operation Defensive Shield.

No sober Israeli believes the operation has succeeded in completely eradicating Palestinian terrorism. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades can produce an inexhaustible number of human projectiles, and without some sort of physical separation between Israel and the West Bank, it is believed that the bombers will always get through. Nonetheless, the incursions into the Palestinian-controlled territories allowed Israel to seriously handicap the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure and, at least in the short term, reduce the capability of terrorist groups to recruit, arm and launch suicide bombers.

Israeli forces collected more than 5,000 illegal weapons, including anti-tank weapons, mortars, landmines and other explosives. As well, they discovered and destroyed more than 15 workshops for weapons production, and they arrested and interrogated hundreds of wanted terrorists, including the head of Tanzim, Marwan Barghouti, and other key leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Dozens of Palestinian terrorists were also killed in the fighting. One was Qeis Odwan, commander of the Hamas military wing in the northern West Bank, who was personally responsible for several suicide bombings, including the Netanya Passover massacre, that together took 75 Israeli lives.

More importantly, the IDF's seizure of Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah enabled Israel to collect thousands of classified documents that provide ample intelligence about Arafat's terror infrastructure. Some of the documents found were signed by Arafat, highlighting his personal knowledge of, and complicity in, terrorist acts perpetrated by members of his own Fatah faction. The information collected will enable Israeli security forces to conduct future counter-terrorist operations with greater vigour and effectiveness.

Israel's operation in the West Bank was not well received by the international community. Many critics claimed the IDF used excessive force, caused a great deal of destruction, refused to open the cities to journalists and humanitarian aid workers and failed to uphold international humanitarian law.

The IDF in Jenin

Most of the attention went to the battle in the Jenin refugee camp – one square kilometre inhabited by more than 15,000 people, all living in poverty and neglect – where for nine days, Israeli soldiers clashed with hundreds of militants who used the local population as human shields. The battle in the camp was fierce. Twenty-three Israeli soldiers and about 100 Palestinians were killed there. Some Arabs have already characterized the battle as the "Palestinian Masada," and Palestinian spokespeople have repeatedly referred to events in the camp as a "massacre," equating it to the 1982 Sabra and Shatila bloodbath for which Israel's current prime minister, Ariel Sharon, was found indirectly responsible.

The allegations of a massacre are demonstrably false and reflect a misunderstanding of the challenges and complexities of fighting in densely populated urban terrain. Urban warfare is the most difficult and costly type of warfare for any military organization. Stalingrad, Grozny, Beirut and Belfast are a few examples of the places where militaries have learned the hard way about the perils of war in hostile urban territory.

Those who find it hard to visualize what fighting in such an environment is about can watch the recent movie *Black Hawk Down*, which depicts the ordeal of U.S. forces in Mogadishu in October 1993. There, American soldiers killed several hundred Somali militiamen and civilians and wounded more than 1,000 in just one day of fighting in an effort to rescue U.S troops pinned down during the failed attempt to snatch the lieutenants of Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed. Russian soldiers who fought against Chechen rebels in Grozny in 1994 were even more merciless. They preferred to reduce the city to rubble with artillery and air power rather than pay the price involved in street fighting.

For Israel, this option never existed. The entry into the Palestinian cities was done with the understanding that inflicting a heavy toll on the Palestinian population would not serve Israel's interests. The purpose of the operation was to act against terrorists, not innocent civilians. To limit the civilian death toll, the IDF opted for a long and complicated house-to-house ground assault, thus putting its own troops in considerable danger.

The claim that Israel killed a high number of innocent civilians is refutable. In the reality in the West Bank, the definition of "innocent civilian" is not at all clear. Firstly, who is a civilian? Palestinian spokespeople define civilians as those who wear civilian clothes. According to this characterization, all members of Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan were civilians. Each of the Palestinian cities was defended by thousands of armed and trained Fatah members, as well as members of the official plain-clothed Palestinian security forces. They were equipped with assault rifles, anti-tank weapons, hand grenades, mortars, sniper rifles, landmines and machine guns. Although many of them look like regular civilians, they were considered by the IDF to be legitimate targets. Regardless, they were given a chance to surrender before the IDF moved into their neighbourhoods. Many who refused to surrender condemned themselves to death. The majority of them died with either a gun in their hands or an explosive belt strapped to their bodies.

The IDF in Bethlehem

Another dilemma faced by Israeli forces was who is a terrorist and who embodies the "infrastructure of terrorism"? The Palestinian population in the camps is completely mobilized to the war effort and harbours a strong urge for vengeance for what they perceive to be Israeli aggression. Men, women and children were working indefatigably to prepare their camp for the IDF's arrival. They planted hundreds of explosive devices, booby traps and other obstacles in their streets and homes, making every car, alley, gate or room a potential bombing scene. One such bomb killed 13 Israeli soldiers in Jenin.

The IDF operated under strict instructions to use force only against those who imposed a direct threat to the soldiers and to take severe action against anybody associated with terrorist activity. Life, however, is not black and white. Is a 70-year-old woman sewing explosive belts to be used by suicide bombers part of the infrastructure of terror? And what about the 15-year-old girl who mixes alcohol and other chemicals in her kitchen for the purpose of making explosives? Or the blind old imam who preaches to youth about the virtues of martyrdom? Should they be treated as terrorists? Should they be arrested? Killed? Expelled? These are some of the dilemmas soldiers fighting such a war face.

There are no textbooks or field manuals that could provide a clear answer to all the situations soldiers might face on the ground. Admittedly, even the most humanitarian and experienced soldiers are prone to panic and could make the wrong judgment when trapped in a maze of dark alleys and surrounded by a hostile population. One Israeli soldier reported how he shot a young man who advanced toward him and did not respond to a call to stop. The Israeli, who feared the man was about to blow himself up, discovered later that he was mentally retarded. "I really felt bad about the incident, but once I thought about my friends who were killed in the suicide attack on the bus in Haifa, my remorse dissipated," the soldier said.

War is never a pretty undertaking. "Nothing except a battle lost can be half as melancholy as a battle won," the Duke of Wellington once said after a bloody battle. And indeed many Israelis, who see the devastated streets of Jenin on television, feel this way. There is no elation for the Palestinians' loss, nor there is any illusion that it is the IDF's last visit to Jenin and other West Bank cities, but there is a strong conviction among Israelis that in what many now call "the continuation of Israel's war of independence," a battle lost is not an option.

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ISRAEL Under Attack
CJN FOCUS

The terror and the pity: Yasser Arafat and the second loss of Palestine

By BARRY RUBIN

As has happened so often before, some observers have underestimated Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's ability to survive political or military disasters largely of his own making. Others have overestimated his willingness to make peace or his ability to change his positions. This article presents a long-term view of Arafat's leadership and a short-term analysis on the current state of Palestinian politics.

In 2000, Arafat and the Palestinian leadership initiated a new, self-inflicted "nakba," a catastrophe equalled only by the 1948 Arab defeat. The decision to reject a negotiated solution building on the Oslo peace process, the Camp David proposals and the Clinton proposals constituted nothing less than a second, and long-term, loss of the chance to achieve a Palestinian state. Whatever rationales can be made for this choice, the cost already incurred by the Palestinian people – only a small part of the ultimate price – vastly exceeds any of these decisions supposed reasons and certainly any likely benefits to be achieved.

This debacle was brought about by the same Palestinian leadership and thinking that had contributed to other, earlier disasters, such as those in 1967 (the provocation and loss of war with Israel), 1970 (the PLO's defeat and expulsion from Jordan), 1978 (failure to use the opportunity afforded by the Egypt-Israel Camp David agreements), 1982 (the PLO's defeat by Israel in Lebanon), 1983 (the defeat by Syria in Lebanon), 1988 (the inability to make a major policy shift toward negotiations), 1990 (the sacrifice of the U.S.-PLO dialogue and Arafat's decision to back Iraq in the Kuwait crisis) and others.

Yasser Arafat: The Man Who Threw Away Palestine

One could claim that the reason the Palestinian movement exists and the Palestinian issue has so much visibility today is because of Arafat. But one could argue even more effectively that the reason there is no Palestinian state and so many Palestinian casualties today is also because of Arafat.

During a career spanning more than 35 years, Arafat has led the Palestinian revolution. But where has he led it? His strategies have included:

• An effort to involve the Arab states in war with Israel that played some small role in creating the Arab defeat of the 1967 war.

• An attempt to launch a guerrilla/terrorist war in the West Bank and Gaza Strip immediately after the 1967 war, which quickly failed.

• A campaign to attack Israel from Jordan using terrorist methods that did not lead anywhere militarily. Meanwhile, Arafat's increasing intervention in Jordanian politics, and tolerance for the even more extreme revolutionary efforts of his more radical Palestinian allies, led to a crushing and bloody defeat in 1970 at the hands of the Jordanian army.

• Fatah and the PLO's involvement in international terrorism in the early 1970s with Arafat's authorization, partly under the "Black September" front group, further discredited the Palestinian cause and undermined western sympathy for it.

• A campaign to use terror to attack Israel from Lebanon during the 1970s seemed to base PLO strategy mainly on the murder of as many Israeli civilians as possible.

• At the same time, increased PLO meddling in Lebanese politics played a role in intensifying the civil war there. Arafat's military build-up in Lebanon, his cross-border terrorism and his terrorism against Israeli targets worldwide contributed to the 1982 Israeli attack that led to his expulsion from Beirut.

• Discontent within the PLO, inflamed by Syrian backing, then led to a revolt against Arafat, which produced his second expulsion from Lebanon in 1983.

• Arafat's political hesitations in 1988 almost lost the PLO the opportunity for a dialogue with the United States, and Arafat's backing of continued terror forced even the reluctant U.S. State Department to break off the dialogue in 1990.

• Arafat's backing of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 antagonized his main benefactors among the Gulf Emirates to the point where they cut off aid, or redirected aid to Arafat's main rivals in the West Bank and Gaza, including Hamas. More than 300,000 Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait or were forced to flee Iraq as a result of the ensuing crisis.

Arafat addressing his public last year

• While Arafat did sign the 1993 Oslo agreements and began a peace process with Israel, enormous shortcomings in his implementation of the arrangements helped delay and weaken progress. He never prepared or mobilized Palestinians toward a compromise agreement, nor did he try to build strong Palestinian infrastructure and institutions as a basis for creating a viable state.

• Faced with far-reaching offers at the Camp David summit and the Clinton plan in 2000, Arafat rejected these proposals as a basis for negotiation.

• Whether or not he played a direct role in the outbreak of violence, he quickly supported, organized and tolerated a massive increase in terrorism. He had launched an unwinnable war that would ultimately destroy the Palestinian infrastructure, any serious support for a compromise agreement in Israel, and his backing in the West, without bringing any real help from the Arab world.

• He rejected several ceasefire opportunities and did not seriously implement his own initiatives. Even when the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States offered him tremendous potential leverage in returning to the bargaining table and "joining" the war against terrorism, he threw away this chance. The case of the PA's Karine-A weapons ship was only one example. Indeed, if Arafat had succeeded and the tons of Iranian-supplied offensive arms had arrived, triggering a full-scale war, Arafat and the Palestinians would have been far worse off.

Second, there have been Arafat's own shortcomings as a leader, including:

• His inability and unwillingness to undertake the full transition of organization, ideology and institutions necessary to achieve a clear acceptance of a permanent two-state solution with Israel.

• His persistent patterns of encouraging or permitting chaos and violence while disclaiming responsibility for these situations.

• His refusal to do more to centralize the Palestinian movement and his tolerance of the destabilizing actions of radical groups as long as he thought they served his purpose. Nevertheless, he miscalculated and let more extremist elements undermine his position, as happened in the past in Lebanon and Jordan.

• His failure to show an interest in anything but high politics and armed struggle indicated his disdain for the kind of economic, educational, institution-building and other kinds of activities needed to achieve a viable state.

These problems were almost, but not quite, balanced by Arafat's brilliance at international public relations. His combination of promises, creativity with facts and conspiracy theories worked well in the short- to medium-run, but always caught up to him in the end.

In short, his image-building efforts were undermined by his actual policies. The carefully cultivated theme of Palestinians as "victims," "underdogs" who deserve the world's pity and help was overwhelmed by that of the Palestinians' image as ruthless suicide terrorists. The theme of moderation – "Palestinians just want to end occupation and have their own homeland" – was repeatedly destroyed by the theme of militancy – excessive demands and the thinly-veiled goal of destroying Israel. The idea that Arafat is sincere, or at least a potential realist, was betrayed by his visible lack of credibility and flexibility.

Several other persistent problems endemic in the Palestinian movement have also contributed to this tragic story. One of these has been a profound misunderstanding of Israel by Arafat, his colleagues and

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Part of the cache of weapons found in Arafat's Ramallah compound

'Arafat sees violence as the glue holding the Palestinian movement together'

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much of the Palestinian public. On one hand, they have argued that Israel's existence was like the Christian Crusades, a temporary conquest of Palestine doomed to inevitable destruction by Islamic forces led by a modern-day Saladin (Arafat). Israel was an artificial entity; the Jews were not a nation and had no right to the land. Zionism was the personification of evil, a new version of colonialism, a drive for world conquest.

The weapons from the Karine-A

Arafat has always seen himself to be a general rather than a president. Palestine, he said from the beginning, could be recovered only "by blood and iron; and blood and iron have nothing to do with philosophies and theories." He had contempt for politicians: "It is the commandos who will decide the future." His whole career has been built on projecting an image of being a fighter, rejecting prospective alternative roles as a bureaucratic administrator, a politician preaching the art of the possible, or a diplomat favouring unpalatable compromises to achieve a portion of his goal.

Arafat sees violence as the glue holding the Palestinian movement together and building it further. "Armed struggle restores a lost personal and national identity, an identity taken away by force which can only be restored by force. Palestine had been taken away by fire and steel, and it will be recovered by fire and steel," he has declared.

It was anti-civilian violence that the PLO thought would bring about Israel's collapse or, in Fatah's more modest immediate goal in the revolutionary war of independence begun in 2000, produce Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the territories. Such attacks, the PLO magazine *Filastin al-Thawra* explained way back in 1970, would make each Israeli feel "isolated and defenseless against the Arab soldier in his house, on his land, on the road, in the café, in the movie theatre, in army camps and everywhere." Each Israeli would then be bound to value more highly "the life of stability and repose that he enjoyed in his former country" compared to "the life of confusion and anxiety he finds in the land of Palestine. This is bound to motivate him towards reverse immigration."

This assessment of the Israeli collective psyche, and hence of how the Palestinians would achieve victory, was quite mistaken. Arafat consistently miscalculated the balance of forces. He believed that Palestinian steadfastness plus Israel's weakness plus Arab intervention plus international sympathy would overcome his side's lesser military, economic and technological power.

Even when Palestinian internal politics and opportunities were transformed, the leader did not change his ideas, style or assumptions to take advantage or adjust to these changed circumstances. Instead, he promoted a strategy that guaranteed deadlock, defeat and bloodshed. Western observers could simply not believe that such a situation, which ran counter to the behaviour of other movements and leaders as well as the principles of realpolitik, could be happening. Surely, they thought, if Arafat was given one more chance, or one more concession, or if there was one more turn of events, everything would change. This view has proven almost as mistaken over the last 30 years as has Arafat's own strategy.

Left, Arafat addressing the United Nations in 1974 and right, speaking to his public some 20 years ago

In his post-Oslo, "al-Aqsa intifadah" phase, Arafat has increasingly depended on two groups – the "Veteran Radicals" or "Outsiders" (that is, those Palestinians who originally came from what is now Israel but who had joined Arafat in years of exile) and West Bank Fatah militants who reject compromise with Israel and favour a revolutionary "war of independence." This process has also led him to permit a high level of Fatah-Hamas military co-operation.

Yet the idea that these forces are threatening him or are outside of his control is also quite mistaken. While there is a debate among Israeli security services about the extent to which Arafat controls daily events in the territories, there is a consensus that no single individual or group poses a compelling threat to his leadership; the evidence also indicates that when he wants or needs to impose a greater degree of order over the diverse Palestinian factions in order to ameliorate international pressure on himself – such as after the Hamas terror wave in the spring of 1996 and following the Dolphinarium bombing in June 2001 – Arafat has done so. The problem is that Arafat has not yet been confronted with the type of sustained international pressure necessary to compel him to impose permanent order over the terrorist factions.

Arafat, then, continues to have a virtual monopoly on power in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The areas he does not directly control or constrain exist as a result of his choice and not of the imposition of other powerful forces or the overwhelming demands of public opinion.

As a way of bettering the condition of the Palestinian people or of obtaining an independent Palestinian state, Arafat's strategy now and in the past has been disastrous. In terms of making the activists (and often the masses) feel proud and successful, keeping the movement united, and maintaining his own leadership, however, Arafat's strategy has been a great success. This fatal combination of ingredients seems unlikely to change now or for some time to come.

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Three UN Resolutions

Resolution No. 194 (III) of December 11, 1948

Establishing a UN Conciliation Commission, resolving that Jerusalem should be placed under a permanent international regime, and resolving that the refugees should be permitted to return to their homes.

The General Assembly,

Having considered further the situation in Palestine.

11. *Resolves* that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the governments or authorities responsible;

Instructs the Conciliation Commission to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and the payment of compensation, and to maintain close relations with the Director of the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees and, through him, with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations;

* * * * *

Security Council Resolution 242

Following the Six Day War in June 1967, the heads of Arab states met in August at Khartoum, Sudan, and issued a statement which included the declaration: "no peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel." The Security Council of the United Nations, in an attempt to initiate indirect negotiations with the objective of promoting peace and recognition, passed Resolution 242.

The French text of the Resolution refers to "the territories" in Section 1(i), and this has been interpreted by some to mean "all the territories." However, both the United States and British delegates to the Security Council have made statements that the wording was specifically chosen so as not to mean "all" the territories.

Following the October War in 1973, the Security Council passed Resolution 338 which added to Resolution 242 the requirement of negotiations between the parties.

November 22, 1967

The Security Council

Expressing its continuing concern with the grave situation in the Middle East.

Emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every state in the area can live in security.

Emphasizing further that all member states in their acceptance of the Charter of the United Nations have undertaken a commitment to act in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter.

1. *Affirms* that the fulfilment of Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:

(i) Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict.

(ii) Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

2. *Affirms* further the necessity

(a) For guaranteeing freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area;

(b) For achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem;

(c) For guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones.

3. *Requests* the Secretary General to designate a special representative to proceed to the Middle East to establish and maintain contacts with the states concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles in this resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary General to report to the Security Council on the progress of the efforts of the special representative as soon as possible.

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Security Council Resolution 338

Following the October War in 1973, the Security Coundil passed Resolution 338 which added to Resolution 242 the requirement of negotiations between the parties.

October 21/22, 1973

The Security Council

1. *Calls upon* all parties to the present fighting to cease all firing and terminate all military activity immediately, no later than 12 hours after the moment of the adoption of this decision, in the positions they now occupy;

2. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to start immediately after the cease-fire the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts;

3. *Decides* that, immediately and concurrently with the cease-fire negotiations start between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices aimed at establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Timeline after Camp David July 2000

By MITCHELL DANOW
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

The Palestinian intifadah has now raged for a year and a half. During that time, periods of escalating violence have been punctuated by occasional attempts at diplomacy and short-lived ceasefires.

On Jaffa Road in Jerusalem

Following are some of the highlights of the seemingly intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

• **Sept. 28, 2000** – Some 30 Israeli policemen are wounded on Jerusalem's Temple Mount when angry Palestinian demonstrators attack them with stones. The confrontation follows a controversial visit to the site by Likud party leader Ariel Sharon and a group of Likud Knesset members. Hours later, similar clashes erupt in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

• **Sept. 30, 2000** – A 12-year-old-boy, Mohammad al-Darrah, is killed in his father's arms when they are caught in the middle of a firefight in the Gaza Strip. Video footage of the incident inflames rioting Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and prompts similar riots in October by Israeli Arabs living within Israel's borders. Subsequent forensic tests by a German news station disclose that the boy was killed by Palestinian fire.

• **Oct. 4, 2000** – Israeli and Palestinian leaders agree to a limited ceasefire during 10 hours of talks in Paris that bring together Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The ceasefire lasts only hours.

• **Oct. 7, 2000** – Israel's army withdraws from Joseph's Tomb in Nablus after Palestinian security officials give assurances that they will protect the site. Within hours, a Palestinian mob destroys the Jewish holy site. In another incident that day, Hezbollah gunmen kidnap three Israeli soldiers, Staff-Sgt. Avraham Binyamin, Staff-Sgt. Omar Suad and Sgt. Adi Avitan.

• **Oct. 12, 2000** – Two Israeli reservists are killed and their bodies disfigured by a Palestinian mob in the West Bank town of Ramallah. For the first time, Israel retaliates with helicopter strikes on Palestinian command posts in Ramallah and Gaza City.

• **Oct. 16-17, 2000** – U.S. President Bill Clinton and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan join leaders from the Middle East for a summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm al Sheikh. Israeli and Palestinian leaders agree to a ceasefire, but it collapses within days.

• **Nov. 9, 2000** – Israeli helicopter gunships assassinate Hussein Abayad, a leading member of the Palestinians' Tanzim militia, inaugurating the Israeli policy of "targeted killings."

• **Dec. 10, 2000** – Barak resigns, following his surprise announcement the previous night that he would seek a new mandate from the people to pursue his peace policies with the Palestinians.

In Tel Aviv

• **Dec. 11, 2000** – A U.S.-led panel under former senator George Mitchell begins probing the causes of the Israeli-Palestinian violence.

• **Jan. 21-27, 2001** – Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are held at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

• **Feb. 6, 2001** – Ariel Sharon is elected prime minister by a landslide over Barak.

• **March 7, 2001** – Sharon's cabinet is sworn in during a special session of Knesset.

• **May 18, 2001** – A suicide bomber kills five people in a crowded shopping mall in Netanya, and Israel responds by launching its first jet strikes on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

• **May 21, 2001** – The U.S.-led Mitchell Commission formally issues its report, calling for an immediate ceasefire followed

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ISRAEL Under Attack
CJN FOCUS

'No right of return'

The following letter to the editor was published in the Jerusalem Post *in August 1989. Its author was Israel's Foreign Minister during the Six Day War and has served as Israel's ambassador to the United States and the United Nations.*

Sir,

There is a persistent discussion in the media and in speeches by Palestinian spokesmen about what is called a "right of return."

This point should not need much discussion for the simple reason that no such "right" exists. The very term "right of return" has never featured in an internationally binding document.

Insofar as Israel is concerned, its status is governed by Resolution 273(III) of the General Assembly (May 11, 1949) dealing with admission to the United Nations and "taking note of the declarations and explanations of the representative of the Government of Israel before the *ad hoc* Political Committee of the General Assembly." This is the only occasion on which the admission of a state has been related to speeches by an applicant. In those "declarations and explanations," I made it clear that the admission of refugees was a matter for Israel's sovereign discretion and was not subject to legal constraints.

Membership in the United Nations is based on the principle of the "sovereign equality of all its members." This means that Israel's control of entry to its territory is equivalent to that of the United States, the USSR, Egypt or any of the other 150 and more member states.

In December 1949, the General Assembly of the United Nations made a recommendation about the return of refugees, but this was described as a matter subject to "permission," not as a matter of "right." Moreover, on February 24, 1947, the permanent members of the Security Council determined that a General Assembly resolution does not create international obligations. All the Arab states concurred in this finding.

The conclusion is that entry into Israel is something that individuals or groups outside Israel have a right to request and that Israel has a sovereign right to accept or reject.

What I have written here applies to all territories in which Israeli law and jurisdiction are or will be in force.

Abba Eban
Herzliyah

The events that led to Israel striking back

Continued from page B6

by a cooling-off period and a series of confidence-building steps, as Sharon announces a unilateral Israeli ceasefire.

• **June 1, 2001** – A suicide bomber kills 21 Israelis and wounds more than 100 others at a Tel Aviv beachside disco, and Sharon abandons the unilateral ceasefire.

• **June 12, 2001** – Israel and the Palestinian Authority accept CIA director George Tenet's proposal for a lasting ceasefire in the Middle East, but Palestinian attacks resume the following day.

• **Aug. 9, 2001** – Fifteen people are killed and more than 130 wounded in a suicide bombing at Sbarro's pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem.

• **Sept. 11, 2001** – Thousands of Palestinians celebrate the terror attacks in the United States, chanting "God is great."

• **Sept. 18, 2001** – Following intense international pressure after the previous week's terror attacks in New York and Washington, Arafat declares a ceasefire, and Israel responds by pulling its tanks from Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

At the Dolphinarium in Tel Aviv

• **Oct. 17, 2001** – Gunmen from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian, a PLO faction, assassinate Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi, and Israel responds by sending troops into six Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

• **Nov. 10, 2001** – President George W. Bush speaks of "Palestine" as a future state during an address before the UN General Assembly in New York.

• **Nov. 19, 2001** – Secretary of State Colin Powell signals reinvigorated U.S. involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during a speech at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

• **Nov. 26, 2001** – U.S. mediator Anthony Zinni starts a visit to the Middle East in an effort to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire.

• **Dec. 1-2, 2001** – Eleven people are killed when two suicide bombers detonate bombs on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, and 15 are killed when a suicide bomber blows up a bus in Haifa.

• **Dec. 12, 2001** – Israel's cabinet cuts off all contact with Arafat, saying his failure to take serious action to stop Palestinian terror renders him "no longer relevant" to Israel.

• **Dec. 16, 2001** – Zinni returns to the United States for consultations.

• **Dec. 17, 2001** – Palestinian gunmen ignore a call for a ceasefire issued a day earlier by Arafat.

• **Dec. 22, 2001** – Israel refuses to let Arafat attend Christmas services in Bethlehem unless he arrests those responsible for the October assassination of Ze'evi.

• **Jan. 6, 2002** – Israel displays a weapons cache it captured three days earlier aboard a ship, the Karine-A, bound for the Palestinian Authority from Iran.

• **Jan. 7, 2002** – Zinni ends his second mission to the region.

• **Jan. 17, 2002** – Six Israelis are killed and 33 injured when a Palestinian terrorist attacks a bat mitzvah celebration in northern Israel.

• **Jan. 27, 2002** – For the first time, a female suicide bomber strikes in Jerusalem, killing one man and wounding more than 100 people.

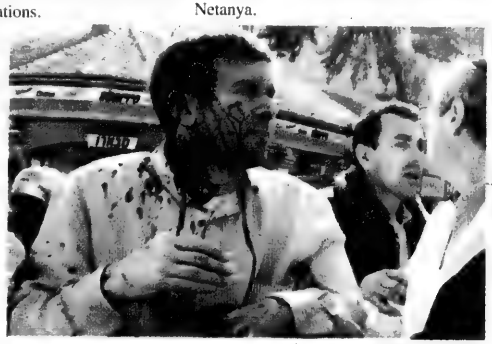
• **Feb. 8, 2002** – During a meeting at the White House, Sharon and Bush say they envision a Palestinian state as the outcome of any Middle East peace process, but Sharon urges U.S. officials to seek an "alternative leadership" to Arafat.

• **Feb. 28, 2002** – Israeli troops enter Palestinian refugee camps near the West Bank cities of Jenin and Nablus in a search for terrorists.

• **March 2, 2002** – A suicide bomber kills 10 Israelis, among them six children, in Jerusalem's haredi neighbourhood of Beit Israel.

• **March 9, 2002** – Fourteen people are killed in Palestinian terrorist attacks at the popular Café Moment in Jerusalem and in Netanya.

At the Café Moment in Jerusalem



On King George St. in Jerusalem

• **March 14, 2002** – Zinni arrives in Israel for his third attempt at peacemaking.

• **March 27, 2002** – Twenty-two people are killed at a Passover seder in a Netanya hotel. Israeli officials refer to the attack as the Passover Massacre.

• **March 29, 2002** – Israel declares Arafat an "enemy" and invades his presidential compound in Ramallah.

Why Arafat must be removed

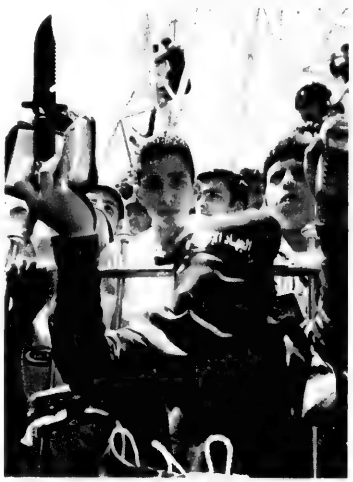
ISRAEL Under Attack CJN FOCUS

By HILLEL FRISCH

The Hamas monthly published in London, *Filastin al-Muslima*, is obligatory reading for every scholar of Palestinian affairs. Yet no matter how routine the exercise of reading it, nothing seems to efface the chilling effect of its 60 pages which a format and finish that can compete with the standards set by the most sophisticated weekly magazines only seems to augment.

The special sense of shock hardly lies in the details. Regretfully, one gets used to the gory visual graphic and literary celebration of the latest suicide bombings or the series of pictures of Israelis, especially soldiers, weeping over their loved ones at funerals, with a caption promising that this is only the beginning. The horror lies not in what fills the pages but in the realization of what they do not contain. Though *Filastin al-Muslima* purports to be a magazine of Islamic affairs, there is hardly any mention of compassion, charity, religious philosophy and ethics or even of Islamic law. As incredible as it may sound, I could not find one quote from the Koran in the latest issue, certainly not one that celebrates man created in God's vision rather than one calling for his destruction.

What is chilling, then, is the systematic effacement of any message, teaching, inspirational verse, phrase or poem that has made Islam one of mankind's truly great religions and the inspiration of one of its great civilizations. There is only one other historic example of such a systematic obliteration of a great civilization and its replacement by an overwhelming and obsessive focus on murder and destruction in contemporary history. It is fascism.



Hamas youth

Fascist thought celebrated violence, among other reasons, in order to defend western civilization. This was an ironic and tragic twist of history. After all, it may be argued that western civilization's greatest accomplishment to date must certainly lie in the countless efforts, from the Magna Carta to the American Bill of Rights, to curb and restrain power and violence in the name of liberal freedom and human and civil rights. It was no coincidence that the fascists turned liberalism into their mortal enemy, fought champions of civic freedoms in the street and then allied with Nazism to root out the Judeo-Christian ethic.

Like the fascists, Hamas fundamentalists are brutally impoverishing the civilization and religion they are purportedly defending. Islamic civilization was great in its civility – for its rule of law, for the compassion and charity of its institutions and for its tolerance of minorities. Well into modern history, those who sought refuge found it more likely in the Muslim East than in the West. The golden age of Islam was a golden age for its Christian and Jewish inhabitants as well. Certainly, Islamic kings, caliphs, sultans and princes engaged in war, but it was a war with a clear set of rules. Non-combatants, men, women and children, for the most part, were spared its horrors. Suicide missions were condemned and war was hardly the sole or predominant function of Islamic civilization. It was easily eclipsed by more salutary accomplishments – the restoration of Greek sciences, the cultivation of the arts and architecture that focused mostly, but not exclusively, on mosques in which men were inspired to Islam's lofty ideals, laws and practices.

To substitute all of this for the murder and destruction of hundreds of Israeli citizens, one of whom was a Muslim citizen of the State of Israel, should seem outrageous not only to an outsider but to the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists themselves. How could they be willing to give up the soul of Islam for the sake of several hundred Israelis? Is this not the sweetest victory they can give to the Israelis whom they feel, erroneously, pine for Islam's downfall? And will not wanton and debauched violence eventually spill over into larger Palestinian society as the warriors take on the Palestinian infidels, or, as in the case of Afghanistan, the warriors begin to kill each other?

Even more baffling is why Palestinan Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat has chosen to tread the path of terror and war by allying with these fundamentalists in the recent war against Israel. Many of Arafat's advisors, including Abu Mazin, the architect of the initial secret discussions that led to the Oslo peace process, and two of his chief lieutenants, Muhammad Dahlan and Jibril Rajoub, who head preventive security, the largest of Arafat's dozen or more security branches, have been asking the same question.

Rajoub, the head of preventive security in the West Bank, took a blow in the face from Arafat when he did not prevent the release of the Hamas activists Arafat sometimes imprisons to appease the United States when it says he is not doing much against terrorism. Rajoub reportedly did not defend the prison as a way of protesting the alliance between Arafat's Fatah movement and the Islamic movements of Hamas and Jihad.

Hamas militia

These Palestinian officials opposed Arafat's alliance with the fundamentalists in the past for several reasons. Resigned to Arafat's divide and rule policies within the PA, they feared that extending the game to include movements who in the end seek to undermine it threatens the internal staying power of the institution on which they staked their claim. The alliance also threatens the prospects of these officials to succeed the aging and sickly leader.

As well, through this alliance, Arafat has sanctioned terrorist attacks within Israel. By contrast, these officials, advisors and intellectuals wanted to limit terrorism to the West Bank and Gaza, in the hopes that this would cause a split between Israel's left and right and lead to the downfall of Israel's unity government. Such an outcome would lead in turn to a possible centre and centre-left victory in the following Israeli elections and to further concessions for the Palestinians. They reasoned, probably correctly, that indiscriminate terror would unify the Israeli population. Escalating terror, they feared, would lead to an escalated and increasingly punishing Israeli response. They also reasoned that after Sept. 11, the net benefits of terrorism were growing smaller as the United States became more determined to fight terror linked to what U.S. President George W. Bush called the "axis of evil" – North Korea, Iraq and Iran. The Israeli capture of the ship Karine-A, laden with arms from Iran for the PA, and the discovery of mortars and equipment in the territories themselves from Iraq, clearly demonstrated the links the PA had with two of the three states.

Despite the advice of his officials, Arafat clearly took the radical path. For starters, he sanctioned the establishment of Fatah Tanzim cells with a more embellished Islamic name – the Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades. Not only was it a more Islamic name than *Tanzim*, which means apparatus, but the organizational unit echoed the Hamas' Izz al-Din al-Qassam brigades as well. Their logo, obviously enough, was the al-Aqsa mosque where hostilities in this terror war first started. Increasingly, the al-Aqsa brigades adopted the same tactics as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, including suicide bombings, as well as conducting joint attacks against Israeli civilians and military personnel both within Israel and the territories. The al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades, abetted by personnel from Arafat's security forces, are responsible for 70 per cent of Israeli fatalities.

If these officials and at least one Palestinian advisor and scholar were so right, why did Arafat not heed his officials' advice? The same question may be why Arafat sided with Saddam Hussein in 1990, joined forces with radical Lebanese to destroy the Lebanese state in the 1970s and 1980s, and headed the coalition of Palestinian factions to do much the same to Jordan in the years 1968-1971. The end of each of these episodes not only spelled hardship for the state involved, but disaster for the very people Arafat leads. Jordan was forced to adopt more discriminatory policies against its Palestinian citizens for fear that some might be infiltrated by Palestinian organizations, even though most of them remained loyal to the state during the 1970s war against the factions. In Lebanon, the Palestinian community was virtually destroyed, and in 1990/91, tens of thousands of Palestinians paid for Arafat's radical policies with mass expulsion from the Gulf states that were the victims of Iraq's wrath. It is said of Arafat that he has never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity for making peace. It would probably be as correct to say that he never missed transforming an opportunity for aggrandizing himself at the expense of fellow Palestinians.

Obviously, Arafat's follies form a pattern rather than a puzzle, and being a pattern, one must assume deep underlying causes behind them. Ziyad Abu Amer, a former scholar at Birzeit University and now a member of the Palestinian legislative council, provides one possible explanation. In a book on the sources of Palestinian nationalism, he focuses on the close linkages between the founders of the PLO, Arafat included, and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt during these leaders' formative years. The Muslim Brotherhood is an organization that provided the ideology and inspiration for most of the radical Islamic movements of which we in the West have become painfully aware. And just as these organizations must be rooted out, a policy adopted not only in the West but by moderate Arab states as well, so too does Arafat deserve the same fate. Any other alternative will harm the Palestinians and Islamic society, which Arafat is purportedly defending just as fascist leaders did in a different era and setting.

Hillel Frisch is senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

Waging war over Jerusalem

ISRAEL Under Attack CJN FOCUS

By HERB KEINON
Special to The CJN

With a war raging, with fear in the streets, with the reserves mobilized, with a pre-June-1967-like feeling of isolation gripping Israel, it is difficult to remember what preoccupied the country in September 2000, just prior to the outbreak of the current intifadah.

Then the major diplomatic concern was not the outbreak of a war with the Palestinians, but whether Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat would unilaterally declare a state, and how Israel would respond.

It all seems so distant now, even somewhat quaint.

At the time, the main option Israel was considering in the event of an Arafat declaration of statehood was the unilateral annexation of areas deemed essential for security.

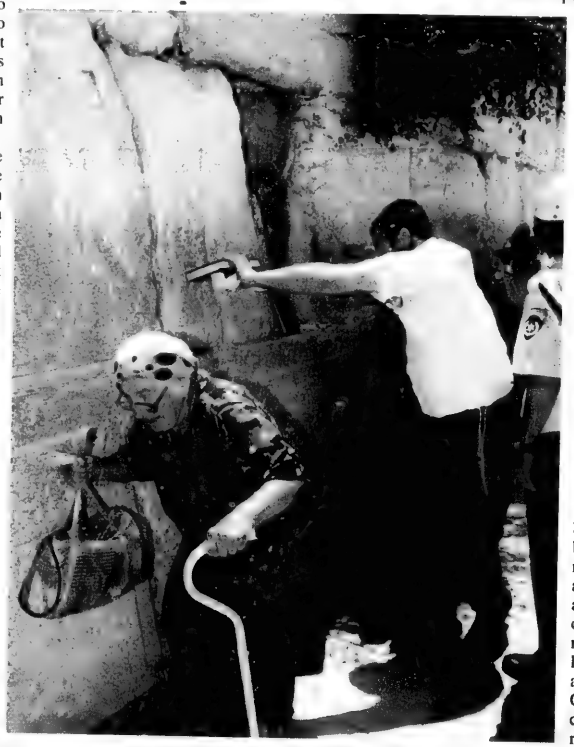
Israeli and Palestinian negotiators regularly met, in those days, around tables laden with fruit and mineral water. Few Israeli officials dreamed they would soon be trying to figure out how to pressure Arafat into keeping his minions from blowing up bar and bat mitzvah parties.

Levelling the Jenin refugee camp was a plan in the bottom of a drawer in the Central Command somewhere, not something anyone realistically thought Israel would have to do some 19 months later.

Perhaps the most telling aspect of this recollection is that the reason the Palestinians gave in September 2000 for igniting the violence had nothing to do with their threat to declare a state. The world, at the time, would have had difficulty understanding a Palestinian war for statehood, just weeks after then Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered them – and they turned down – a state on some 95 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza.

No, the Palestinian message was not that they were turning their guns, mortars and suicide bombers on Israel over a national, secular issue like statehood. The Palestinian message was that they were waging war over the issue of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem.

The IDF protects the residents of Gilo



Worshippers at the Western Wall seek shelter from the rocks thrown at them from above

The names given military operations all over the world are often pregnant with meaning; code-words innately understood by the citizens of the nations initiating the offensive.

Witness Defensive Shield, the name of Israel's recent operation, which speaks volumes to Israelis who felt defenseless and impotent in the face of the relentless wave of suicide bombings that preceded the operation.

Or take the name given to the U.S. mission in Afghanistan: Operation Enduring Freedom. For Americans traumatized by Sept. 11, this name sums up why the military operation was launched.

In a similar way, the name Al-Aqsa intifadah speaks to Palestinians, to Israeli Arabs, to Muslims around the world.

By calling this enduring low-intensity war the Al-Aqsa intifadah, the Palestinians have Islamicized the conflict. They have turned the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from a dispute over boundaries – an assumption that has long underpinned western attempts over the years to solve it – into a religious, ideological dispute.

A territorial conflict is bridgeable, the assumption being that if you somehow repair the territorial grievance, the dispute will disappear. That was the basis of UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 – land for peace. That was also the assumption behind the Oslo process – Israel makes concessions to bring the territorial conflict to an end, and the Palestinians live happily ever after.

A religious conflict, however, is much more difficult to solve, fired, as it is, by passions for God.

The Palestinians, by turning this recent conflict into an Islamic one, are stoking those flames, firing those passions.

It is in this sense that Jerusalem has played a key role in the current intifadah.

Even though Jerusalem has some 200,000 Arab residents, and even though nail-laced suicide bomb after nail-laced suicide bomb has exploded in Jerusalem's crowded streets, for the Palestinians, Jerusalem's centrality to the current violence is on an ideological rather than a practical plane.

Jerusalem as the great motivator.

Paradoxically, Jerusalem's Arabs have not played an active role in this round of the century-old Israel-Arab conflict – perhaps because as Israeli citizens they have the most to lose in terms of social benefits that, conceivably, could be stripped if they engaged Israel in war.

And even though so much terror has taken place in Jerusalem because of the Palestinian desire to strike at the heart of the capital – rightly reasoning that this sends a strong message that if the capital is not safe, nowhere is safe – the centrality of Jerusalem to the intifadah from the Palestinian point of view is not necessarily an "operational" one.

Jerusalem has "starred" in the intifadah because it is the one issue that could unite the disparate parts of Palestinian society – secular and religious – as well as stir the passions of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world.

A religious conflict, however, is much more difficult to solve, fired, as it is, by passions for God.

Jerusalem, and not the state. Jerusalem, and not the settlements. Jerusalem, and not the right of refugee return. Arafat could have chosen any of these issues as the excuse for his war. But he chose Jerusalem. And for good reason.

At Camp David, Arafat heard the Egyptians and the Saudis whisper that he had no right to compromise with Israel over Jerusalem, that Jerusalem was not his to barter. He heard this and reasoned that their support would be guaranteed if the war was launched over Jerusalem.

The conventional wisdom in Israeli intelligence circles is that the intifadah was in the planning stage for months before it broke out in September 2000. Arafat, according to this narrative, realized at Camp David two months earlier that he had

Continued on page B10

'Sovereignty solutions now a hard sell'

ISRAEL Under Attack CJN FOCUS

Continued from page B9

gotten as much as he could through negotiations, and that anything more would have to be won through violence.

The question then became what would be the trigger. Ariel Sharon handed him that trigger when he went to the Temple Mount. Arafat could then rant that the Al-Aqsa mosque – indeed all of Haram al-Sharif (the Temple Mount) – is in danger.

His rant fell on receptive ears. Ever since the Western Wall tunnel riots in Jerusalem in 1996 – the first post-Oslo expression of organized PA violence – the Palestinians had spun conspiracy theories that the mosques on the Temple Mount were in physical danger. They claimed that two tunnels, not one, were burrowed in order to weaken the foundations of the mosques and bring them tumbling down.

Soon afterward, large conferences sprouted up both inside and outside Green Line Israel to deal with the issue. Israeli Arabs volunteered their time to come to Jerusalem and strengthen the mosques.

The fear was there. The passion was there. All that was needed was the match.

Focusing on Al-Aqsa and Jerusalem has served Arafat's purposes well. By Islamicizing the conflict, Arafat was able to bring Hamas and Islamic Jihad – his "opposition parties" – closer to him. These Islamic organizations have no enduring love for the PA or its goal of a secular state. But when Arafat waved the banner of Al-Aqsa, they responded. How could they turn their back on a modern day Saladin – as Arafat has referred to himself – fighting to free the Holy City of the infidels.

The Islamicization of the conflict has obviously made the conflict that much more intractable.

During Oslo's heyday, when the majority of Israelis believed the dispute was indeed only a territorial one, Israel was willing to make far-reaching compromises.

A nation that once declared a holiday – Jerusalem Day – to celebrate the unification of the city in 1967, was so intoxicated by Oslo that it was willing to re-divide the city and have sovereignty over its holiest site taken from its hands. Two days before the outbreak of the intifadah, Ehud Barak said in a *Jerusalem Post* interview that he envisioned two capitals in the city, Jerusalem for Israel, and al-Quds as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Polls at the time indicated that more and more Israelis were willing to consider "creative" solutions to the Temple Mount – from shared sovereignty to an international umbrella to the idea that Israel would be sovereign below the ground and the Palestinians above it – if it would just bring peace.

Some in the West are saying now that in order to break out of the current impasse, Israel will have to sit down with the Palestinians at the point where the Camp David and later Taba talks broke off – including bringing up again the creative sovereignty solutions for Jerusalem.

But this will be hard to sell in post-Al-Aqsa intifadah Israel.

A stand-off between Israeli security forces and Arab rioters on the Temple Mount

With central Jerusalem turned into a war zone even while the eastern part of the city is in Israeli control, few are now easily going to agree to a situation where the eastern part of the city is taken out of Israeli hands altogether. If things are bad now, this argument runs, how much worse will they be if Israel does not control eastern Jerusalem.

If the spiritual connection to the city was not strong enough to keep many Israelis from a willingness to forfeit sovereignty over the Temple Mount, if the mantra of Jerusalem as "the united, eternal capital of the state of Israel" proved in reality more words than substance, then 19 months of watching Jerusalemites writhe in fear and pain may rid people of an inclination to compromise to have peace in the capital. At least for the time being.

Jerusalem is a city where the names of neighbourhoods and quarters often represent more than just the neighbourhoods themselves. Mea Shearim is more than just a place, it is also a buzzword for haredim. Mount Scopus is more than just where a university and hospital are located, it is a reminder of a time when the city was divided.

The newest addition to this lexicon of place names-cum-concepts is Gilo, the unfortunate neighbourhood on the city's southern outskirts that has intermittently come under rifle and mortar fire from Beit Jala, just across the wadi.

Gilo is no longer just another new Jerusalem neighbourhood, but a catchword for when-the-Palestinians-don't-get-what-they-want-they-shoot-wherever-they-can.

When Gilo was first being fired on in the early stages of the intifadah, the question was why? Why Gilo? The answer was simple. Because it was there, bordering the PA, within easy firing range.

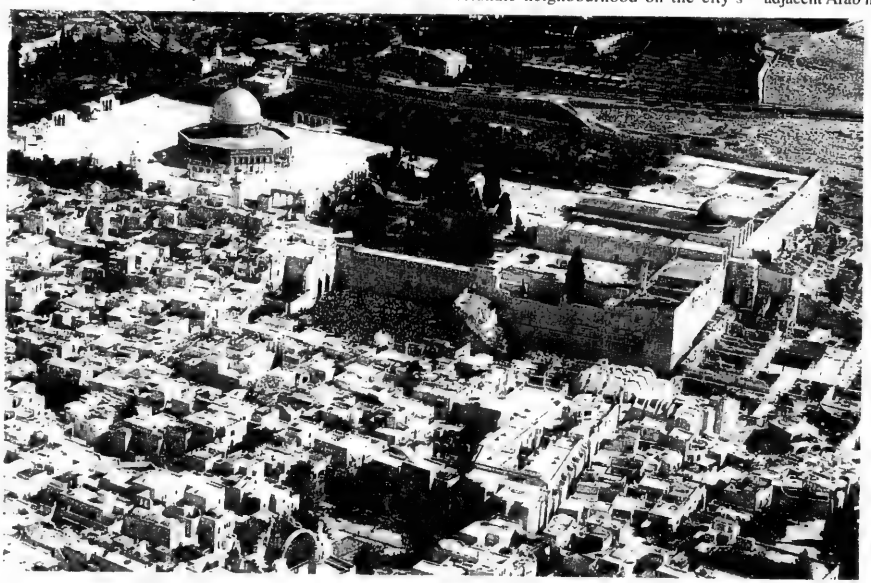
True, there are other neighbourhoods in Jerusalem close to Arab quarters. But Israel retained security control in these other areas.

The Jerusalem neighbourhood of French Hill was not fired upon from the adjacent Arab neighbourhood of Issawiya, not because the Palestinians did not want to shoot from there, but because they simply couldn't. Israeli police patrol Issawiya. In Jerusalem, Gilo was the only neighbourhood within Kalashnikov range of a Palestinian area under Arafat's control. And, as a result, only Gilo was shot at, night after night. "All Jerusalem is Gilo" was a phrase coined soon after the firing in Gilo began, in order to express solidarity with the residents of that neighbourhood.

Arafat looked to Jerusalem in September 2000 to stir the masses for his fight against Israel. Now Israelis are likely to look to Al-Aqsa intifadah's Jerusalem as the reason why what was offered to the Palestinians in the capital before the violence cannot be offered again.

Gilo will be held up as the reason – the fear that if the Camp David and Taba formulas are recycled and implemented, all of Jerusalem could truly, and not only metaphorically, one day turn into Gilo.

Herb Keinon is diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Post.



An overview of the Temple Mount. In the centre of the photo, one can see worshippers at the Western Wall

THE DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

ISRAEL Under Attack CJN FOCUS

On May 14, 1948, on the day in which the British Mandate over Palestine expired, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and approved the following proclamation, declaring the establishment of the State of Israel. The new state was recognized that night by the United States and three days later by the USSR.

Text of the Declaration of Independence:

Eretz Yisrael was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz Yisrael and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its national home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people – the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe – was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing the Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz Yisrael, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom– and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz Yisrael to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their state is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign state.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz Yisrael and of the Zionist movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz Yisrael and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael, to be known as the State of Israel.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly no later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel."

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the holy places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to co-operate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz Yisrael.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL – in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months – to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the building of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of co-operation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz Yisrael in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream – the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the Provisional Council of State, on the soil of the homeland, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion

Daniel Auster
Mordekhai Bentov
Yitzchak Ben Zvi
Eliyahu Berligne
Fritz Bernstein
Rabbi Wolf Gold
Meir Grabovsky
Yitzchak Gruenbaum
Dr. Abraham Granovsky
Eliyahu Dobkin
Meir Wilner-Kovner
Zerach Wahrhaftig
Herzl Vardi
Rachel Cohen
Rabbi Kalman Kahana
Saadia Kobashi
Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Levin
Meir David Loewenstein
Zvi Luria
Golda Myerson
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Ben Zion Sternberg
Bekhor Shitreet
Moshe Shapira
Moshe Shertok

David Ben-Gurion proclaims Israel's creation and Independence

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Useful addresses

Parliamentary Internet Web Site
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ISRAEL Under Attack
CJN FOCUS

Resources on Israel on the Internet

There are countless excellent resources on the Internet about Israel. The following are just a beginning. Each address will lead to many others.

Israeli government sites:
• Israel Foreign Ministry
www.mfa.gov.il
• Israel Defense Forces
www.idf.il/newsite/english/main.asp

Lobby groups and Non-governmental organizations:
• Canada-Israel Committee
www.cicweb.ca/

The CIC's Resources Links are an excellent source for government, media, and academic resources on the Web.
• UN Watch
www.unwatch.org/

Media Monitoring:
• Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
www.world.std.com/~camera/
• HonestReporting.com
www.honestreporting.com/

News services:
• *Ha'aretz* in English
www.haaretzdaily.com/
• *Jerusalem Post*
www.jpost.com/
• *Jerusalem Report Magazine*
www.jrep.com/

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Coat to Coast

Hamilton to host Jewish Literary Festival

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Twenty Jewish writers of poetry, plays, children and adult fiction, screenplays and short stories will converge on Temple Anshe Sholom here from May 24 to May 26 for the community's first Jewish Literary Festival.

The writers will offer a diverse weekend program, ranging from workshops in storytelling to a hands-on session on creative inspiration, as well as a multi-media presentation on poetry and psychiatry.

Ellen Jaffe, one of the festival's organizers, is a writer and teacher. She and friend Lil Blum came up with the idea for the gathering more than a year ago, after a synagogue service in which Blum read a story to the congregation.

"We were talking about how much people enjoy stories, and we started wondering if there had ever been a literary festival here," Jaffe said. "We decided to organize one, and began contacting the different writers we knew. Everyone we spoke to was enthusiastic and wanted to take part, and they began to recommend other writers. It just evolved from there."

With the current situation in the Middle East, Jaffe feels that celebrating the contributions of Jewish writing is timely.

"Jews have always thought of themselves as people of the book and writing is an important aspect of Judaism – it is how Jews have expressed themselves, and has always been the bridge between the past and present."

Jaffe acknowledges the Jewish influences in her own work. She is currently writing a novel for pre-teens about a family going through a death. The girl in the story uses her grandmother's menorah to travel through time, and what she sees in the past helps her deal with the present.

"The story has a universal appeal because of the time travel. But I find that as I get older, being Jewish affects my writing more. My grandparents were immigrants from Russia, and even though I grew up in New York where there is a large and accepted Jewish community, I always felt like an outsider.

"We all have different identities as people and being Jewish is part of that. Over the weekend, we'll be exploring to what extent it has affected our writing.

"For example, the Holocaust is an influence. Someone once said that after the Holocaust, there can't be poetry, but our guest poets and speakers want to show that this form of writing can help to deal with the tragedies and joys of living. The poet can carry the spirit of a people."

The festival's program features workshops for all ages, including a session on creativity in aging and a children's workshop and art session.

Jaffe stresses the event is open to all – you don't have to be Jewish or a writer to attend. While taking a Jewish perspective, the festival aims to encourage others to look at their own cultures.

She also hopes the festival will be inspirational – especially for the young.

If the festival proves successful, there are plans to hold it every two years.

The event is being sponsored by The Writers' Union of Canada and The League of Canadian Poets, as well as money from private sources.

For more information, call 905-528-0121 or click on "Upcoming Events" at www.jewishhamilton.org.

Hadassah-WIZO presents awards

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A recent gala reception on Parliament Hill was the venue for the presentation of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO's first Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Sheila Finestone and Dr. Joseph Keon, chosen for their many years of service to their communities and their country, were honoured as part of the organization's 85th anniversary celebration.

Finestone, a former Liberal senator and MP from Montreal, has been recognized in the past by Canadian Hadassah WIZO as one of its Women of Achievement.

Keon, founder of the University of Ottawa's Heart Institute, is respected and renowned internationally for his revolutionary work in the field of transplantation and for developing the institute into a first-class research and teaching centre.

In addition to Hadassah-WIZO members who attended from across Canada, many members of government and foreign diplomats attended the gala, including representatives from Israel, Austria, Argentina and Germany. Dinner guests were entertained by the Shira Ottawa Choir under the direction of Cantor Daniel Benlolo and accompanied by Aviva Lightstone.

Marion Mayman, national president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, began her remarks by noting the upsurge of anti-Semitism around the world and in Canada and by sending condolences to the families of those recently killed in Israel. She asked everyone to join her in a minute of silence.

"Now, more than ever, we must stand together in solidarity with the people of Israel," she said.

Avraham Lev-Lewis from the Israeli Embassy brought greetings on behalf of Ambassador Haim Divon, who was out of town.

"Hadassah is not just any Jewish organization in Canada," Lev-Lewis said. "All Jewish organizations are important, but Hadassah defines itself as a Zionist organization and this adds another dimension to its importance."

He thanked the organization for its support in raising money and awareness for Israel in the past and urged it to continue to do so in the future.

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Coast to Coast

Various critics, some more equal than others

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Rex Murphy, a weekly columnist for the *Globe and Mail* and commentator for CBC's "The National," is a wonderful, graceful writer and a nuanced thinker.

In his *Globe* column "Some of Israel's critics are more equal than others" (April 27), he dismisses the question, "Is it possible to criticize Israel and not be anti-Semitic?" as childishly obvious (yes), and asks instead: "Can one scrutinize Israel with a moral microscope but put on a blindfold before turning to the Palestinians – and claim to be fair?"

For example, "Is news of an Israeli atrocity seized on with great eagerness while say, a Passover butchery of civilians is, if at all, brought in the discussion only reluctantly and with much moral throat-clearing? Do you wait up at night for the bad news about [Israeli Prime Minister] Ariel Sharon but put out a 'do not disturb' sign for any bulletins of [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat's duplicity?"

These questions deserve careful consideration by all journalists, including even some Jewish writers who during these painful days join in the denunciations of Israel, and of Sharon in particular, in the most strident terms.

Naomi Klein, for instance, went so far as to charge that Sharon's actions contributed to anti-Semitism (*Globe and Mail*, April 24), thereby revealing that she completely misconstrues anti-Semitism's very nature: an irrational hatred of Jews, for which the anti-Semite will always find an excuse. While criticism of Sharon is certainly valid, one hopes that at least some context about the violence Israelis confront would be provided. But to be oblivious to the nature of anti-Semitism and to argue that Sharon is complicit in promoting it is abysmal.

Yoel Marcus, a writer never shy about criticizing Israeli politicians, captures the proper context:

"We have good reason to criticize Sharon, Netanyahu, the Labor Party and the blunders and the lack of initiative of the government. But when all is said and done, we must remember that the person who brought us hither, the father of all sin, is Yasser Arafat. He screwed peace. He thumbed his nose at the Oslo accords and set the whole region ablaze. He wanted 'blood and fire' and brought to power those who would give it to him. He screwed us, but more so, he screwed his own people. Revolution, they say, consumes its own. Too bad the Palestinian revolution didn't consume him. Maybe then they would have a state today" (*Ha'aretz*, April 26).

Marcus' view is the consensus in Israel today, especially among those who believed the Oslo process would lead to a two-state solution that would provide peace and security for Israelis and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians. Sharon's election stemmed foremost from a desire to restore security to a badly shaken populace. The gross violation of the promise of social justice was caused by Arafat's violent behaviour, which well preceded Sharon's election. Let us not lose sight of cause and effect.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Former SS man arrested

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A former SS officer convicted in absentia by an Italian court for war crimes was arrested last week in Vancouver and held in custody pending an extradition hearing on murder charges involving 11 victims.

RCMP officers arrested Michael Seifert, 78, as he left church following mass as the Holy Family Parish church. He is wanted by the government of Italy for allegedly murdering prisoners at the Bolzano prison camp between December 1944 and April 1945.

Patrick Charette, a spokesperson for the Justice Department, told *The CJN* that Seifert was arrested at the request of the Italian government.

Seifert's Italian conviction in November 2000 was followed by the launch of denaturalization proceedings in Canada as federal authorities moved to strip Seifert of his Canadian citizenship. That case remains on a parallel track to the extradition matter, said Terry Beitner, director and general counsel of the Justice Department's war crimes unit.

Documents submitted in the Federal Court of Canada in connection with the denaturalization case claim Seifert was vicious and cruel in the treatment of prisoners at the Bolzano (Bozen) camp.

"Seifert was personally involved in the beatings, the torture and the killing of prisoners in the camp and in the [camp's] isolation cells," the government's statement of claim alleges.

In Vancouver, Seifert's lawyer Doug Christie applied for bail, saying his client was frail and not a flight risk. He argued Seifert's indefinite incarceration pending the extradition hearing would bring the administration of justice into "gross disrepute," the *Vancouver Sun* reported.

Justice department lawyer Roger McMeans opposed Seifert's release, arguing he had been convicted of serious crimes and that freeing him would "undermine confidence in the Canadian judicial system."

McMeans later told reporters that although the charges relate to events at the Bolzano camp during World War II, Italy's extradition request was based on murder charges, not war crimes.

Seifert's bail hearing was adjourned until last Friday to allow Christie to digest the voluminous legal documentation presented him by Crown lawyers.

Canadian Jewish Congress applauded Seifert's arrest. "Canada must not be, or be perceived as, a safe haven for those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, from the Second World War or more contemporary conflicts," said Irving Abella, chair of Congress' war crimes committee.

Meanwhile, in his statement of defence to the denaturalization charge, Christie alleged "Jewish animosity" motivated former citizenship and immigration minister Elinor Caplan to initiate citizenship proceedings against his client.

"The actions of the minister against an ethnic German are an indication of reasonable apprehension of bias, are scandalous and vexatious, arising out of a conflict of interest originating in the Jewish animosity by [Caplan] to the defendant's ethnic background," the statement of defence alleges.

In addition to representing Seifert, Christie has acted for Nazi apologist Ernst Zundel, Holocaust denier Jim Keegstra, and alleged war criminal Imre Finta, who was acquitted of all charges against him.

Coast to Coast

Holocaust educational symposium draws over 1,000

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's first daylong Holocaust Education Symposium attracted more than 1,000 Manitoba high school students and teachers from 30 schools and the lineup of speakers gave them much to think about.

The symposium, a year in the planning, was held May 1 at the University of Winnipeg. The day began with a musical excerpt from *The Wave*, a play that shows how easy it is in a school setting to turn teens against a perceived minority.

The first speaker was Leon Bass, a retired Philadelphia educator and one of the first U.S. soldiers to walk through the gates of Buchenwald in 1945.

Bass, who has spoken in Winnipeg before, described with passion what it felt like to be a black man in America in the 1940s, a time when black men "were not good enough" to eat in restaurants in the South, drink from water fountains or sit in the front section of buses. But they were "good enough" to put their lives on the line for their country, he said.

Bass enlisted straight out of high school in 1943 and ended up in Europe serving with an all-black battalion. At the time, he recalled, he was segregated from his white friends because the U.S. army was still segregated.

His stop in Buchenwald changed his life.

"It was 1945 and we were winning the war," Bass said. "We were ordered to go into east Germany. A lieutenant asked me and two other guys to come with him to a concentration camp. I didn't know anything about concentration camps. We never learned about them in training. Walking through the gates of Buchenwald was the shock of my life. I was totally unprepared for what I saw and I will never forget it."

He described for the students in graphic detail the walking skeletons, the crematoria and the other horrors he saw.

"I couldn't believe that this could happen in a civilized society like Germany," he said. "It helped me see clearly that human suffering wasn't just about me. It can touch all of us. The Nazis were saying all those people were not good enough to live.

"That day, I saw the face of evil – racism, anti-Semitism, hatred – carried to the ultimate. I knew I had to do something about it."

After returning home, Bass decided to become a teacher. To his anger and disappointment, even at Westchester College in Pennsylvania, he faced discrimination: he wasn't allowed to live in the university dorm.

After graduation, Bass became an elementary school teacher and later an elementary school principal. He took inspiration from Martin Luther King Jr. and participated in the March on Washington in 1963. In 1970, he became the first black principal of an all-black, all male school in Philadelphia that was dominated by street gangs.

"For the first month of classes, I wandered around with a constant dull headache trying to get a handle on things," he said. "Then, one day, I went into a classroom and found the students being rude to a visitor. She was a survivor of Auschwitz trying to tell her story. I began telling them my story. Those young men listened quietly to me and her and left the class wordlessly.

"She encouraged me to share my experiences and I have been doing it ever since.

"Evil is potentially within us all waiting to take over our minds and bodies," Bass told his student audience. "You have to stand up against evil even if it may put you up against your best friends."

He identified the keys to fighting evil as education and love.

The next presentation was a panel consisting of Holocaust survivor Barbara Goszer and her daughter, Sharon Goszer Tritt, and Albert Gazan and his Canadian-born wife, Marjorie.

Gazan was an infant in Holland when war broke out and spent the war years being hidden in different homes. His parents also survived the war, but most of the rest of his family perished.

"I didn't feel like a survivor," he said. "Rather, I was the child of survivors."

Barbara Goszer came to Winnipeg as a war orphan in 1949. The only survivor in her family, she was nine when war broke out and was hidden by a Christian family for most of the conflict.

"I never spoke about the Holocaust to my children," she said. "I didn't want to burden them. I wanted them to have a normal life. It wasn't until they were at university that I realized how much anger I had built up inside me. Now that I speak out about the Holocaust publicly over the last few years, I feel easier."

Goszer Tritt said she has learned about her mother's wartime experiences mainly from her public lectures. "My parents [Barbara's husband, Elliott, is also a survivor] never talked about the war while we were growing up and we never had the courage to ask," Goszer Tritt said. "We probably learned that silence was the best defence mechanism."

Although her parents spoke with an accent and she didn't have any grandparents, Goszer Tritt said her life seemed no different than her friends with Canadian-born parents.

She said that although they had few blood relatives, the family had a very close relationship with other survivor families.

It was the birth of her own child that caused Goszer Tritt to want to learn more about her family history.

The final speaker of the day was Ken McVay, director of the Nizkor Project, an Internet-based archive that debunks and challenges Holocaust deniers.

The conference was funded by the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Foundation and Heritage Canada's Multiculturalism program. Barbara Kowall, one of the organizers, said the symposium will become an annual event if funding can be procured.

Brain Tumor Foundation invites walkers to participate in 2002 Toronto Spring Sprint

TORONTO — The Brain Tumor Foundation of Canada (BTFC) is calling on all walkers to lace up their shoes and join Toronto's annual Spring Sprint on Sunday, May 12 in Sunnybrook Park.

The Spring Sprint, one of 10 held annually in cities across Canada, raises money for brain tumour support services, research and education. All money raised will help those affected by brain tumours.

More than 10,000 Canadians are diagnosed with a brain tumour each year. These individuals suffer from seizures, paralysis, speech impairment, vision, hearing, and memory loss. Brain tumours affect people of all ages and there is no cure. BTFC is devoted to improving the quality of life for those affected.

"BTFC currently has over 20 communities asking for a support group to be established," said Kathy Leclair, BTFC support services co-ordinator. "These support groups provide an opportunity for people with brain tumours and their loved ones to share experiences, address personal issues and gain emotional support. Funds raised by Spring Sprints will help bring these support groups to fruition, so no one suffers from the disease alone."

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Cotler addresses conference for women leaders

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — As the only male member of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus, Montreal Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler felt right at home addressing the first Canadian Jewish Women's Leadership Development Conference in ten years.

Cotler was one of a host of speakers, including high-profile Torontonians Julia Koschitzky and Rachael Turkienicz, that addressed the conference, held April 26 to April 29 in Winnipeg.

The conference drew about 90 women, split almost equally between local attendees and delegates from across Canada, and focussed on Israel advocacy and Jewish education.

"UIA Women's Division leaders have been meeting a couple of times a year over the past three or four years as part of the UIA/Federation Canada general meetings," said conference co-ordinator Elaine Goldstine. "Usually Women's Division presidents would stay behind an extra day for meetings. We felt it was time for something more comprehensive. The turnout has shown there is a need for this."

The Saturday programming focused primarily on education, beginning with a women's service in the morning led by Rachael Turkienicz and followed by presentations on the changing Jewish world, the influence of women on biblical history, a discussion about how one's views inform one's decisions and a talk by Toronto social worker Joe Rich on the changing family. The day also included a lunch with Argentine Jewish emigres to Canada and a walking tour of Winnipeg.

Cotler was the lead-off speaker on Sunday morning. He spoke about the various factors that influence Canadian public opinion and foreign policy and how the two have evolved since Israel's creation in 1948.

The basic principles remain relatively unchanged, he said. Canada recognizes Israel's legitimacy and right to security, supports the search for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and opposes Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza and the presence of the settlements. Canada also supports the creation of a Palestinian state.

More recent developments have been the government's condemnation of terrorism and support for the dismantling of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the military wing of Hezbollah.

"Canada recognizes Israel's right to defend itself against terror while at the same time, our country continues to call for negotiations and respect for human rights and the rule of law," Cotler said.

Cotler said Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's attendance at a major Canada-Israel Committee meeting in March was a watershed event. He said Chrétien spoke about the special kinship between Canada and Israel and showed that he cared about Israelis who live in fear of terror on a daily basis.

Cotler also noted that the media are image-driven, moralistic and take events in the Middle East, which he said receives an inordinate amount of coverage, out of historical context.

He added that non-governmental agencies, anti-globalization forces, Canadian church groups, academics and intellectuals, the campus culture, the left, human rights groups, international professional associations, the United Nations, and the European Union are all anti-Israel. As well, he noted that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and the U.S. State Department take a position similar to the Europeans.

Cotler also argued that American foreign policy may unintentionally promote an anti-Israel response in Canada, since there are some Canadian nationalists who oppose any American position on principle.

But Cotler said Israel itself deserves some criticism for not speaking out against Canada for voting in favour of anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations.

"[United Nations Secretary-General] Kofi Annan recently said that, regarding Israel, the whole world can't be wrong," Cotler said. "We have learned time and again in our history that the whole world can be wrong."

Still, he said, he believes in the end that truth and justice will prevail.

Cotler was followed by a panel consisting of Joe Wilder, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, Maxine Finkelstein, deputy vice-president of UIA Montreal and Winnipeg MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis that talked about advocating for Israel.

Wilder said that, despite the many biases against Israel among Canadian and world public opinion makers, Canada's foreign policy has become more supportive of Israel in recent months, as evidenced by Canadian votes against anti-Israel resolutions at recent UN meetings.

Judy Wasylycia-Leis of the NDP expressed her appreciation at even being invited to address a Jewish group after her colleague Svend Robinson's attempt to visit Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat while he was under siege in Ramallah.

Cotler praised Wasylycia-Leis for speaking out in caucus against Robinson and influencing the NDP position on the Mideast conflict.

Julia Koschitzky closed the conference on Monday afternoon with a look ahead.

Goldstine reports that there will be a review of, and follow-up, to the conference at UIA meetings in June. "We will probably hold this conference every other year," she said.

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Cystic fibrosis walk-a-thon at zoo May 26

TORONTO — May is Cystic Fibrosis Month, but few Canadians know what cystic fibrosis is or whom it affects.

It is estimated that one in every 25 Canadians carries the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis (CF) and that one in every 2,500 children born in Canada has the disease. It is fatal and today affects more than 3,000 children and young adults across the country.

Living with CF is a way of life for those suffering with the disease. It infects the lungs and the digestive system, with symptoms including salty-tasting skin, persistent coughing, wheezing or pneumonia, and poor weight gain, despite a normal or large appetite.

The 17th annual Zellers Friends of the Family Walk for Cystic Fibrosis takes place Sunday, May 26 at the Toronto Zoo. If you have $25 in pledges, you get free admission to the zoo, lunch, games and prizes. To sign up for the walk, go to your local Zellers store or call the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF) at 416-485-9149.

Daily, children and young adults with CF must consume a large number of artificial enzymes to help them absorb sufficient nutrition and undergo a demanding daily routine of physical therapy designed to keep the lungs free of congestion and infection. Despite this aggressive treatment and other prescribed measures that must be taken, lung infection and its complications eventually claim the life of virtually every person with CF.

Thanks to great advances in Canadian research, remarkable progress is being made to help find a cure. In 1960, children born with CF did not live past four years. Today, the median age of survival is over 30 years. Much of this progress can be attributed to the establishment of the CCFF and key corporate partners who help fund research in Canada.

Canadian researchers are viewed as leaders in the global effort to find a cure or control for CF. Their groundbreaking work yielded significant advances in recent years, particularly since discovery in 1989 of the gene responsible for the disease. The discovery furthered understanding of CF and has brought a cure closer.

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THE NEWS. YOU HAVE OUR WORD ON IT.
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Relationships move peace forward

Continued from page 1

"The breakdown in key relationships between the leaders in the Middle East is one of the biggest obstacles and challenges to overcome."

Firas noted that in the past, it was the personal friendships that developed between the late King Hussein, the late Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yasser Arafat that allowed the peace process to move forward.

At this stage, when you don't see those kinds of qualitative relationships in place, it is important to continue dialogue in other arenas, he said.

Pointing to CISEPO as an example of an organization that has brought Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians together through a Canadian umbrella based at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto, Firas noted the importance of implementing projects on the ground.

Recently nominated for the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize for its peace-building role in the Middle East, CISEPO develops academic and cultural interchanges in education and research.

Concrete results in the field of health care have allowed for an ethic of peace to develop through human relationships, said the prince, who is the Jordanian patron of the Middle East Association for Managing Hearing Loss (MEHA), as well as private secretary to His Majesty King Abdullah for health affairs.

In Jordan, one of the many policy issues Firas has explored has been the implementation of a cost effective approach to universal health care.

"The Canadian government has done a fabulous job covering everyone," he said, adding that achieving basic access is currently one of Jordan's biggest challenges.

As the patron of MEHA, which was formed in 1998 under the auspices of CISEPO, the Prince has guided a team of scientists and health workers in the screening and rehabilitation of thousands of Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli infants.

With the support of a Canadian team led by Dr. Arnold Noyek, MEHA has provided opportunities for health professionals and lay people from Israeli and Arab communities to meet and discuss issues that affect them all.

MEHA has done a lot in terms of building confidence and trust between Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian practitioners, Firas said.

These kinds of health-care activities on the ground can win the hearts and minds of many people, the prince said. "But they can go only go so far without a political framework.

"The current environment has allowed the views of extremists on both sides to dominate the agenda and drown out the voices of the more moderate elements."

Describing himself as a "militant moderate," Firas stressed the importance of being "more militant about moderate beliefs and getting those views out there."

Both sides need to move forward, he said. For the Arab states, it's a matter of preparing their people, through education, for the prospect of peace. And the Israelis will have to accept the notion of Palestinian statehood and reconcile themselves to exchanging land for peace.

"I think everyone believes that sooner or later we will have a settlement to this conflict and that preparing the public and their children... for this eventuality should come sooner rather than later.

"Jordan has always clung to the middle ground and pushed that agenda," Firas said.

By focusing on hope and the more optimistic endeavours that have occurred, the prince said the people of Jordan have followed the Confucian saying that "it's better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

שישאר ג'ינג'י

גידי קורן וחברים

Koren from Left to Right

"How can we help",the most commonly asked question these days . Buy Kachol- Lavan, Blue and White, buy Israeli products even if there is cheaper competition, the same way you buy Kosher regardless of price.

מה יהיה

חברים שטיילו באירופה מספרים שהאנטישמיות שם מוחשית מאוד, ממש חיה שיצאה מן חכלוב. שנים חשבו שהחיה הזו התביימה, שנולד באירופה דור חדש של אחרי המלחמה. לא חברים, האנטישמים של עכשיו נולדו אחרי המלחמה, כמוך וכמוני, וחם קיבלו את אחבת ישראל שלחם במשטרים סוציאל דמוקראטים נאורים. רק מה, זה חיכה להזדמנות. רק השוק הפעם יותר גדול, כי חבוטות כל כך גדולה: כבר חודשים מתפוצצים שחידים אנטישמים והורגים ישראלים יחודים- ואירופה הרשמית אומרת שצריך להגיע להסדר. אף אחד לא מפגין ליד מסגדים או חט ושלום ליד שגרירות עיראק או איראן בפאריז. רק מעיזה ישראל להגן על עצמה, ויללות הזעקה האנטישמית נשמעות מכל עבר. ממרחק של אלפי קילומטרים אני רואה איך נוזל להם הריר כמו לחיה מוקת כלבה.

בגינץ נלחמו בכוחות צה"ל נאות אנשי טרור ואבדתיהו היו קשות. לו התכוונה ישראל לטבוח נשים וילדים- היא היתה מורידה עליהם שני מטוסי אף 16 שחיו משלימים את המשימה ללא שריטה אחת לחייליה. אחבת האדם של המחבל הפלשתיני שמתחבא בין נשים וילדים יזועה ומוכרת, ואני משוכנע שגם האירופאים יודעים זאת- אבל לאנטישמי המודרני, כמו לקבו תנאי- זה לא ממש משנה. ליבו נכמר על היחודי רק כשהוא מתפוצץ עם שאחידים או כשהוא בתאי גאזים.

איך אפשר לעזור

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תכנו לטוס לארץ ואל תבטלו נסיעות שתכנתם. חשוב להיות שם.

קנו כחול לבן, חביאו מתנות כחול לבן. יד על חלב, זה לא הזמן לחפש את המחיר הכי נמוך ואת המציאה של השנה. אז שוקולד עליחם לנו עוד עשרים סנט. העיר מוצפת במוצרים ישראליים ואין עלה לנו עוד עשרים סנט. העיר מוצפת במוצרים ישראליים ואין סיבה בעולם שהדולאר שלנו לא ילך לאיפה שהלב שלנו. המצב הכלכלי בישראל קשה מיום ליום, ולישראלים ליחודים כאן יש כוח קניה רציני. אז בבקשה בלי תירוצים.

נוה מדבר

אם נשבר לכם לקרוא דיעות חד צדדיות נגד ישראל. אם בא לכם להקיא מהאדישות לרצח ישראלים ורגישות רבה לגנין- יש נווה מדבר אחד, עיתון אחד שמייצג נאמנה את החרגשה הישראלית. קוראים לעיתון הזה נשיונאל פוסט. אם אתם קוראים עיתון אחר- זה הזמן לעבור. השינוי יחמים אתכם. פשוט תרגישו בבית. לא, אין לי שום קשר אישי עם אף אחד שעובד בעיתון הזה. פשוט קראתי והשתכנעתי.

שומריה

אם יש לכם ילדים בגיל בית ספר- יש סיכוי גדול, סטאטיסטית לפחות , שהם אינם לומדים במערכת החינוך הישראלית- יהודית. מאחר ויש סיכוי גדול שאימכם חולכים לבית כנסת, יש סיכון אמיתי שילדיכם מאבדים קשר עם השורשים הישראליים שלהם. כשתעוררו- יהיה מאוחר מידי. הפיתרון- מחנה קיץ ישראלי. קן שומריה יעשה את זה בצורה מושלמת, כמו שהוא עושה זאת כבר עשרות שנים. מנסיון אישי שלי- כן, גם אני לא שלחתי ילדים לחינוך יחודי או לבית כנסת- שומריה זה חכי ישראל שאפשר כאן. טלפון 7361339- 416 (מרים).

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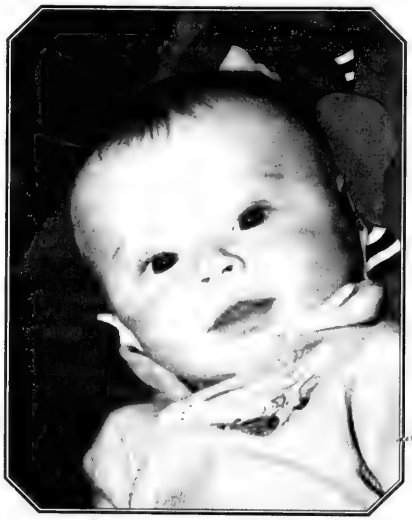
Mazel tov to David Derfel on being called to the bar. Love, your wife Shirel, the Derfels and the Benlolos.

Mazel tov Josh & Liane on your engagement. With love from your parents Sam & Rene Geist, Howard & Jacqueline Bacal and both families.



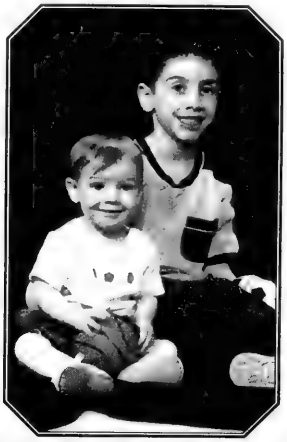
Mazel tov Rachel & Frank Zand on the birth of Ethan on Aug. 21, 2001, in Boston. Grandparents, Phyllis & David Rosenberg, great-grandmother Tillie Binder.

Mazel tov to Irving & Sarah Reisman on your 60th wedding anniversary. Love, Stanley, Shelly, Sam, Brian, Natalie, Joshua and Amanda.

Happy first birthday to Emma Shayne Charney, with love from her parents Angie & Allen.

Delighted parents Judy & Myer Gordon, Kathy & Steve Asch and Lydia Ritter are thrilled about Charles and Lainie's engagement.

Mazel tov to Gloria & Nat Tenenbaum (Bubbie Glor & Zaidy Naidy) on their 50th wedding anniversary. From your loving children and grandchildren.



Happy first birthday Kayla. Hugs and kisses from big brother Kary and Mom & Dad – Sandi & Gary Pelly.

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Advertising feature

LifeStyle

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At 81, Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky, has had a fresh start on life at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living.

Evelyn had an active lifestyle, many friends and a loving marriage in Montreal. After the couple's three sons moved here, they decided to relocate to Toronto, but the move was difficult.

Both became depressed. They knew no one but their adult children. Most days, they would go from mall to mall or sit on a park bench waiting for their kids to come home from work. And after a hard day's work, their children weren't always able to entertain Mom and Dad.

Then the couple heard about the Bernard Betel Centre. They became involved in the Book Club, Health Education, Social Events, and began to volunteer. Their children started to complain that Evelyn and her husband were too busy to call them.

Sadly, Evelyn's husband died suddenly, leaving her utterly devastated. She turned to the Betel Centre. Besides counselling and friendship, Evelyn received support and encouragement in finding a new direction.

She had started to adjust to the recent trauma when sudden illness resulted in hip surgery. The centre's V.I.S.I.T program sent a friendly visitor twice a week; another volunteer called her every day. New friends brought food and comfort. Once recovered, she started to take Gentle Fitness and gradually attended other programs at the centre.

In 1998, she met and married Ed Yuditsky, a member of the centre. Now, once again she is happily married and very involved with life.

Last year, Evelyn started "Fun With Yiddish." The group shares stories, jokes and anecdotes. She is an active volunteer on many committees.

Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky is a shining example of how the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living can change lives.

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Coast to Coast

MPs, Senators in Israel

Continued from page one

In all, 11 Liberal MPs, four from the Canadian Alliance, five members of the Bloc Québécois, two New Democrats and five senators went on the mission, designed to underline the fluid situation facing Israel.

"We felt the situation has changed so much that it was necessary to get updates," said Fogel, who accompanied the trip along with CIC vice-chair Norm Godfrey. Canada's Jewish community "badly needed this, to see a large group of parliamentarians to simply go and say 'We care about Israel.'"

The MPs and senators were kept hopping. In just two days, they met with:

• Canada's ambassador to Israel, Michael Bell and Steve Hibbert, the Canadian representative to the Palestinian Authority. Issues centred on concerns that Canadian humanitarian aid is being used to foment anti-Israel and anti-Semitic sentiment in the Palestinian school system. Fogel said while participants were satisfied that no Canadian tax dollars fund anti-Israel textbooks, there remained a concern that Ottawa's aid isn't always used "to advance Canadian values in the Palestinian educational system, and that perhaps [Canada's] financial commitment should re-orient its approach."

• deputy foreign minister Rabbi Michael Melchior, who thanked Canada for running interference for Israel at the recently-concluded annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Canada opposed two anti-Israel resolutions at the meeting. Melchior specifically thanked foreign minister Bill Graham and defence minister Art Eggleton for their support.

• Danny Shek, a leading political analyst, who provided the MPs and senators with a "strategic briefing," followed by a military briefing by an army brigadier-general.

• Lt.-Col. Miri Eisen, a spokesperson for the IDF's intelligence branch, who became a familiar face on television when she revealed Palestinian invoices and bills for explosives purportedly signed off by Yasser Arafat. Eisen briefed the Canadians on terrorism's infrastructure.

• President Katsav and Avraham Burg, the speaker of the Knesset.

• academics at Hebrew University and at the Palestinian Institute for International Studies.

• Dore Gold, a senior policy advisor to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and rumoured to be Israel's next ambassador to the United States.

• Knesset members across the political spectrum, with whom the Canadians developed an "automatic bond," Fogel said. "They had a lot of shared issues – elections, parliamentary things. I think it gave the Canadians an appreciation of the dynamism of Israel's democracy." Later, the Canadians were recognized during a Knesset session.

• Shimon Peres, probably the trip's highlight, said Fogel. The foreign minister had scheduled 30 minutes with the group, but ended up spending 90 minutes. "I've never seen him so disturbed," Fogel remarked. "There was a sense of betrayal of how evident it's become that there doesn't seem to be any intention of genuine peace among Palestinians." In any event, the Canadians, he said, came away with an appreciation "that the government is not a Sharon government, but a broad coalition."

• and Canadian expatriates, who gave their take on living in Israel.

Palestinian-driven allegations of an Israeli massacre in the Jenin refugee camp were brought up, but, said Fogel, "I don't think anyone left believing that any massacre took place."

Pat Martin, an NDP MP from Winnipeg, said the trip "reconfirmed" his feelings about Israel.

"I have to admit a pro-Israel bias," Martin told *The CJN*. "I now feel more comfortable with my position that Israel has every right to take actions to protect itself."

The mission left him with "the impression that the international community has been much too harsh and holds Israel to a higher standard."

While some of the BQ members may not be strongly supportive of Israel, the MPs and senators "all came away very sympathetic to the position Israel finds itself in." And all the parliamentarians, he said, now share the view that Arafat is not the man to make peace.

"He's demonstrated a wilful hijacking of the peace process," Martin said. "That view was broadly accepted."

And he now appreciates more than ever that Israel has shown "admirable restraint" in its military actions against Palestinians.

"It was a real history lesson," said Martin. "I was so enthused and excited, that I intend to go back."

In a related development, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien spoke out at a Liberal fundraising dinner last week against the recent rise of acts of hatred around the world aimed at Jews and Muslims, saying that Canadians cannot ignore such intolerance.

"We have to take these acts very seriously, because the lessons of history teach us that we ignore acts of intolerance at our peril," Chrétien was reported to have said to strong applause.

"Canada is based on the ideals of unity in diversity, of a society where people can live and work together regardless of their language, their religion, or the colour of their skin. These are the values and principles that Canadians are proud to project on the international stage."

The following MPs and senators went on the recent CIC mission to Israel:

Liberals:
Jim Peterson
Stan Dromisky
Carolyn Bennett
Jacques Saada
Andy Scott
Joe McGuire
Yolande Thibeault
Albina Guarnieri
John Harvard
Anita Neville
Dennis Mills

Canadian Alliance:
Monte Solberg
Jason Kenney
Maurice Vellacott
James Rajotte

Bloc Québécois:
Richard Marceau
Francine Lalonde
Antoine Dubé
Carolyn St-Hilaire
Monique Guay

NDP:
Bev Desjarlais
Pat Martin

Senators:
Lorne Milne
Richard Kroft
Jack Austin
Ray Setlakwe
Colin Kenny

Coast to Coast

Jews expelled from Arab lands forgotten: prof

By ELIAS LEVY
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Forgotten Exodus: The expulsion of the Jews from Arab lands and the Israeli-Arab dispute. That was the theme of a conference held recently in Paris, under the aegis of the Jewish European Congress.

Some 1,500 people attended the conference, including Israeli, French, American and Canadian university professors, historians, lawyers and writers, among them Quebec writer Naïm Kattan and Liberal MP Irwin Cotler.

At a time when the Palestinians are demanding the "right of return" to present-day Israel, the conference aimed to bring to light a tragic and little-known episode in Sephardi Jewish history that had been repressed for ideological reasons by everyone involved.

Shmuel Trigano, a sociology professor at the University of Paris-X-Nanterre and conference's main organizer, said the symposium was also a way to offer dignity to a group that had its way of life interrupted and its continuity shattered.

Trigano, the founder and director of the Jewish studies college of the Alliance Israélite Universelle and of *Pardès*, the European journal of Jewish studies and culture, as well as the author of some 30 books, was interviewed by *The CJN* shortly after the conference.

Canadian Jewish News: *What was the main purpose of the conference?*

Shmuel Trigano: The main purpose was to restore the moral dignity of the State of Israel and its historic truth. For several decades, the State of Israel has been charged with congenital guilt, because, according to its detractors, it chased out a nation in order to settle in its land. People are going out of their way to depict Israel and the cause of the Jewish people as a state founded on the dispossession of the Palestinian people, as a flagrant injustice.

They have, however, forgotten that 60 per cent of Israeli Jews were also chased out of their native lands and were forced to leave. The Palestinians' invocation of the right of return, since before the latest intifadah, has reawakened our memory. A memory that has been hidden and repressed has returned to the Jews of the Arab world, to the descendants of the 900,000 people who, from the 1940s on, had to leave the countries they had been living in for a very long time – because of the violence organized by the Arab governments, or because they had no choice – while leaving behind all their possessions. Like the Palestinians, these Sephardi Jews still held the keys to their houses as they left in haste.

> *About 10,000 Jews in Arab-Muslim world*

CJN: *Is the forced expulsion of the Jews from Arab countries comparable to that of the Palestinians, then?*

Shmuel Trigano: Yes. There was an exchange of populations, as 600,000 Jews displaced from Arab countries immigrated to Israel, on the one hand, and on the other, 540,000 Palestinians displaced after the creation of Israel found themselves in several Arab countries. Those 600,000 Jews were stripped of all their belongings. They too lived in "transit camps." We have a battle to fight on an international level, because this chapter of the history of the Jews from Arab lands has been completely hidden.

The fact that this indisputable historic reality is unknown allows the Palestinians to present themselves today as absolute victims.

CJN: *Is there a pattern to the departure of the Jews from the Arab countries?*

Shmuel Trigano: Yes. In some countries, the Jews found themselves excluded through legal actions that led to the loss of their rights as citizens, and the exclusions forced them into exile. In Iraq, there were even military expulsion programs, transferring people by truck through Jordan. In Yemen, the Jewish community was given a short period to leave before all emigration was forbidden. They were stripped of all their possessions by a subterfuge developed by the local authorities. In Egypt, the Jews were gradually excluded from any economic life, then they were interned, and their property was confiscated, to the point where life had become a hell. The Egyptians Jews also left with only a suitcase, leaving behind all their personal belongings... In other cases, the Jews left because they were afraid and felt they had no longer any future where they were.

CJN: *The Palestinian refugees are insistent today in claiming financial compensation from Israel. Shouldn't the Jews who were forced to leave the Arab countries also have the right to financial compensation?*

Shmuel Trigano: Absolutely. Financial compensation must also be paid to the Jews who had to leave with only a suitcase and left behind all their possessions. There is no reason to compensate the Palestinians and not the Jews under the pretext that the Jews may be pariahs, wanderers, and that it was therefore quite normal to expel them, to have them leave behind all their possessions.

CJN: *How many Jews are still in the Muslim Arab countries?*

Shmuel Trigano: About 10,000 Jews still live in the Arab-Muslim world, mainly in Morocco, and, to a lesser degree, in Tunisia. There are also a few thousand in Iran. The Iranian Jews cannot emigrate. Otherwise, the entire Arab world has been emptied of its Jews. We have to remember that what happened to 60 per cent of Israel's Jews is directly related to the history of the Arab nation states. When the Arab nation states were created in the Islamic Arab world, there was no longer any place for the Jews in those states.

This article appeared in full in French in the Montreal edition of The CJN, *April 18. Translation by Carolan Halpern.*

LifeStyle

Advertising feature

New residents feel right at home at L'chaim

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There's no place like home, and that's why **L'chaim Retirement Home** has surpassed the expectations of its residents, management, and staff. It isn't an "alternative to home". It isn't a "replacement home". It isn't just a "nice place to visit." It's **HOME**.

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Judy's passion for enhancing the seniors experience knows no bounds. "This isn't just a job to me," she enthuses. "Nothing gives me more pleasure than making each and every resident feel wanted, comfortable, and happy. I never forgot how well my father was treated in his later years, and I always wanted to offer the same level of care to others. Now, I can."

One of the things residents and visitors alike love about L'chaim is its youthful spirit. One brief visit will convince you that in this respect, it's wonderfully different from all other retirement homes.

But don't let the intimate atmosphere fool you. L'chaim is state-of-the-art from top to bottom. No expense has been spared to ensure the comfort and safety of the residents. Each single room has a private bathroom, shower, air conditioning, and heating controls. Wheelchair-accessible rooms are also available. A major weekly cleaning and linen change are offered, and there's a laundry room on every floor for residents who wish to do their own washing and drying. And all this is available at extremely reasonable prices.

Equally impressive is the variety of activities, programs and services offered to residents. Under the supervision of Director Wendy Isenberg, with many years of devoted service in the retirement field, residents enjoy a wide range of outings and activities, such as bingo, trivia, and live music, to name but a few.

On-site access to health care professionals such as a general practitioner, physiotherapist and podiatrist ensures that residents' medical needs are addressed. A hairstylist visits once a week for those who wish to look as young as they feel.

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CJ Food
Shavuot

Blintzes reign supreme at Shavuot

BY RIVKA TAL
Special to The CJN

The words blintzes and Shavuot seem to go together like apples with honey for Rosh Hashanah and hamantaschen for Purim. There is an ancient tradition of eating dairy foods on Shavuot, and blintzes have reigned for centuries as the automatic byword of the Ashkenazim.

But we are also urged to enhance our Shabbat and festivals with meat and wine. So we find ourselves in a quandary every year. Since the mitzvah is to eat (at least) two festive meals on Shavuot, many people eat one dairy meal and one meat meal. Some eat dairy at night and meat during the day; some reverse the schedule. Some have cheesecake at an early-morning kiddush after having studied Torah all night, take a nap and then wake up to a meat/chicken meal. There are all sorts of possible combinations.

The Tal family debates this question every year. My husband likes nothing better than finding meat and wine on the menu on yom tov, and could easily skip the dairy part. The children's preferences vary from year to year. And me? Well, I do like giving the nice milchik serving pieces at least a once-a-year showing, although I agree with my friends that a milchik meal usually entails a lot more *putchkerei*. Somehow we think we have to serve more choices.

But this year, since the holiday and Shabbat are back to back, the decision seems simpler. Our traditional meat meals on Shabbat are not up for negotiation. So it seems the best advice is to have a meat meal on Thursday night, a dairy meal for lunch on Friday, and then regular Shabbat meals on Shabbat. Since we had the same situation three years ago, I dug in my files and found menus that could work this year, too.

Confession time? I buy those ready-to-cook frozen loaves of gefilte fish; I have given up on making my own. I will share my homemade Crown Half-and Half-Challah recipe with you another time. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at rtal@012.net.il and I will try to help. Chag Samayach to everyone!

WARM PURPLE CABBAGE

A delicious recipe from my Viennese-born mother-in-law. The purple cabbage looks beautiful on the table along with yellow rice with raisins and almonds and the pot roast.

1 medium red cabbage
1 tbsp. oil
1 medium onion
1-2 tbsp. brown sugar
5 whole cloves
2 cups water
juice of 1 lemon
3 tbsp. sugar
salt and pepper to taste

Optional thickener:
3 tbsp. sifted flour and 3 tbsp. cold water:

Slice or shred the cabbage and slice the onion. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, saute the onion and brown sugar, stirring constantly, for approximately 5 minutes, until golden brown. Mix in the cabbage and the cloves, reduce heat and let simmer for 15 minutes.

Add 2 cups of water, lemon juice, granulated sugar and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil and then reduce heat. Simmer for approximately 40 minutes.

Remove cloves. Correct the seasoning and serve hot.

Optional thickener: mix 3 tbsp. sifted flour with 3 tbsp. cold water and stir quickly into the cabbage mixture. Cook an additional 10 minutes.

VEGETABLE POT PIE

1½ tbsp. vegetable oil
1 large onion, chopped
3 large garlic cloves, minced
½ lb. mushrooms, coarsely chopped
3 cups of the following vegetables, or a combination: thinly sliced zucchini, thin carrot curls, frozen chopped spinach (defrosted and squeezed dry), frozen corn kernels (defrosted)
1½ cup sour cream or unflavoured yogurt
4 oz. cubed feta cheese
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
1 frozen puff pastry sheet (half of 17¼-oz. package), thawed
1 egg, beaten to blend with 1 tbsp. water

Heat oil in a large skillet. Saute onions and garlic until golden, about 4-5 minutes. Add remaining vegetables and continue to saute for 5-7 minutes, until tender. Remove from heat and cool slightly. Stir in sour cream, feta cheese and Parmesan cheese (optional).

Preheat oven to 425. Roll out pastry sheet on lightly floured surface to 12-inch square. Place vegetable mixture filling in 10-inch diameter quiche or pie dish. Arrange pastry over filling in dish. Fold up edges to fit the dish. Press firmly around rim of dish to seal. Cut several slits in top to vent steam. Brush with egg-water mixture. Bake until crust puffs up and surface is golden brown (about 25 minutes). Serve wedge-shaped portions. Serves 6.

A diverse history of Jewish cuisine

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

Once in a great while a cookbook comes along so utterly gorgeous it practically springs from my kitchen shelf and hurls itself upon my coffee table.

Marlena Spieler's latest, *The Jewish Heritage Cookbook* (Lorenz Books), subtitled "a fascinating journey through the rich and diverse history of the Jewish cuisine," is so leap-off-the-page lusciously photographed you can practically taste the food. But lest you think this book is just another pretty face, Spieler, the author of more than 40 cookbooks, includes informative chapters on the history of Jewish cuisine, the holidays and kashrut, as well as general guides to the preparation of all foods Jewish, everything from grilling mamaliga to pounding hawaij and berbere (spice mixtures).

"This is my first Jewish cookbook," said the California native on a recent visit to San Francisco from her home in London. "I've done theme books, like Mediterranean and olive oil and mushrooms, but I've always had a Jewish touch somewhere, including dishes form either Israel or my travels or my Jewish family and friends."

Spieler fondly remembers Sundays in her grandmother's kitchen, her early inspiration. "My grandmother ran a law firm and worked until a few days before she died at 93. Well, she had to cut back a little – she only worked from nine to five then! But on Sunday morning, people would start coming and she would start cooking. I couldn't say they'd come for breakfast, lunch or dinner, because it was all one meal.

"We would smell the chicken soup as we went off to synagogue school, and by the time we got home she'd have matzah brei and kasha varenishkes and meat patties with onions. This went on until late evening. Bachi really gave me the love of cooking."

Spieler travelled widely as a young adult, even living in Israel for a year, and she was working as an artist in Greece when she started including recipes with her drawings of food. A publisher offered to publish the recipes (minus the drawings!) launching her career as a food writer, broadcaster and columnist.

These days, Spieler divides her time between San Francisco and London, where she is a frequent guest on the BBC. Her column *The Roving Feast* is carried by the *New York Times* syndicate and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The Jewish Heritage Cookbook is a truly international culmination of Spieler's curiosity about our people and our food. "I love meeting Jews from different cultures, because they have different dishes on the table," she said. "I love to cook and hear their stories and find it really exciting that people with such different cultures share the same heritage and holidays."

The book's section on the festival of Shavuot (literally "weeks," because it occurs seven weeks after Pesach) is accompanied by a magnificent illustration from a 13th-century manuscript of the Book of Ruth, the portion read on this holiday.

Shavuot, which begins at sundown on May 16, commemorates the giving of the Torah as well as the offering of the first fruits of the season. Spieler notes that although Shavuot meals are traditionally dairy, "there are no rules that say this must be done."

Why dairy? Scholars differ, she says. Perhaps the tradition evolved because spring grazing produces more milk at this time. Also, in Song of Songs, the Torah is associated with milk and honey. Some suggest that while the Israelites were receiving the Ten Commandments, they were gone so long that their milk turned to cheese; others contend that upon their return they were too hungry for anything but milk to sustain them.

Whatever the explanation, for Ashkenazim it's bring on the blintzes, while Sephardim enjoy cheese-filled borekas.

A typical Shavuot starter in central Europe is Hungarian Cherry Soup perfumed with cinnamon and almond flavour. "The nice thing about this soup," noted Spieler, "is at Shavuot the days are beginning to get warm, and it is really refreshing. I eat it as often as a dessert as with a meal."

Summer Squash and Baby New Potatoes in Warm Dill Sour Cream is a festive Israeli celebration of spring and perfect for Shavuot with its fragrant dill and sour cream or yogurt topping.

HUNGARIAN CHERRY SOUP

2¼ lb. fresh, frozen or canned sour cherries, pitted
1 cup water
1 cup sugar, to taste
1-2 cinnamon sticks, each about 2 in. long
3 cups dry red wine
1 tsp. almond extract or to taste
1 cup light cream
1 cup sour cream or crème fraîche

Put pitted cherries, water, sugar, cinnamon and wine in a large pan. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer for 20-30 minutes until the cherries are tender. Remove from heat and add the almond essence.

In a bowl, stir a few tablespoons of light cream into the sour cream or crème fraîche to thin it down, then stir in the rest until the mixture is smooth. Stir the mixture into the cherry soup, then chill until ready to serve. Serves six.

SUMMER SQUASH AND BABY NEW POTATOES IN WARM DILL SOUR CREAM

14 oz. mixed squash, such as yellow and green zucchini
14 oz. tiny, baby new potatoes
pinch of sugar
3-5 tbsp. butter
2 bunches green scallions thinly sliced
1 large bunch fresh dill, finely chopped
1¼ cups sour cream or plain yogurt
salt and ground black pepper

Cut squash into pieces about the same size as potatoes. Put the potatoes in a pan and add water to cover, with the sugar and salt. Bring to the boil, then simmer for about 10 minutes until almost tender. Add the squash and continue to cook until the vegetables are tender. Drain.

Melt the butter in a large pan. Fry scallions until just wilted, then gently stir in the dill and vegetables.

Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the sour cream or yogurt. Return to the heat and heat gently until warm. Season with salt and pepper and serve. Serves 4.

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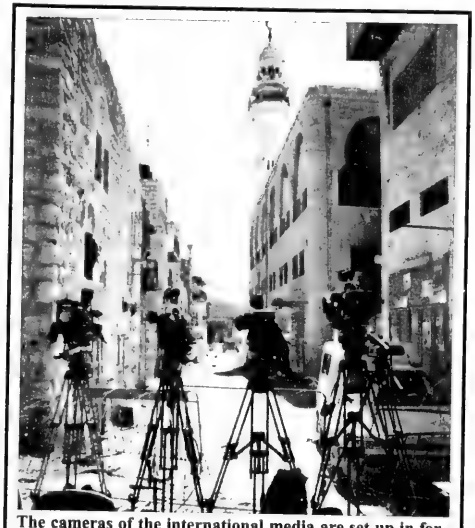
Church standoff set to end, most militiamen to go free

By AMOS HAREL and ANAT CYGIELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, speaking to the Knesset's Labour faction, said that most of the wanted Palestinians holed up inside Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity would be allowed to go free, while a few would be sent to the Gaza Strip and a small number would be deported.

Ben-Eliezer said Monday afternoon that the month-long standoff was set to end "in the coming hours."



The cameras of the international media are set up in formation near the Church of the Nativity ready to "shoot" the images at a moment's notice. [Isranet photo]

The Palestinians wanted no more than eight of those in the church sent into exile in Italy, while Israel reportedly insisted that at least a dozen be deported, Associated Press reported. Another 30 Palestinian militiamen would be sent to Gaza, Palestinian sources said.

Palestinian officials said early Monday an agreement had been struck to end the standoff. But Israeli sources said that although there had been progress, no deal had been reached.

A U.S. source involved in the talks also said a deal was unlikely to be reached Monday. He said a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) representative was to join the talks Monday evening, and predicted there would be no solution to the standoff before Tuesday.

At midday Monday, Israel Radio quoted senior Fatah activist Ibrahim Abayat as saying that a solution would be reached within hours.

Ben-Eliezer was quoted Monday as saying he hoped the volatile dispute would end Monday. According to Army Radio, Ben-Eliezer said Israeli troops would leave Bethlehem and nearby Beit Jala immediately after a deal. Israel Radio reported Sunday that Ben-Eliezer was directly involved in the talks.

The reports of progress came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrived in Washington for talks Tuesday with U.S. President George W. Bush.

The winding-down of Israel's West Bank offensive and a U.S.-brokered end last week to Israel's month-long siege of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's headquarters have raised hopes of breaking the 19-month-old cycle of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Five of the six candidates for deportation were from Arafat's Fatah faction – among them Abayat, general intelligence commander Abdallah Daud and former preventive security officer Jihad Jara. The sixth is senior Hamas activist Aziz Jubran, Israel Radio reported.

The gunmen fled into the Church of the Nativity, believed to be the birthplace of Jesus, a little over a month ago, at the start of Operation Defensive Shield. Israeli troops have surrounded the church since then, demanding that the militants give themselves up.

The army withdrew two tanks from Manger Square on Sunday, and a wanted Hamas gunman surrendered after being holed up in the church since the army entered Bethlehem six weeks ago.

The key remaining issue, security sources told *Ha'aretz*, centres on the list of Palestinian suspects: Of the people still in the church, how many are to be included on the list of deportees? The sources said Israel knew about the leading terror suspects who were inside the church compound, but had wanted a list of names so as to decide on its demands regarding lower-level suspects.

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Sharon: conference can't replace direct talks

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, preparing for his scheduled Tuesday meeting with President George W. Bush, was set to tell the U.S. administration that a proposed regional conference does not need to achieve agreements, and that it should not replace direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The prime minister was to have proposed that only the U.S. mediate the talks. In his view, the regional conference is intended to create "a positive atmosphere of communication."

Sharon proposes holding the regional conference in Turkey, and he objects to Syrian and Lebanese participation, because he says they are not part of the "peace coalition" in the region. Sharon proposes inviting Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Sharon was to meet with U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld on Monday and with Bush on Tuesday.

Education Minister Limor Livnat, who accompanied Sharon to Washington, D.C., was to have presented an intelligence report Monday detailing Saudi support for Palestinian suicide attacks and for Hamas.

The report was based on documents seized recently by Israel in the West Bank.

Livnat was also expected to present new information said to link Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat to support for, and involvement in, terrorism.

But the report on alleged Saudi ties to terror may make it difficult for Sharon to explain his agreement to Saudi participation in the international peace conference planned for this summer while maintaining Arafat should be excluded for supporting terror.

Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said Sunday that U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice should focus on Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, rather than on documents Sharon will present during his four-day visit, "so that we can work on reforming the Palestinian Authority."

Among the documents reportedly procured by Israel during its month-long West Bank operation was a funding request for Raed Karmi, head of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the group responsible for dozens of terror attacks. On it, Arafat writes, "Allocate $600 for each one," and signs his name.

Rice said earlier Sunday the administration had not seen, but would examine, Sharon's documents and would consider the evidence.

Make aliyah, N. African Jews urged

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily News Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Various organizations are encouraging Moroccan and Tunisian Jews to consider emigrating to Israel after recent attacks on Jews in both countries, especially the Al Qaeda terrorist attack on the ancient synagogue on Djerba island in Tunisia three weeks ago.

An Israeli government source told *Ha'aretz* that "the disclosure that Osama Bin Laden's organization was behind the attack on Djerba made people fearful, lest this be a dangerous precedent. This is behind the idea to encourage the immigration of Jews from these countries. However, the organizations involved say these are merely initial steps and there is no practical plan for any mass immigration of Moroccan or Tunisian Jews, as *Ma'ariv* [reported last Sunday]."

Morocco and Tunisia have the largest Jewish communities remaining in the Arab world – 3,000 in Morocco and 1,500 in Tunisia.

At the session of his kitchen cabinet last Friday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said "we have received reports of the distress suffered by Jews in Morocco and Tunisia, and we are checking to see what can be done to encourage them to come to Israel."

These comments were apparently behind the item in *Ma'ariv*. Israel lacks official diplomatic ties with Tunisia and Morocco – low-level interest offices with official representatives that opened after the Oslo accords were closed after the outbreak of the second intifadah in September 2000, but some unofficial ties still exist. However, Foreign Ministry and Jewish Agency officials cannot openly encourage immigration of Jews.

A senior Jewish Agency official recently said efforts at this stage would focus on improving absorption conditions for immigrants from these countries to encourage them to come of their own accord.

Jews may leave both countries freely, so no secrecy is needed. Jewish Agency figures show that in 2001, 92 Jews immigrated from Morocco and a few dozen came from Tunisia. Most of the North African immigrants are young single people who came without families.

A social worker at an absorption centre said "it's easier for young people without commitments to come, while those with families find it difficult to leave their professional status and property."

Jewish sources in both countries indicated there are no plans for any mass exodus.

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April 29

• The cabinet passed an emergency economic plan that approved $2.7 billion (US) in immediate budget cuts.

April 30

• The army redeployed from Hebron after a 48-hour stay. It arrested 250 Palestinian terrorist suspects during the incursion; 40 were still being detained.

May 1

• The army completed its pullback from Ramallah after the United States and the United Kingdom oversaw the incarceration of six terrorists in a Palestinian Authority prison in Jericho.

May 2

• The army has documented fake burials by Palestinians in Jenin. The army charged the "burials" were part of a propaganda effort in advance of the now-cancelled UN fact-finding mission to the refugee camp. The army presented a film to foreign media that was shot from a military drone on April 28 showing a group of Palestinians carrying a man on a stretcher. The man was covered with a shroud, as if he was a corpse, and among the group accompanying him was a cameraman. But the film shown to the foreign press clearly shows how the stretcher falls and the "corpse" gets up on his own, and then gets back on the stretcher as it advances. After the second fall, the "corpse," apparently disgusted with the incompetence of the stretcher-bearers, walks off in a huff.

May 3

• Major Avihu Ya'akov, 24, from Kfar Hasidim, was killed as the army entered Nablus and arrested several suspected terrorists. Two other soldiers were injured in the incident.

Files from JTA &Ha'aretz

Jewish Argentine radio station faces closure

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The ongoing Argentine economic crisis has delivered a body blow to the country's already struggling Jewish community, pushing many into poverty and prompting numerous inquiries about emigration.

It has also brought one of the community's success stories and a vital community institution to the brink of collapse.

Radio Jai, a 10-year-old privately operated station, is losing $10,000 (US) each month and is in danger of closing, said Miguel Steuermann, founder and executive director of the station.

In an e-mail dispatch from Buenos Aires, Steuermann indicated he is putting out a last-ditch request to supporters around the world to come to the aid of the station, which he describes as one of the community's most important cultural institutions.

The station (www.radiojai.com) was founded in the aftermath of the March 1992 terrorist bombing of the Israeli embassy as "an emotional outlet for a speechless and uncompromising people.

"Over the years the radio [station] has become a rich and pluralistic source for the community," Steuermann said.

With the collapse of the Argentine economy, the station's financial status began to reach a crisis point. "Our sources from advertisement have almost disappeared and we are launching a strong campaign abroad for financial sponsoring... We might close the [station] because we can't get the money to pay the bills."

Much of the money raised abroad to help Argentine Jewry is being channeled to basic needs, like food, housing, health and aliyah, he said.

"Nobody seems to understand that not all the Jews are leaving the country. The community that remains here needs a Jewish radio station to provide non-formal Jewish education, a sense of identity and moral support," he said.

Steuermann, who worked for the Israeli embassies in Chile and Paraguay prior to founding Radio Jai, said the station broadcasts news and cultural programming 24 hours a day. Its most popular program is *Pensando las noticias* (Thinking the News) and it airs reports from its Israeli correspondent three times a day.

Steuermann estimates the station's audience at 500,000, well over the country's Jewish population of 200,000.

Like the broader population, the Jewish community has been rocked by the downwardly spiralling economy, which has left 30 per cent of Jews unemployed and many living under the poverty line, Steuermann said. (According to a January report in *Ha'aretz*, about 1,700 Jewish families in Buenos Aires alone are said to have lost their homes, and 300 of them are living in shantytowns, while others are crowded into rented apartments – often several families per flat.)

The community's school system has also been affected. As recently as 1995, 21,000 Jewish youngsters attended Jewish schools. Today, the number is 14,000.

The community's prospects today are a far cry from the optimistic situation of the 1930s, when Argentina was one of the world's richest nations and the Jewish community was one of the most important in the Diaspora.

"It was a time when Buenos Aires had more Jewish theatres than New York. The local Jewish schools were considered among the best in the world," Steuermann said.

"Today, parents cannot afford private schools any more. Middle- and small-size enterprises are disappearing. Needless to say, the mood in the community is absolutely devastated.

"Recent polls [indicate] that 54 per cent of the population wants to leave the country. Many Argentine Jews are indeed leaving, some to the United States, Canada, Brazil, Europe and obviously, Israel."

Even Jews with Polish ancestry are attempting to get Polish citizenship, Steuermann said.

"During the last three months, 3,500 people left for Israel." The Jewish Agency, which is charged with facilitating immigration to Israel, has launched a "most ambitious aliyah program. If the current emigration trend continues, it is estimated that 25,000 Jews are going to be leaving the country."

In addition to its financial hardships, the Jewish community is psychologically unsettled as well, Steuermann said. "Argentina suffered the two most important terrorist attacks directly targeted to Jewish objectives after World War II" – the embassy bombing and the 1994 attack on the AMIA community centre building in Buenos Aires that killed 85 and wounded 300.

"The lack of justice and the fact the perpetrators' identities are not yet known [none of the accused in the currently ongoing AMIA trial is charged with the actual bombing] creates a climate of insecurity, uncertainty and fear of another terrorist attack," Steuermann said.

"Argentina has a long history of anti-Semitism and fascism. Anybody can presume that if the economic situation continues to worsen, a new anti-Semitic wave may appear."

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Attack fails to quash spirit of Tunisia's Jews

By JUDITH FEIN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DJERBA, Tunisia — Jews here carried on with their annual Lag b'Omer celebration last week in spite of a recent terrorist attack that rocked their tiny island community.

The numbers were down from past celebrations, but still hundreds of tourists came to join the 1,000 Jewish Djerbans for the pilgrimage festivities.

"The first moment I heard about the bombing, it was catastrophic for me," a Tunisian Jew who had come from Paris said of the April 11 blast at the historic synagogue here.

But after discovering that the authorities "were doing everything they could to make it safe, I came here two days later. Believe me, I feel safer here than I do in France."

The explosion of a gas truck – fatalities now number 18, including 13 German tourists – was first dismissed by Tunisian authorities as an accident.

But then it became clear it was a deliberate act of terrorism, officials say, and the government has moved quickly to denounce the violence and contain the damage. Tunisian authorities quickly paid to restore the El Ghriba synagogue, which traces its roots back more than 2,000 years.

The government also encouraged and promoted the Lag b'Omer festivities, even inviting foreign journalists to see the reaction, both private and public, of this Muslim nation that prides itself on being a peaceful country.

As they do every year, the Jews sang and danced in the streets. They set a huge menorah on a cart, lovingly draped it with multicoloured scarves, sprayed it with perfumes and wheeled it through the streets.

Their Muslim neighbours came out of their houses to watch and show support.

"The Jews are our brothers," a young Muslim man said proudly, even though he asked that his name not be used. "No matter what our religion, we're all Tunisians."

Jews from all over the world – and especially Tunisians who live in France and Israel – come in droves to celebrate the pilgrimage festival that takes place at El Ghriba, the oldest and most famous synagogue in North Africa.

The Jewish tourist frenzy reached a peak in the year 2000 when more than 8,000 people arrived for Lag b'Omer, which falls on the 33rd day of the period between Passover and Shavuot.

It is difficult to pin down the exact origins of the Jewish community in Djerba, a popular tourist site for Europeans off the coast of the Northern African nation of Tunisia.

Most people concur with the legend that it was first settled by Jews who fled Jerusalem at the time of the destruction of the First Temple in 586 B.C.E. They settled in two separate communities: Hara Kabira and Hara Seghira.

Their descendants still live there today, engaged in a thriving and observant Jewish community, complete with Jewish schools, synagogues and kosher food. For the most part, Tunisian Jews – another 1,000 live in Tunis – have fared better than in most Arab countries. Emigration was always tolerated and there was no state-condoned anti-Semitism.

Yet outbreaks of violence and harassment have periodically upset the peaceful co-existence between Jews and Muslims. Often the tensions were a reflection of the situation in the Mideast.

The bulk of Tunisian Jews, which once numbered 100,000, emigrated to Israel in waves. The first wave came with the establishment of Israel in 1948, then with the end of French rule in 1956, and again in 1967, when the Six-Day War sparked anti-Jewish rioting, despite the relative moderation of the country's then-president, Habib Bourguiba.

In the early 1990s, with the start of the Oslo peace process, Jews here were optimistic about their future.

Indeed, Djerba's Jewish population grew dramatically, as many who had gone to France or Israel returned home.

Tunisia, once the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization and current Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, was among the Arab countries that established low-level diplomatic relations with Israel in the mid-1990s.

It has since cut those ties.

Jews are cautious about talking openly about the situation. They clearly have strong roots here and appreciate the government's support. But there's an insecurity that is reflected in their reluctance to give their names when talking to journalists.

While Tunisia has expressed support for the Palestinians, it has also lent public support to its Jewish community.

Last week, the minister of culture, Abdelbaki Hermassi, hosted a dinner for the media, foreign dignitaries, Tunisian Jews and others who had gathered for the Lag b'Omer events.

At the end of the traditional Tunisian meal, he stood up and spoke about the artistic collaboration between Muslims and Jews – in cinema, art, and literature.

He said Tunisia loves and honours its Jews and appreciates the contributions they have made to Tunisian society.

The next day, the minister of tourism, Mondher Zenaidi, hosted another dinner. He, too, expressed his personal horror at the attack in Djerba.

This year's pilgrimage was a "victory against obscurantism and fanaticism," he was quoted as saying, as he pledged to protect religious freedoms.

He acknowledged that Tunisia had cut off official diplomatic relations with Israel because of the current Mideast strife, but he insisted this had nothing to do with the situation of Jews in Tunisia.

"Jews and Muslims are brothers," he said. "They are both Tunisians."

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European anti-Semitism sets off alarms

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

ROME — Synagogues are torched. Jewish cemeteries are desecrated. Jews are roughed up on the street.

The recent wave of anti-Semitic violence in parts of Europe has sounded alarm bells in the Jewish world, prompting some commentators to compare the situation to the run-up to the Holocaust.

Analysis

"Friends in Israel – Israel! – phoned to ask if we were safe," said one mother of two in Paris. "I couldn't believe it."

The upsurge of anti-Semitism has coincided with the conflict in the Middle East and sharply intensified during the past month, when Israel launched a large-scale military operation in the West Bank to round up terrorists.

But the manifestations of anti-Semitism differ from country to country, and there is ample evidence that other elements are involved, too, including a re-emergence of "traditional" religious and racial prejudices against Jews.

"The prejudices are the old ones, but the phenomenon is broader," said Andras Kovacs, an expert on anti-Semitism and nationalism at Budapest's Central European University.

"Being anti-Israel has become somehow 'legitimate' today," he said. This in turn "gives a new 'legitimacy' to the old anti-Semitism."

Why this is happening, what it might portend, and to what extent the trend is linked specifically to the Middle East crisis are matters of pressing concern to individual Jews, Jewish communities and Jewish policymakers.

So, too, is the question of how to confront the volatile new situation without plunging fruitlessly into despair, panic – or paranoia.

"Anti-Semitism, it has been said, is a light sleeper. It would be foolish, and wrong, to underestimate the threat," warned an editorial in the *London Jewish Chronicle*. "But there is a further danger – to magnify, rather than tackle, the problem."

The problem, in fact, exists on several fronts.

The most visible has been the headline-grabbing spate of violent attacks against synagogues, Jewish institutions and individuals, primarily in France but also in other countries, including Belgium and Germany.

To date, no one has been killed. But the Simon Wiesenthal Center went so far as to issue a travel advisory for Jews heading to France and Belgium.

The European Jewish Congress counted some 360 anti-Jewish incidents in France in the first three weeks of April alone.

According to France's Interior Ministry, more than 60 per cent involved anti-Jewish graffiti or verbal abuse. But there were also a dozen attempts to set synagogues on fire or damage graves.

The attacks were topped off by the shocking success of right-wing extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen in the first round of French presidential elections last week, triggering calls from Israel for French Jews to make mass aliyah.

Most of the attacks were the acts of hitting out at Jews as surrogates for Israel, and were not part of an orchestrated campaign.

But anti-Semitic violence has been coupled with a subtle ideological shift.

Widespread sympathy for the Palestinians and widespread identification of Jews and Judaism with the State of Israel and its policies have opened the door to a growing acceptance of classic anti-Semitic rhetoric in both public discourse and private conversation.

"There is a difference between what's going on in France and Belgium and what's going on in Italy," said Francesco Spagnolo Acht, director of a Jewish music study center in Milan. "In Italy, so far, there has not been any violence. Here, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic opinions are spread by local Italians. It is ideological, but very vocal.

"The debate over Israel/Palestine has given room to a series of anti-Semitic episodes that suggest a clear connection between traditionally left-wing anti-Zionist ideas with the more rooted Catholic anti-Semitic beliefs," he said.

"Thus, even in the national and politically moderate press, the old accusation of murdering Jesus has surfaced. Such accusations and mythologies are also being adopted by the extreme-left newspapers. The mixture is a true Molotov cocktail."

Local politics make the situation even more complex: Leftist pro-Palestinian stances are countered by pro-Israel platforms adopted by the right.

Many Italian Jews are uncomfortable to find that one of Israel's most vocal public supporters is the National Alliance, a party that grew out of the fascist movement.

In part, these trends reflect complex fallout from broader global issues.

These issues include attempts by the European Union to do away with borders and revamp traditional political, social and economic relations.

But they also include worries about economic globalization, the conflict between the Third World and modernity, insecurities and anti-Americanism, particularly following the Sept. 11 attacks and the war in Afghanistan.

"Many Europeans today, especially the citizens of small, unimportant states, feel bewildered and lost," Tony Judt, director of the Remarque Institute at New York University, wrote recently in *The New York Times*. "Their countries and their institutions have lost their place in a globalizing world economy – and above all in an institutionally homogenized European Union."

In this context, Kovacs said, it has been easy for some to focus on the age-old symbol of borderless, international identity – the Jew.

"There are a lot of concrete political problems now, and all of them can be brought into connection with the Jews and Israel in a way," Kovacs said.

"For those who are anti-Semitic, this is a perfect way to legitimize this attitude," he said. "One symbol unites them – the Jew, the cosmopolitan Jew against nation state, the cosmopolitan Jew bound to America."

Another important factor, he said, is the difficulty in understanding the loyalty felt by Jewish citizens of European countries to another state, Israel.

Jewish leaders, meanwhile, are gearing up for action.

"On many occasions when there is a deterioration in the social fabric, it starts with the Jews, especially here on this continent where there has been a history of anti-Semitism," Avi Beker, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, said last week in Brussels.

Beker spoke during a strategy session of international Jewish leaders, who agreed to set up a Jewish information centre to monitor anti-Semitism in Europe and serve as a political voice and lobby for European Jewry.

They also called for a Europe-wide Jewish rally in Brussels on May 29.

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2002 BY-ELECTION
NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

N.B. Ce document est également disponible en français au bureau du Secrétaire, à l'Hôtel de Ville de Maple au 905-832-8504.

City of Vaughan Council passed a by-law on April 22, 2002 directing the Clerk to conduct a by-election to fill the vacancy of the seat of Local Councilor, Ward 2.

When is the By-Election?
All qualified voters in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2 are encouraged to vote on Voting Day:

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Note: Corporations or Limited Companies are not eligible to vote.

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504
First published April 25, 2002
John D. Leach
City Clerk & Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

City of Vaughan

2002 BY-ELECTION
NOMINATIONS/NOMINATIONS

N.B. Ce document est également disponible en français au bureau du Secrétaire, à l'Hôtel de Ville de Maple au 905-832-8504.

Are you intending to be a candidate for the 2002 By-Election - Office of Local Councillor, Ward 2; If so, please take note:

Nominations of candidates for the City of Vaughan Municipal Council must be filed in the Clerk's Department during normal office hours, as follow:

NOMINATION PERIOD	TO	NOMINATION DAY
Monday, April 22, 2002		Monday, May 13, 2002
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.		9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Candidates may be nominated for the following office:

Local Councillor, Ward 2

The term of office for this position is June 14, 2002 to November 30, 2003.

Need more information about Nomination Papers? Read on:

Nomination Papers are available in the Clerk's Department, Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan (Maple), Ontario, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A prescribed nomination filing fee of $100 must be paid at the time of filing the nomination (cash, money order or certified cheque). In order to raise campaign funds or incur campaign expenses you must first be nominated.

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504
First published May 9, 2002
John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Newsworld docs illuminated both sides of the conflict

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Commentary

Responding to the recent upsurge of violence in the Middle East, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) has upgraded its coverage of the Arab-Israeli dispute, allotting more time to breaking news and background films.

Last week, as tensions in the region eased somewhat, Newsworld carried four documentaries on various aspects of the simmering conflict, past and present.

The Ugly War: Israel Undercover provides a glimpse into an Israeli commando squad whose task is to nip terrorism in the bud.

Suicide as a Weapon is about a Palestinian suicide bomber who killed nine Israelis in Jerusalem recently.

The Accused turns on the 1982 Phalange massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, focusing on then-defence minister Ariel Sharon's supposed role.

Arafat: The Struggle for Palestine is a profile of Yasser Arafat, chair of the PLO, president of the Palestinian Authority and one of the fathers of contemporary Palestinian nationalism.

The question to ask is whether Newsworld has lived up to its mandate of presenting both sides in a reasonably balanced manner. Given the generally pro-Palestinian slant of much of the European media, Canadian viewers have a right to know whether their tax-supported broadcaster has succeeded in being fair.

Let's see.

The Ugly War presents Israel in a positive, if jagged, light, and reminds viewers that Israel's war against terrorism began long before last September's destruction by Arab terrorists of the World Trade Center in Manhattan.

The focus is on the Golani brigade, a unit charged with hunting down, apprehending and/or killing terrorists bent on wreaking havoc in Israel.

Soldiers are seen training for future missions, shooting at targets and practising house-to-house urban warfare. The enemy, we're told, is not the Palestinians themselves, but the people who organize the terrorism, supply the weapons and carry out the actual raids.

In a chilling scene, an infrared clip shows a soldier shooting a "ticking bomb" – an armed terrorist – as he attempts to penetrate an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip.

Successive scenes, both of which are riveting, show soldiers setting up an ambush, which doesn't pan out, and capturing a Hamas operative. As he is led away from his home after a brief exchange of fire, an angry woman shouts, "You're dogs, you're all dogs."

In addition, *The Ugly War*, whose tone is measured, allows us to witness a deadly Apache helicopter strike on Abu Hanoud, a Palestinian militant. As the film ends, the commander of the Israeli Air Force, Gen. Dan Haloutz, justifies the operation in terms of Israel's very survival. "We're fighting for our homes," he says emphatically. "It's personal."

* * *

Since the outbreak of the current Palestinian uprising, more than 300 Israelis have been killed by suicide bombers. *Suicide as a Weapon*, a clinical documentary, zeroes in on Muhammed Daragmeh, a 17-year-old youth from a refugee camp recruited by the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which turned to suicide bombings this past January after one of its leaders was liquidated in an Israeli air strike.

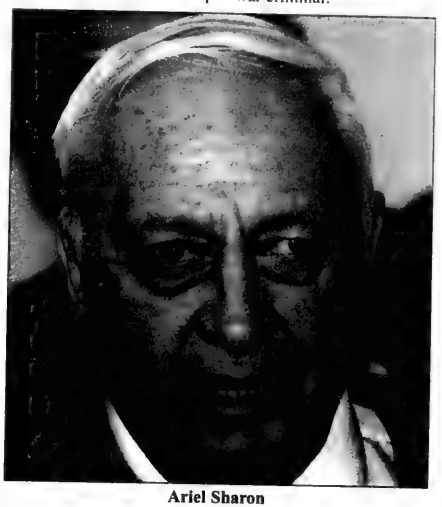
By all accounts, Daragmeh was well-adjusted, quite sociable and loved life. Amer, his older brother, who still can't believe what happened, says he was radicalized by conditions in the camp, his exposure to continual violence and the death of a friend by Israeli fire.

In Palestinian circles, suicide bombers are usually praised as "martyrs." But here, dissident views emerge. One of Daragmeh's friends deplores his action, his grieving mother claims she would have held him back had she known what he was planning and a senior Palestinian official takes firm exception to the tactic. However, Daragmeh's three masked, menacing associates justify suicide bombings on the grounds of "an eye for an eye."

* * *

Sharon lost his job as defence minister after being reprimanded by the Kahan Commission. Declaring he should have been aware of the vengeful "culture of murder" in Lebanon, the commission held him indirectly responsible for the grisly events in Sabra and Shatila.

The Accused, which was dropped by the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, tries to prove that Sharon, given his alleged negligence and Israel's brief occupation of West Beirut, is a war criminal.



Ariel Sharon

Morris Draper, an American diplomat who was posted to Beirut, is openly skeptical about Sharon's argument that he could not have anticipated the slaughter. Bashir Gemayel, the Christian president-elect of Lebanon, had just been assassinated, and his militia, the Phalange, sought quick retribution.

Richard Falk, a Princeton scholar not known for pro-Israel sympathies, also points an accusing finger. More telling is the insinuation by Ron Ben Ishai, an Israeli reporter, that Sharon could have stopped the killings, and the suggestion by Richard Goldstone, a United Nations (UN) war crimes prosecutor, that Sharon should have been indicted.

Rushing to Sharon's defence are his lawyer, Dov Weinglass, who attacks Falk's line of argumentation, and his current press spokesman, Ra'anan Gissin, who assumed the Phalange was "a disciplined army."

All this aside, *The Accused* acknowledges that Israel, being a democracy, even saw fit to establish a special commission to investigate the matter. By contrast, Lebanon issued a curt and nebulous three-page report that settled absolutely nothing.

Haim Divon, Israel's current ambassador to Canada, was offered an opportunity to debate the issue on *Counter Spin*, which appeared right after *The Accused*. He declined, claiming that Newsworld had misguidedly and unforgiveably mixed up Sabra and Shatila with the fierce controversy swirling around Israel's recent incursion into the Jenin refugee camp.

* * *

Arafat: The Struggle for Palestine is a fairly detached, chronological biography of the Palestinians' most visible and durable political leader. He is portrayed as a driven manoeuvrer who spared no effort or lives to achieve his aims. A top-ranking PLO military commander admits that some of its operations could accurately be described as terrorism. A former UN official observes that the PLO could not have publicized its cause without resorting to terror.

Thrown into the mix are comments by, among others, George Shultz, the former American secretary of state; Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, and Edward Said, a Palestinian intellectual.

This portrait of Arafat, told mainly from the Palestinian viewpoint, takes into account his contributions to Palestinian self-determination, his leadership qualities, his evolving policies and his autocratic tendencies.

* * *

The documentaries under review offer a nuanced picture of a complex region in constant flux, illuminating both sides of the conflict. Taken collectively, they add to our knowledge and understanding of the ever-changing Middle East.

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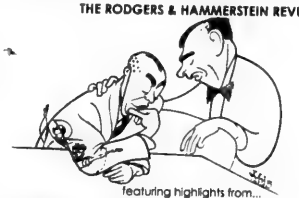
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A film by Dover Kosashvili
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"POWERFUL... HARSHLY FUNNY!" Stephen Holden NEW YORK TIMES
"A STRIKING DEBUT!" Philip French, THE OBSERVER
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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

FELDBERG COLLECTION COMING TO BARNICKE GALLERY

Acquired in Berlin in the 1920s, the Siegbert and Hildegard Feldberg collection of self-portraits contains works by **Kathe Kollwitz**, **Oskar Kokoschka**, **Josef Oppenheimer** and **Max Liebermann** and other artists attached to the Berlin Secession, a group that was outspoken in its opposition to Germany's conservative official esthetics of the time.

When the Feldbergs were forced to flee Berlin with their two sons in the 1930s, the collection went with them, travelling in an iron box. The family lived in India until the 1960s. This exhibition is mounted as a tribute to Hildegard Feldberg, who retired to Canada and died here in 1996. It is the first public showing anywhere.

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto. May 25 to June 20. 416-978-8398. The exhibition is presented as part of the First Canadian-German Festival, Toronto 2002. www.canadiangermanfestival.ca.

* * *

Literary Luncheon: Psychologist **Anne Balaban** reviews *Self Matters*, by **Dr. Phillip McGraw**, a book that "demystifies how your self concept came to be and gives a step by step approach to creating a new plan for living and discovering the real you."

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Lifelong Learning Institute, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. May 22, at noon. The luncheon is $12 for members, $15 for non-members. Book review only $5 (starts 1 p.m.). Please purchase luncheon tickets by May 16. Barbara Zigler, 416-225-2112, ext. 134.

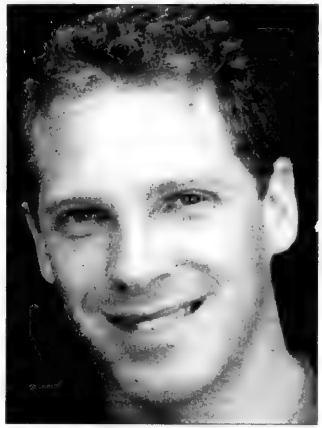
* * *

Reading at Israel's: New York writer-reviewer **Michael Skakun**, who worked with critic **Alfred Kazin** for many years, discusses his book *On Burning Ground*. The book records the odyssey of his father **Joseph Skakun**, who disguised himself as a Muslim and then a Nazi to survive the war years.

Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, free admission. May 13, 7 p.m. 416-256-1010.

* * *

Red Barn Theatre: Canada's oldest known summer stock theatre is located one hour north of Toronto at Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe. The Red Barn is more than 50 years old and has long been a showcase for rising stars.



Jordan Merkur

This year the theatre boasts a new artistic director, **Jordan Merkur**, and a new partnership with York University for set construction. Its summer season opens June 6 with comedian Dave Broadfoot's First Farewell Tour (to June 8).

Merkur directs three productions this season, *Over The River and Through The Woods*, a comedy about two sets of meddling grandparents, runs June 18 to July 6.

The Foursome, **Norm Foster's** golf comedy, runs Aug. 7 to 24. And *Sophie Tucker Last of the Red Hot Mamas*, the musical by **Valerie Boyle**, runs Aug. 28 to Sept. 14.

The Red Barn is also presenting a production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, the musical comedy about relationships, directed by **Diane Nyland-Proctor**. July 10 to Aug. 3. Box office, 1-888-RED-BARN. Web site, www.redbarntheatre.ca.

* * *

Arts in Brief

•The Ontario Museum Association has declared May as Museum Month. Nearly 300 special events and exhibits are scheduled at museums, galleries, and heritage sites across the province. International Museum Day is May 18. Web site www.museumsontario.com, phone 1-800-ONTARIO.

•Cityscape of Desire: Toronto at Prayer is an exhibit of photographs of Torontonians of various religions communing with God. The photos are by **Michael Swan** of the *Catholic Register*. Currently on view at the Newman Centre, 89 St. George St.

• Visit more than a dozen artist studios during the Thornhill Visual Artists studio tour and sale. May 10 thru 12. thornhillva.hypermart.net or 905-889-9703.

•Russian maestro **Gennady Rozhdestvensky** conducts the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** in a Russian program featuring his son, acclaimed violinist **Alexander Rozhdestvensky**. $26-$90. Massey Hall, May 15 and 18, 8 p.m. 416-593-4828.

Correct dates for Feldberg art collection

The story "Legendary art collection from Weimar Germany" (*CJN*, April 25) included incorrect dates. The Feldberg art collection will be exhibited as part of the first Canadian-German festival May 23 to June 20, *not* April 25 to June 10 as stated in the article. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

NEW MIDEAST DOC: The new documentary film *Conflict* examines the current situation in Israel through the eyes of 22-year-old filmmaker Elad Winkler.

Conflict follows director Winkler as he returns to his homeland and interviews Jewish survivors of violence, Palestinian and Israeli government officials, civilians and artists.

The 35-minute film looks at both the beauty and ugliness of Israel, revealing the human suffering behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the day-to-day lives of those who live in the region.

Winkler is currently finishing his final year at Ryerson University's film program. *Conflict*, which is produced by Ryan Silverman for Wink Films, will be being screened at the Bloor Cinema (506 Bloor St. W.) on May 11 at 7 p.m. as part of the FLIM Festival, Ryerson's annual film festival for graduating students.

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Arts & Travel

Pettle bros' Therac 25 *is a totally believable play*

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Pettle brothers, Adam, 30, and Jordan, 28, are working together again.

The one-act drama *Therac 25* features the two Jewish artists, Adam acting, Jordan directing.

The play, which runs about 45 minutes, is about two cancer patients, Allan (Adam Pettle) and Moira (Patricia Fagin), who meet while they are undergoing treatment at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, and fall in love against a background of high-tech medical sounds that lend realism to the story.

At Factory Studio Theatre (125 Bathurst St., at the corner of Adelaide Street) until May 19, this is the first Toronto production of *Therac 25* since it was staged as part of the Fringe Festival four years ago.

Jordan Pettle, the director, meanwhile also has the lead role in *Zadie's Shoes*, written by brother Adam and currently running at the Winter Garden.

The two spend so much time together that they finish each other's sentences.

Adam Pettle says his role in *Therac 25* is in some ways too close to reality, since he had cancer of the thyroid gland, was treated in Halifax and temporarily lost the use of his vocal chords. This drama gives him a chance to use his voice in a way that clearly demonstrates the success of his treatment.

Moira, on the other hand, has a neuroblastoma, which spreads through her spinal fluid to her brain and is untreatable. The final scene is a moving one, in which, for the first time, Moira admits she is scared of what lies ahead.

The playwright has transferred the action to Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto from Halifax, site of the original play. The title, *Therac 25*, refers to a computerized radiation treatment used for some cancers; the area of Princess Margaret where the couple meet is known as the Therac 25 corridor.

Adam Pettle and Patricia Fagan in Therac 25. [Nir Bareket photo]

It is not surprising, then, that the drama is totally believable, especially the seizure that overcomes Moira toward the end.

Most young playwrights have no hesitation about using obscenities and references to masturbation, which usually do not add much to a play, but since the two cancer patients are both young, the language adds reality here.

One distraction for this reviewer was the use of the two actors to shift scenery around in the dark between scenes. This led to awkward entrances and exits for Allan and Moira. The one exception was the scene where a nurse appears to adjust and leave an intravenous fluid flowing into Moira's arm, which was very effective.

For more information, call 416-504-4473; for tickets, 416-504-9971.

Play dramatizes Matti's story from killer's perspective

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — In 1998, Marcello Cabezas had an awakening and decided to quit the world of advertising for life as a performance artist. He has since formed a production company macIDeas with partner Steven Moore.

The company's first endeavour is the world premiere of Jodi Miller's one-man multimedia theatrical production *Vladeck*, in which Cabezas stars, running June 1 to June 16 at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto.

Vladeck was written in honour of young Matti Baranovski, beaten to death by a teen gang, ostensibly over some loose change and cigarettes, at a Toronto park in November 1999.

"The piece was written by Jodi Miller, who was a supply teacher at Matti Baranovski's high school, Northview Heights. She was very inspired by this story. Although a real incident of violence was the catalyst, the play *Vladeck* is entirely fictional," says Cabezas.

"It tells the story from one of the perpetrators' perspective. Vladeck is the narrator. He is the underdog, very much influenced by what the leader of the gang Ginisi has to say. Vladeck is being egged on by his friends.

"The point of the piece is that you can commit an act, but you have to understand what the consequences are and that there is no turning back. Vladeck is someone who ends up taking responsibility for what he has done," he says.

"Why we wanted to move forward on *Vladeck* is because it puts theatre on another tier. Using it as a real education vehicle. We're not being preachy, but illustrating and bringing to life the journey of one of the perpetrators and how he deals with what he's done," Cabezas adds.

Cabezas says he formed his production company to produce theatre that challenges people to think and to examine who they are.

"I feel strongly about *Vladeck*'s message – it does not try to rationalize why, just tell his story. I want to work hard to have as many people see the project as possible. It has a strong anti-youth violence message. To be able to use theatre to inspire discussion, that excites me," he says.

During the Toronto run, additional daytime performances of *Vladeck* will be offered to school groups. On June 9, an evening benefit will aid three charities – Leave Out Violence, Kids Help Phone and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services youth programs.

After leaving the advertising industry, Cabezas moved to New York City. The Toronto-born actor enrolled at Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre, and after graduating, he began a writing internship at Ensemble Studio Theatre. He later worked in New York as an actor; his most memorable role was in a production called *WC* at KGB Theatre, which garnered an Overall Excellence Award at the 2000 New York International Fringe Festival.

"What I want is to be defined as a storyteller. It could be as an actor, producer, or a writer. It's about finding stories that challenge the way people think," Cabezas explains.

Feelings of homesickness and the promise of work brought Cabezas back to Toronto in 2000. His theatre credits here include *Beirut*, *Lab Cabs* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Cabezas has also appeared in television and movies, most recently in *Blue Murder* and *Tracker*.

Moore and Cabezas will present their second theatrical production, the Canadian premiere of Kenneth Lonergan's *This Is Our Youth*, in conjunction with Spoke Productions at CanStage's Berkley Street Theatre from Sept. 9 to Oct. 12. Cabezas also plans to tour with *Vladeck*.

For tickets to *Vladeck* call the Buddies in Bad Times box office at 416-975-8555.

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The City Above Toronto

2002 BY-ELECTION
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THE WARD 2 BY-ELECTION VOTING DAY IS THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002

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OR:

You can call us at 905-832-8504 and if your name is not on the Voters' List or is shown incorrectly, we will mail you an application to amend the Voters' List. We are open weekdays for the purpose of amending the Ward 2 Voters' List.

Who can vote?

You may vote in the municipal election if at any time during the qualification period (April 22, 2002 to June 13, 2002) you are:

- a resident of Ward 2 in the City of Vaughan; or
- the owner or tenant of property in Ward 2 in the City of Vaughan or the spouse or same-sex partner of such person; and

on Voting Day (June 13, 2002) you are:

- a Canadian Citizen; and
- at least 18 years of age; and
- not prohibited from voting by law

Remember, for further information, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

First published May 9, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

CHECK OUT OUR INTERNET EDITION AT
www.cjnews.com
The Canadian Jewish news

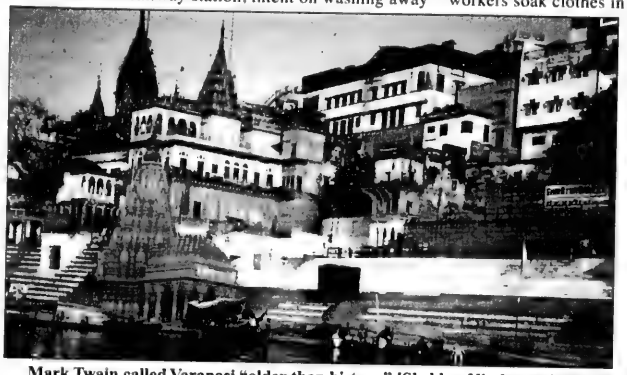
A jolting dose of culture shock along the Ganges River

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

VARANASI — Ghats, stone stairways that march down to the water's edge, define the character of this holy city in northern India.

Described by 19th-century American novelist Mark Twain as "older than history," Varanasi, which stretches along the western bank of the Ganges River, has been a centre of learning and religion for some 2,000 years.

Formerly known as Kashi and Benares, Varanasi attracts legions of pilgrims. They come here directly from Varanasi's fetid railway station, intent on washing away their sins in the Ganges, or, if they are terminally ill, to die.



Mark Twain called Varanasi "older than history." [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Dressed in simple swimsuits or elaborately coloured saris, Indian men, women and children bathe in the Ganges, which is sacred to Hinduism and one of the world's most polluted rivers.

There are about 100 ghats in Varanasi, all connected to the warren of dirt lanes, crumbling dwellings and hole-in-the-wall shops of the labyrinthine, somewhat medieval old city.

Two of the ghats, the so-called burning ghats, are used to cremate corpses on funeral pyres.

Hindus believe that Varanasi offers *moksha*, liberation from the cycle of life and death. And so, hopelessly ill Indians travel to Varanasi to draw their last breath before being cremated in public.

Deceased males are wrapped in a white garment, while females are clad in red. The body, having been borne to the ghats on a bamboo stretcher, is dipped in the Ganges, then placed on a pyre attended to by doms, or low-caste Indians.

The pyre is lit and stoked with a long stick; occasionally, a dom throws chips of sandalwood into the flames.

Black smoke pours from the pyre, and in three hours, the corpse is reduced to ash, then eventually shovelled into the Ganges.

To a western traveller, the ceremony is awesome and stomach-turning, generating a case of jolting culture shock.

But it doesn't stop there.

Just metres away from the mounds of ash, laundry workers soak clothes in the water before beating the dirt out of them on stone slabs. Having cleaned the garments, they let them dry in the hot sun.

In close proximity to the washermen, pilgrims bathe and brush their teeth in the appallingly filthy water.

Tourists are welcome to watch these timeless rituals of life and death, but are forbidden to take photographs of the burning ghats.

Water-logged during the monsoon season from June to September, the ghats are a magnet for tourists, touts, beggars, aging hippies sporting ponytails, and austere sadhus, Hindu holy men who have renounced all wordly possessions.

The ghats are also the preserve of cows, water buffaloes and scrawny stray dogs.

Varanasi's bustling outdoor bazaar, consisting of a maze of dark, narrow lanes, is a Malthusian, chaotic madhouse. The fruit and vegetable markets are redolent of a thousand mingled odours.

The shops offer the finest iridescent silks in India, produced in grimy, gloomy Dickensian workshops whose workers toil at looms for minimum wages.

In economic terms, they are probably on a par with Varanasi's rickshaw drivers and street barbers, who barely eke out a living.

Benares Hindu University, a 15-minute walk from the centre of town, is well worth visiting.

The leafy campus, graced by tropical vegetation, is a tranquil refuge from Varanasi's frenetic pace.

The art museum, featuring Mogul miniature prints and photographs of early 20th- and 19th-century Varanasi, is of particular interest.

At a Hindu temple near the university, I caught the sight of what looked like a swastika. It was, in fact, an ancient Hindu symbol.

A final note about Varanasi:

If you expect to wake up at the crack of noon, forget it. At about 5 a.m., the morning stillness is abruptly broken by the low, endlessly repeated chants of "Hare Krishna, Krishna Hare."

Day in and day out.

* * *

I travelled to India on an organized tour offered by Gap Adventures of Toronto and packaged by Intrepid Travel (www.intrepidtravel.com/asia), an Australian company.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 55.

A	T	T	A	I		T	Y	R	E		P	R	O	A
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Parents urged to confront eating disorders

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — More than 14 years after Marni Lokash has recovered from anorexia nervosa, she still wonders if she will slip back.

"I still have to think about eating and exercising to be healthy," Lokash said at a symposium on eating disorders sponsored by Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, New Leadership Division; Kolel: the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning; and the Canada-Israel Institute for Sports and Health Education.

Also at the symposium was Ann Kerr, program director, Sheena's Place and assistant professor, department of psychiatry, University of Toronto; Melissa Lieberman, psychologist, pediatric eating disorders program, McMaster Children's Hospital; and Eitan Gur, senior psychiatrist, Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Centre, and director of the Walter Schindler Centre for Medical Psychotherapy.

Moderator was Paul Garfinkel, president and CEO, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and professor, department of psychiatry, University of Toronto.

Lokash says she became anorexic when she was 14 and began getting over it when she was 16, but it took until her early 20s to completely recover, "if I am ever recovered," she said.

She said she still does not understand how children get themselves into that situation. "I look at them and I think, How did I not eat? How did I function? It is not a way any girl should live."

It is important to understand the big role a family plays in the disease, said Lokash. "My older sister was a gymnast, and from an early age I always saw her dieting. An emphasis on my appearance started young, and it became ingrained."

She also matured earlier than other girls, she said, and as a result, felt larger than them. "I felt uncomfortable when I looked in the mirror. When my parents divorced, that added to my low self-esteem.

"I fell into a trap. Every time I looked in the mirror, I saw the same shape, so I began lowering my weight goal."

She was hospitalized at age 15 after being sent home from camp because she refused to eat.

"My recovery did not begin, however, until we were on a family vacation and I saw everyone eating and having a good time. It hit me that this is how life should be. Food is an important part of life."

It took time to learn what a proper meal and snack were, she said, but by age 17, "I was beginning to feel good. It [certainly] did not happen overnight."

Today, she said, she talks to adolescents and teaches them to "embrace and celebrate their bodies."

Kerr said the prevalence of eating disorders has a lot to do with current culture. "We must think about how we bring culture into our home. Many girls feel tremendous pressure to control what they eat in order to look a certain way. We must go against those norms and resist dieting."

Various factors place girls at risk of developing an eating disorder, said Lieberman.

"There is not one pattern. Each person presents in their own way, and most do not start off overweight."

Many patients have a predisposition for perfection, she said. "Their standards are too high. Others have low self-esteem and they want to please and impress others. They are so driven to please, they lose sense of who they are."

Girls may feel they need to lose weight in order to feel accepted.

Warning signs include excessive dieting and exercising, or a pre-occupation with food. "They may cook a lot and not eat the food, cut their food up into tiny pieces before eating, or eat very slowly. They may also complain about not feeling well after they eat."

Girls who become vegetarian are at a greater risk of developing eating disorders, said Lieberman.

Anorexic girls may feel cold, have skin or hair abnormalities, or stop menstruating. They may also faint or feel tired and lethargic.

In Israel, Gur said, "Dieting is the national sport."

Girls start dieting early – he has seen nine-year old patients – and by age 11 about one-quarter of them are restricting their food intake, he said.

In a current research project in which he follows high school students up until they enter the army, he discovered that out of 2,000 students, 10 per cent had an eating disorder.

"We also have to take into account that some students will hide their symptoms."

The fact that many students have an eating disorder was not a surprise, said Gur, "but what was a surprise was that a significant number of the students were boys. The male-female ratio was about 1-3, and there was no difference in their patterns of behaviour."

Garfinkel warned the audience that parents cannot run away from their child's problem. "It is a family affair and eating disorders cannot be ignored no matter how unpleasant they may be.

"You must seek help; silence can be fatal," he said.

Organ donation not contrary to Jewish law, says rabbi

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The need for organ donations in Ontario is immense, but many people are afraid to help.

In Ontario, over 16,000 people are waiting for a transplant donor, while in Canada, rates of organ donation are among the lowest in western nations.

That need was a major concern raised at the Beth Tikvah, Hesed and Social Action Committees recent program, titled Organ Donation – A Jewish Perspective, held during Health Canada's National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week.

"When it comes to Jewish ethical considerations, Jews scratch their collective heads," said Rabbi Wayne Allen, one of six panellists at the program.

Rabbi Allen, who discussed two types of organ donations: cadavarial (from the dead) and live (from the living), said, "According to tradition, Jews are not supposed to desecrate the human body, even after death.

"That is why we limit autopsies and don't view the bodies. This is how the removal of organs can be construed as going against tradition," he said.

"According to the Torah, we're supposed to bury the bodies promptly, within 24 hours. With organ donation, there may be a delay because it would have to wait until after surgery," he said.

"But the need to save a life trumps all other concerns. In Judaism, we have a mandate to heal. We're trained to realize that we have to fix what goes wrong and to alleviate pain," he said.

"In sum, our tradition argues that when we can save a life and donate organs from the dead, we have an obligation which trumps all other concerns, though we must ensure the body is treated respectfully."

Live donor transplantation depends on the risk to the donor, he said.

"The Torah says that we can't stand idly by and watch people die. We must intervene and help," said Rabbi Allen.

"But may a person put oneself in jeopardy to save a life?" he asked.

"We can donate an organ if it's a backup and we have two," but one should not submit themselves to greater risk than the one in danger to save a life.

Rabbi Allen and the other panellists encouraged members of the audience to discuss their wishes with their families.

"You can sign a donor card, but the card doesn't allow for [consideration of] the concerns of Judaism," said Rabbi Allen. "It's better to advocate through your family than a card."

Furthermore, an organ donation card is not a binding document. It must be found on the body and it must be persuasive, which means that the family must agree that these were the wishes of the deceased. Indicating wishes in a will is also pointless, panellists agreed, as the will can be read two weeks after burial. Thus, communication with family is paramount.

Nancy Lee and Dale Doige told the story of their son Ryan, who died suddenly at the age of 10. The donation of his organs helped save or improve the lives of seven other people. Andrea Horowitz lived to tell how she survived two organ replacement surgeries in three months. She said she will be forever grateful for the heroes who donated their liver and gave her a second and third chance at life.

Health advocacy group for seniors to hold benefit

TORONTO — A new organization to help improve seniors' access to high quality health care and help them navigate the medical maze of hospitals and caregiving will hold its first annual benefit on May 23.

Co-sponsored by the University of Toronto's faculty of social work the benefit will feature a pre-performance buffet dinner and performances by the Downchild Blues Band and Canadian comedians Alex Nussbaum, Carilynn Nicholson, Leanne Stewart and Les Aaron. It will be hosted by broadcaster Jane Hawtin.

Created by David Globerman and launched in October 1999, the Running to Daylight Foundation is a tribute to David's late father, Ben, who died on Yom Kippur in 1996, following what the family has described as "dehumanizing and sub-standard medical care" at an Ottawa hospital.

The foundation's goal is to provide the elderly in Toronto and Ottawa with highly trained professional patient representatives, who, at the request of the patient and family, will confer with the health-care team while the patient is in hospital, in a long-term-care facility or in the community to review the patient's treatment and care and work to resolve outstanding issues.

The foundation is also committed to providing public education, fostering research and participating in the development of public policy.

Advance tickets are $60 for the performance and dessert reception and $85 for the pre-event buffet, performance and dessert reception. They can be ordered online at www.ticketking.com or by calling 416-872-1212 or 1-800-461-3333. Tickets at the door are $70 for the performance and dessert reception and are available at the Bloor Cinema box office on May 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.

For further information, call 416-782-3249.

Jews cheer Le Pen loss, fears for future remain

By ANDREW DIAMOND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Eric Sarfaty, who is active in the Jewish community here, says French Jews are happy that far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was trounced in France's second-round presidential elections last Sunday, although the relief is mixed with some fear.

"Many people I have spoken with over the past weeks feel that incumbent President Jacques Chirac is very friendly with the Arab states and has a lot of support in the Muslim community here," Sarfaty said. "So there is the perception that with his election things may get worse – that there will be more attacks against synagogues and schools by Arab youths."

Chirac's victory in Sunday's runoff does not end the problem of how government and society should react to the wave of anti-Semitic attacks that swept France in recent months, French Jewish leaders said.

Chirac received about 82 per cent of the vote, with some 18 per cent going to Le Pen, according to exit polls. In the April 21 first-round vote, Le Pen finished second among 11 candidates, with about 17 per cent of the ballots.

Le Pen's vote count is still worrisome, said Abraham Foxman, national director of B'nai Brith's Anti-Defamation League.

"While the good news is that the French people overwhelmingly rejected the candidacy of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the bad news is that one out of five people accepted his message of hate," Foxman said in a statement. "The challenge for President Chirac is to lead his country away from the message of hate and toward a more accepting society."

Over the past several months, the Jewish community has been disappointed by the French government's weak reaction to anti-Semitic aggression, carried out mainly by Arab youths inflamed by Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Yet most did not think the alternative would be Le Pen, a far-rightist who has a history of making anti-Semitic statements and favours stricter controls on North African immigration to France.

Immediately after first-round results showed Le Pen in the runoff, half a million French citizens took to the streets to say "no" to the Nazism, fascism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism that critics say Le Pen's National Front party represents. On May 1, up to one million anti-Le Pen demonstrators turned out throughout France, including at least 400,000 in Paris.

As a result of that sense of crisis, Sunday's turnout was estimated at 80 per cent of eligible voters.

Despite the demonstrations, French Jews remain worried about the anti-Semitic attacks, which have been the worst in France since World War II, some Jewish officials said.

"It is hard to know whether the attacks will resume after this is all over," said Samuel, 32, a computer software engineer in Paris. "If they do, though, I think the government will act more aggressively to find and punish those behind them. There is a feeling now that things got out of hand in the weeks before the election, and that is why the right did so well."

Many Muslims, who recognized that they and the Jews had a common enemy in Le Pen, "became more involved in the problem of anti-Semitism during the past few weeks," Samuel said. But, he added, "I'm not sure that these were the people who had anything to do with the attacks in the first place. I suppose we can only hope that the feelings of unity will spread."

Though voters from both the left and the right supported Chirac on Sunday, there was evidence that the breather from France's normally acrimonious partisan politics was only temporary.

Many French voters, particularly those on the left, were uninspired by either of the two main candidates – Chirac and the Socialist party's prime minister, Lionel Jospin – in the first round. As a result, many voted for fringe parties or sat out the vote. That apathy allowed Le Pen to squeak by Jospin to qualify for the runoff.

French media – and Jospin himself – urged these voters to back Chirac in the runoff, despite reports linking Chirac to corruption.

Fears that Sunday's vote does not mean Le Pen is finished are heightened by concerns about the upcoming legislative elections. If the Socialist party, galvanized by Jospin's shocking defeat, wins those elections, the result could be a political paralysis that might again lead voters to Le Pen.

"Everything depends now upon the next weeks," Sarfaty said.

Le Pen, 73, once dismissed the Nazi gas chambers as just a "detail" of history. In this campaign, however, he toned down his anti-Semitic rhetoric in favour of a populist crusade against the status quo, patriotic cries for restoring the franc as French's currency and a xenophobic ideology, including a proposal that illegal aliens be placed in transit camps to await deportation.

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Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others. **AD#1030**

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Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative,seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys. **AD#1253**

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4100 SQ. FT. ON QUIET CIRCLE WITH 2000 SQ. FT. BASEMENT! 5 + 2 bdrms., Kosher kitchen, granite floor + 9 appliances, combined living / dining room with hardwood floors, main floor library & laundry, huge rec. room, sep. entry to apt./ in-law suite, $639,900. SOLD

• • •

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

626 GLENCAIRN AVENUE - 5+2 BDRM, 5 BATH!
1st Ad! Stunning exec res! M SOLD +lib+lau+2pce! W/o bsmt! Won't last! $799K! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

PRIME OTTER/KIMBARK - JUST $629,000
Outstanding renovation, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Amazing oak paneled recreation room. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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$335,000. Charming 2 bdrm, 2 bath bungalow. Finished bsmt. Private drive. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BRIGHT, SPACIOUS 1 BEDROOM APT
Near Sharei Tefilah Shul in triplex. $750/mo. Available immediately. Rose Simon* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

OLD THORNHILL NEW 90 X 276' CUSTOM
Approx. 5000'+ circular drive, 3 car garage. 5 bdrms each w/ensuites. Loaded. W/up lower. O Guvenal*/M. Cowan* 416-226-1987

OLD THORNHILL GEM! 74 X 271'
Approx. 5000'+ custom built. Gorgeous backyard, pool & hot tub. Finished walk-up lower. O. Guvenal*/M. Cowan* 416-226-1987

304 RAYMERVILLE DRIVE! 5 BDRM, 3 BATH!
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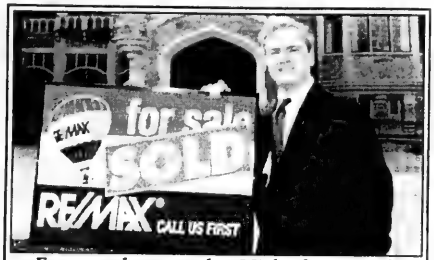
5 HOUSES FOR SALE



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HOMES

Bathurst/Lawrence – Charming bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, finished basement, hardwood floors, asking $369,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Excellent starter home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 50 x 120 lot, great potential for doctor/dentist office, asking $289,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Spacious bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fin. basement, central location, updated kitchen, asking $339,900.

Sheppard/Wilson Heights – SOLD listed, new custom home, approx. 3,000 sq. ft., 5 bdrms, 3 baths, basement income, unbeatable value, asking $569,900.

Avenue/Lawrence – Custom Home, built in 1986, 4 bdrms, 4 baths, unique architecture, finished basement with walk-out, asking $749,000.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Steeles – Exclusive, Primrose III, 2 bedrooms, approx. 1,300 sq. ft., main floor bright and spacious, asking $249,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Crystal Towers, approx. 1,652 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms plus den, 2 balconies, parking and locker, asking $399,900.

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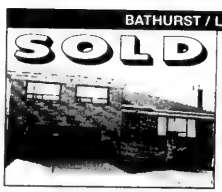

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Spacious side-split on gorgeous 60 ft. lot. 3 bdrms. + fam. room. Fabulous location close to TTC, shops, schools ++. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.
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• • •

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Rare opportunity! Bright & spacious corner unit. 3 bdrms., 2 baths, modern eat-in kitchen, ensuite laundry, N.E. exposure, shows very well! Only $299,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / YORK DOWNS
Prestigious executive home on gorgeous 67 x 432 ft. lot, ravine setting, tennis court, prime central location. Asking $1,299,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST/LAWRENCE
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BATHURST/LAWRENCE NEW LISTING!
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Large 3 bdrm. bungalow, 3 baths, L-shaped liv./din. rm., fin. bsmnt with priv. entrance, gar.

STEELES BATHURST
Primrose 2 Condo, 2 bdrm., 2 baths, solarium, south view, laundry in suite, 5 appliances, Steps to all.

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Triplex, 2-3 bdrm. + 1 bdrm., balconies, garages + parking, fully rented, Don't miss!!

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151 Spring Gate Blvd. Thornhill
$439,800. Great layout, upgrd, large 4+2 bdrm. family home with prof. fin. basement, steps to shuls, amenities, etc. Main flr. family room, comb LR/DR. Shows well! Call **Wayne Kahn at Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc. 416-222-8600.**

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Thornhill - Walk to Synagogue! Lovely, newer detached. 3 bed. fin. bsmnt. $285,000. Just $20,000 down + approved. mtg. 416-724-5454.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Clark - Stunning 4 bed. fin. bsmnt., walk to shuls, avail. summer. 905-707-5452.

20 HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Finch. Ultra luxury 2 bdrm., 2 bth., security, concierge pkg., pool, tennis, TTC. $1650 mo inclusive. 416-787-3702.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-783-0542 or 416-787-9451.

Bathurst/Lawrence, 3 bdrm. in 6-plex. Near shuls & all amenities. 416-782-5184.

Bath/Clark, 1 bdrm. basement apt. Renovated. Avail. immed. Near Synagogue. Non smoker. Laundry. 416-560-6186.

Bath/Shep, bright 2 bdr. in low rise apartment building. Reno., A/C., +1 underground parking. $1,000 + hydro. 416-505-7964.

Bathurst/Lawrence, bsmnt, spac. 1 bdrm., furn., a/c, priv. entr., no smkng. or pets. 416-789-9595.

BATH/LAWRENCE - 2 bdrm. + 1 bath, main floor of house, just reno., new unit, new appl., alarm, parking, $1695/month. 416-464-8376.

Eglinton & Allen Rd, Reno. mod. basement apartment for rent, priv. entr., new bthrm. and kitchen. Gas fireplace, steps to subway, laundry incl. Non-smoker, no allergies to dogs, $950/mth. Available June 1, call Deborah 416-783-5915.

---

1 bdrm., BATH/WILSON no smoke, no sat. calls, close to all services. 416-635-6427.

Bath/Wilson. Oversized 1 bdrm bsmt. All inclusive, pkg., cable, hydro, laundry. Available immediately. 416-630-1701.

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960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Muskoka - Walkers Point. Beautiful 5 bdrm. exec. summer home on lake. Private bay. Spec. view from extra lge. deck & dock. July. 416-444-4091.

GRAVENHURST. Waterfront 4 bdrm. Good location. Avail. immediately. 416-630-2975.

S. of Gravenhurst, beautiful 4 bdrm. lakefront, decks, docks, shallow swim area. Avail. June 24-July 28. 416-733-4686.

Lake of Bays - Muskoka. 3 bdrm., cottage + 2 bdrm. boat house. Lakefront, 3 sides. Lge. dock, tennis court, Synagogue on property, weekly services. Eruv surrounding property. $1500 weekly, disc. monthly rentals. 416-630-1865.

Lake Couchiching, Orillia, priv. waterfront, 3 bdrm., den, full amen., hot tub, row boat w/motor, docks, Avail. July &/or August, 4 week periods. 416-489-1205.

Lake Simcoe near Orillia. Waterfront, 3 bdrm, sauna, dock. Month or season. Reasonable. Gilbert @ 416-716-0150.

BELLE EWART, LK. SIMCOE, 4 bdrm., furnished, walk to beach. 905-731-3575.

A 3 bdrm. lakefront. Avail. May & June. 4 Mile Point, Orillia, canoe, gas BBQ. 416-223-6824.

Innisfil. Lakefront cottage. Rent weekly. 3 bdrm., near golf course. 1-585-594-8265.

120 COTTAGE WANTED

South End of Lake Simcoe for month of Aug., comfortable updated waterfront, min. 3 bdrms., 2 baths, would like motorized boat. Call after 9 a.m. LA time. 323-656-4260.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Boca Raton, lux. condos and country club communities. Stephanie Kaufman. Lang Realty. 516-715-0541.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT Beautiful, brand new, spac. furn. studios, fully equipped, lux. bldg., pool, spa, tennis, kosher restaurant. Shabbos elev. $500/wk US. 305-895-3000.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

Mont. Tremblant. Ultra luxurious townhouse. Outstanding view of mountains and lakes. Close to beaches, tennis, golf, inc. hottub, pool, sundeck, fireplace, BBQ & more. 5 bdrm. sleeps up to 12. 1, 2 & 3 bdrm. units also available. Private. Call 1-905-520-3812.

BEAVERTON. July/August Wkly./mthly, lux. 4 bd a/c waterfrt, home 2 1/2 bths, city water, furn., tropical sunsets, no pets or smkg. Lynn 416-964-1228.

230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Live-in Caregiver, 3 kids (10, 6, 3) one special needs, 40-50 hrs/wk, some evgs & wknd. Non-smoker. Fax resume 416-485-1421 or call 416-818-8865.

273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES

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275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

One of a kind, Jewish guy, 30ish, looks Italian, wishes to meet a Jewish single lady - well off, of any age, CJN box #4522.

279 PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. L. Jack Genesove wishes to thank his patients for the priviledge of caring for them over the past many years and to announce that he is discontinuing his office practice as of July 27, 2002 and will restrict himself thereafter to hospital and nursing home practice.

295 PETS

Dog boarding in-home, personal, loving attention. Call Aunty Reva to reserve. 416-782-4849.

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330 OBITUARIES

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EISEN, MURRAY – on April 12, 2002, late of 1 Canyon Ave., #907.
SHARP, Ann – on April 3, 2002, late of 2 Regent Ave.March Cambridg.
ZEIDEL, Jenny – on April 13, 2002, late of 115 Antibes Dr., #706.
HOLLANDER, Sidney – on April 14, 2002, late of 271 Ridley Blvd. #205.
WITT, Alice – on April 13, 2002, late of 1023 Runnymede Cres.
VAISSA, Marietta – on April 15, 2002, late of 5501 Randall Ave..#203.
TEPER, Abraham – on April 16, 2002, late of 315 Wilmington Ave., #2.
FELDMAN, Bess – on April 16, 2002, late of 133 Torresdale, #2007.
SINGER, David – on April 15, 2002, late of 40 Warwick Ave.
KOZLOWSKI, Izak – on April 16, 2002, late of 15 Robingrove Rd.
GLICK, Srul Irving – on April 17, 2002, late of 116 Farnham Ave.
NAIMER, Melvyn – on April 16, 2002, late of 3600 Yonge St., #332.
MENSHER, Max – on April 16, 2002, late of 550 Cummer Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

SEIDEL, Irving – on April 17, 2002, late of 7 Townsgate Dr., #606.
RAKOWSKY, Ida – on April 18, 2002, late of 40 Warwick Ave.
GREEN, Louis – on April 17, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St., P.H. #1.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GLASSMAN, Ruth – on April 11, 2002, late of 20 Abbott Ave.
MARKUS, Louis – on April 13, 2002, late of 12 Sunbeam Ave..

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YASHAEV, Naomi – on April 24, 2002.
KHAZANOV, Polina – on April 23, 2002.
ZAUDERER, Benjamin – on April 24, 2002, late of 10 Prue Ave.
HELLER, Isobel – on April 24, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
CROSSWELL, Mervis – on April 24, 2002.
HALPERN, Nathaniel Bernard – on April 25, 2002, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SADIE LIEBERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 19th, 11:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Labour Zionist Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDITH ROWAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 12th, 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
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Reactions focus of sports photographer's debut exhibit

By ADAM BELLO
Special to The CJN

THORNHILL, Ont. — For Shawn Jordan, sports photography has as much to do with capturing reactions as it does with the play itself.

"How players and fans react to a crucial moment in the game is sometimes more telling than the action," says the 26-year-old sports photographer.

"Photographing sports is about shooting the unexpected, so it forces you to become a quicker study of human nature," he says.

Communicating competitive intensity from the perspective of such major sports figures as Tiger Woods, Serena Williams and the Raptors' Vince Carter, is the focus of Jordan's show, A Vision of Sport, running until May 26 at Wayne Gretzky's Restaurant.

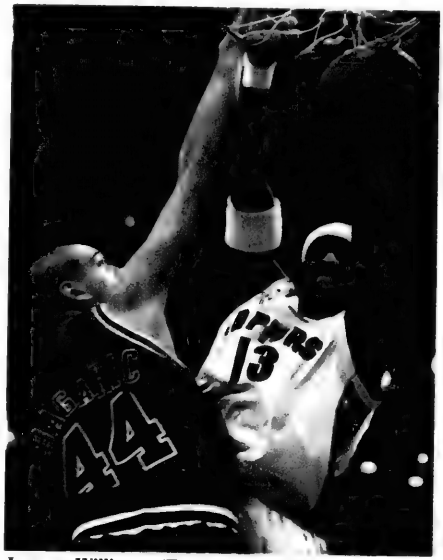
The show was selected as part of the Toronto photography festival, Contact 2002 (www.contactphoto.com).

It covers images from a variety of professional sporting events over the last two years, notably the Canadian Open Golf Tournament, Molson Indy CART race, Master's series ATP Tennis Tournament, and ongoing coverage of Toronto teams such as Raptors, Rock, Phantoms, and Argonauts.

Toronto athletes featured in Jordan's work include squash player Jonathan Power, currently number two in world ranking, and doubles tennis player David Nestor.

"Wayne Gretzky's was very open to host my work. We all felt that this was an ideal venue for a showcase of sports photographs," he says.

While Jordan's coverage of local competitive events in Toronto has led to over 200 published photos in Toronto press and American publications through wire service syndication, the show marks his formal debut as a visual artist.



Jerome Williams (Toronto Raptors) from Shawn Jordan's A Vision of Sport, running May 5th to 26th at Wayne Gretzky's Restaurant.

"The art of sports photography is the art of storytelling, because what [the viewer] interprets is ultimately the tale being told," he says.

"A good action shot draws the viewer in with intrigue about what led up to that moment, and what happened next."

Photography is also a passion that runs through the Jordan family. His father Michael, himself an accomplished travel photographer and writer, fostered Shawn's interest and professional development.

"My father introduced me to photography at a young age. Later in life, I decided to combine it with my interest in sports. It was during university that I had the opportunity to cover sport meets for campus newspapers, and realized I had found my niche."

After receiving his degree in psychology from Carleton University in Ottawa, Jordan became a freelance photographer.

He says there are not enough historical photographic collections of Jewish Canadian sports coverage, either of its figures, or the struggles for mainstream acceptance.

"There is a definite lack of photographic history when it comes to Jewish sports figures," he says.

"In the community, we need a permanent, public collection of their accomplishments, and [we should] bring forward what kind of discrimination Jewish athletes have had to overcome, such as at Christie Pitts [in reference to the 1933 riot instigated by an organized group of fascists on a group of Jews playing baseball in Christie Pitts Park], and how we persevered.

"As my career continues, I would like to consciously build up my collection of Jewish athletes I have photographed, and help solidify the Jewish identity in professional sports."

You can see some of this work at http://www.sjsports photography.com

Maccabi TA loses in European final four basketball

BOLOGNA — Maccabi Tel Aviv reached the final four but couldn't get past Panathinaikos Athens, losing 83 to 75 in the prestigious Euroleague basketball semi-final last week.

Maccabi Tel Aviv was favoured going into the game, having crushed Spanish outfit Tau Vitoria by 29 points three weeks ago and dominating under the baskets.

Panathinaikos and Maccabi had tangled several times before. The Greeks, with the help of Oded Katash, who left Maccabi one season before, beat Maccabi in the final of the 2000 Final Four in Thessalonika. Last year, Maccabi got its revenge in the SuproLeague Final Four in Paris.

Israel's national soccer team coach resigns

By ORI LEWIS
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — The coach of Israel's national soccer team announced last week he would not be staying on after his contract expires this summer.

Richard Nielsen, a Dane, reading a written statement to a stunned news conference in Tel Aviv, said he was very flattered but had decided to turn down an offer to continue for another two years because he felt he had not succeeded in his job.

Under Nielsen, Israel failed to qualify from its group for the playoff round of the World Cup after the team conceded a late goal to draw with Austria at home. The Austrians subsequently lost to Turkey in the playoffs.

"I think I have had my chance but have not taken it," Nielsen said. "I feel responsible that we only managed a draw against Austria and that we lost to Germany and Denmark."

In recent friendlies, Israel equaled its worst-ever defeat when the team lost 7-1 to Germany and then had another poor display in a 3-1 defeat to Denmark last month.

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יעל זליגר

אבא בורח עם הקרקס, מאת: אתגר קרת

שוב החלטתי לכתוב על משהו שמעלה חיוך. עצוב לנו, לכולנו ואין רואים עדיין את האור. אבל לחייך מותר ואולי אף צריך.

בימים קשים אלה יש צורך בהמון הבנה וסובלנות וכן יש צורך ביכולת להפליג על גלי הדמיון ולצייר עולם בדיוני, חביב יותר. מקום שאפשר לברוח אליו, ולו רק לפעמים.

אבא בורח עם הקרקס, פרי יצירתו של אתגר קרת, הסופר הפוסט-מודרני שלנו הוא סיפור כזה. לכאורה עניינו של הספר בגרימת זעזוע לתשתית מוסד המשפחה. המתנגדים לספר (שחלקם בוודאי כבר מזמן החליטו שאתגר קרת הוא נציגה הדקדנטי של הספרות העברית) יטענו שהספר "לא חינוכי", התוכן חסר ערכים. גרוע מזה, בלבול הסדרים בהיררכיה המשפחתית המקובלת אינו יכול להוות מדגם ערכי לילדים.

אמת, אבא בורח עם הקרקס מערער ביסודות מקובלים אך זה אינו הופך את הספר לבלתי חינוכי. נהפוך הוא. הספר נוגע בתכנים רלוונטים ביותר ומעורר רגשות של חמלה והבנה. ובכן מהו הסיפור? המספר הוא ילד, בן לזוג הורים ואח למיכל. הילד, מיכל והאם די מיושבים בדעתם, אך האב יוצא דופן. הוא לא בעל או אב רע, חס וחלילה, אך אהבתו הגדולה בחיים היא לקרקס. לא הילד או אחותו משתוללים משמחה כאשר מגיע הקרקס לעיר אלא האב; "בחיים לא תנחשו מה קרה! הדליק אבא את האור בחדר הילדים וקפץ על השולחן." הילדים אדישים לעניין אך עושים מאמץ לשמוח בשמחת אביהם. אבא מדבר רק על הקרקס עד שיום אחד, ובחוסר רצון מוחלט, המשפחה נענית לבקשת האב לבקר בקרקס. המופע לא מלהיב אך אבא משתולל ומאבד שליטה ומחליט לברוח עם הקרקס. מהקרקס אבא שולח מכתבים למשפחה ובמכתבים הוא מתאר כיצד התקדם באמונים, על כל מיני הרפתקאות וכן על געגועיו לילדים. בני המשפחה מבינים לנפשו הנסערת של האבא ונאים בהצלחתו בקרקס אך "בלב כבר רצינו שיחזור." יום אחד, באמת אבא חוזר – עם הקרקס. והפעם "כולנו הלכנו לראות עוד פעם את הקרקס והפעם זה היה מרגש כי הפעם את הכל עשה אבא שלנו." לאחר המופע הילדים מקדמים את פני אביהם בהתלהבות "והוא חבק אותנו חזק, והבטיח לא לברוח יותר לעולם." וכאן עוקצו (וגדולתו) של הסיפור; אכן עם שובו של האב הכל אמור לחזור להיות כמו שהיה פעם אך לא בדיוק... ללא מלים ורק באמצעות איורים נפלאים בעמוד האחרון בספר מסתבר שאווירת הקרקסיות דבקה בבית. אולי יהיה זה בית מטורף אך לפחות לא עוד יהיה זה בית נטול שמחת חיים ואפוף באדישות. אכן הסדרים הפוכים אצל קרת. מבוגר ולא ילד נדלק בשיגעון קרקס. מן הסתם ודווקא באמצעות סיפור לילדים המחבר פונה אלינו המבוגרים ומציע שאולי מגיע לכל אחד מאתנו להגשים ולו פעם חלום "מטורף" ולברוח עם קרקסים על מנת שנדע גם לשוב. שלל האיורים והקישוטים מרהיבי העין של ר. מודן תורמים רבות לספר.

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Ella's Roasted Eggplant Rolls

2 tbsp. canola oil
1 eggplant peeled, sliced lengthwise 1/4" slices
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 can (16oz) diced tomatoes with juice
1 cup ricotta cheese
1 cup spinach, chopped
1/4 cup mozzarella cheese
1 tbsp. dried basil
1 tbsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 cup tomato sauce

Preheat oven to 350°F. Brush 1 tbsp. oil on eggplant slices: roast 15 min. Sauté onion in remaining 1 tbsp. oil 3-4 min. Add tomatoes; simmer 15 min. In a separate bowl, mix ricotta, spinach, mozzarella, basil, oregano, and garlic. Add salt and pepper to taste. Lightly coat a baking dish with cooking spray. Spoon cheese mixture on each slice of eggplant, and roll up like a jelly roll. Place eggplant rolls in the dish. Continue until all the eggplant is used. Top with the tomato sauce, and bake for 30 min Makes 4 servings.

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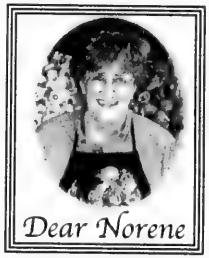
About Food



By NORENE GILLETZ

This year, Mother's Day is May 12. Instead of standing in line at a noisy restaurant, here are some easy brunch ideas.

To minimize cleanup, use disposable plates, cups, cutlery and napkins. Set the table in advance and order a centrepiece of Mom's favourite flowers. Buy some ready-made spreads such as hummus, tzadziki and eggplant. Spread tuna, salmon and chopped egg fillings on coloured tortillas, roll up and cut into 3/4-inch slices for party pinwheel sandwiches.

Try this terrific, easy brunch dish – cinnamon toast, French toast and bread pudding all rolled into one. Assemble it in advance and pop it into the oven shortly before guests arrive. It comes from *Canadian Living Cooks Step by Step* (Random House, $39.95, colour photos) by multi-talented Toronto cookbook author Daphna Rabinovitch, who is also the co-host of *Canadian Living Cooks* on the Food Network. It makes a marvelous Mother's Day treat for the whole family to enjoy!

CINNAMON TOAST STRATA WITH MAPLE APPLE TOPPING

Strata:

10 slices square egg bread (challah)
1/4 cup butter, softened
3 tbsp. granulated sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/2 cups milk
4 eggs
1 tbsp. granulated sugar mixed with 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Maple Apple Topping:

2/3 cup maple syrup
1/2 cup orange juice
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 tbsp. butter (optional)
5 tart apples, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
2/3 cup raisins
1 tbsp. cornstarch

Strata:

Trim crusts from bread. In small bowl, mix together butter, sugar and cinnamon. Spread on 5 of the bread slices; top with remaining slices. Cut diagonally into quarters to make triangles.

Arrange triangles, longest side down, overlapping and curving, around edge of greased 11x7-inch baking dish, curving slightly to fit; arrange remaining triangles in centre.

Whisk milk with eggs until blended; pour evenly over triangles in dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon-sugar. (Can be prepared in advance to this point, covered and refrigerated up to 12 hours.) Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350. Bake uncovered about 45 minutes, or until puffed and golden. Let stand on rack for 10 minutes.

Maple Apple Topping:

Meanwhile, in skillet, whisk together maple syrup, orange juice and sugar; bring to boil over medium-high heat. Add butter (if using). Boil for 1 minute.

Add apples and raisins, cover and cook, stirring once, for 5 minutes or until apples are tender. Dissolve cornstarch in 1 tbsp. water; add to skillet and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute or until thickened. Serve warm over strata. Makes 6 servings.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeanYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat) She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 47.)

Israel's Sweet Psalmist

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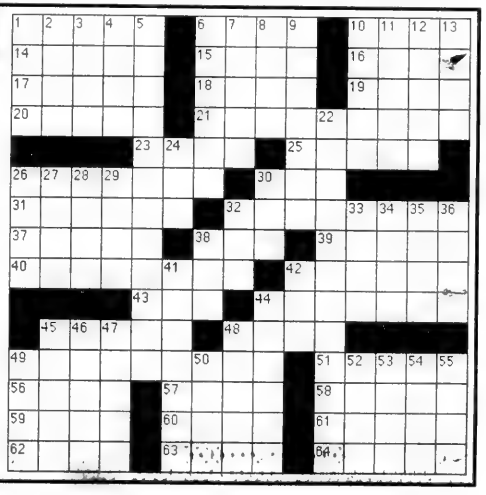
Across

1. A David great-grandson
6. David's friend was it's king
10. Malaysian outrigger
14. ____ la Reine, Paris thoroughfare
15. Oater equine
16. Cheers
17. Aaron's, Moses', and Miriam's dad
18. "Moonlight __ __" (abbreviated)
19. Season, in Safed
20. British spy
21. Command to David's archers?
23. A son of Adam
25. Huge, in Honfleur
26. Serious issues are
30. Rabbi, in Rehovoth
31. Sweetened as in speech
32. Davids foe and namesakes
37. Where every competitor wants to be
38. Sire's mate, foal's mom
39. Di _____, French encyclopedist
40. David's instrument (in Hebrew, then in English)
42. Goes on and off in milliseconds
43. Before, before
44. David's and other psalms, in Hebrew
45. Some chilis are four of this
48. "I will hurl my ____ at Edom" (David's psalm 60)
49. One way to describe David as he brought the tabernacle to Jerusalem
51. Jewish noodle delight
56. Prefix for weaponry
57. College kid spread
58. Combining word form for Persia
59. Grenade type
60. Away from the weather side
61. Samuel, 2,000 years after David
62. Container's weight
63. Boars are their beaux
64. Forest open space

Down

1. Adj. referring to schools, colleges
2. Book, usually a weighty one
3. Worm may do this
4. Any of many in and around Israel
5. David's words 3-5, psalm 23
6. David's elite ("the _____")
7. Prophet about 100 years before David, went to sea
8. Invitation advisory
9. Of or belonging to the summer
10. Not amats.
11. Hebrew girl's name, "happy"
12. Airport
13. Arthur
22. Our subject
24. Abbreviation at 12 Down
26. Halt!, to Dobbin
27. Humongous ages
28. Wrapped up with
29. Lion cub, in Lachish
30. CD-___
32. Hefreish, in English
33. Atmospheric prefix
34. Anthony, 19th cent. Brit. auth.
35. American nomad
36. Let it stand, to copy editor
38. Gangsta rapper doctor
41. War fleets
42. South Korean cap.
44. Subjects
45. Artery
46. Primate
47. Do penance
48. This also turns
49. Future's opposite
50. ____ contendere
52. Asian range or river
53. State of doing flips
54. Geraint's wife
55. It can be a mother



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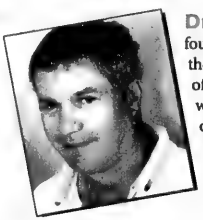
"We proudly begin a series that will spotlight our talented staff. We are grateful to the community for your support as it enables our staff to provide 'The Best Medicine.' In this update, we focus on two eminent clinicians and academics that exemplify Mount Sinai's standards of excellence. In future updates, we will profile other members of the Sinai healthcare team."

Joseph Mapa, President and CEO, Mount Sinai Hospital

SPOTLIGHTING Our Talent!

Dr. Zane Cohen Entering into an unprecedented third term as Surgeon-in-Chief at Mount Sinai, Dr. Zane Cohen is also Chair of the Division of General Surgery at the University of Toronto. Under his leadership, our department of surgery has developed into a world class centre. Dr. Cohen has launched a project that is part of the Leadership Sinai Advanced Surgical Technology Centre. This project allows surgeons at Mount Sinai Hospital to demonstrate skills to countless professionals worldwide. "This project is yet another breakthrough in the way we perform surgery and teach future surgeons," he explains.



Dr. Allan Detsky Dr. Detsky has been our Physician-in-Chief for the last four years bringing leadership and his philosophy to the development and growth of the department of medicine. He is a graduate of Harvard and MIT and a member of the editorial board of the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Detsky takes what can be described as a holistic approach to teaching and learning. In Allan's own words, "You can't be a teaching hospital unless you provide a full range of activity. Teaching must be integrated into research. The two feed on each other to give you the best patient care." His research focuses on clinical epidemiology, health economics and policy, decision analysis, clinical nutrition, and cardiology.

"Doctors Detsky and Cohen have a tremendously exciting influence on the culture throughout this hospital," says Joseph Mapa. "They nurture a quest for learning, research, and the incredible satisfaction of providing the best patient care."

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For more information on the above events, please contact Cindy Berk at 416-586-8290 or visit us online at www.mtsinai.on.ca/auxiliary

Don't miss our upcoming events...

Mount Sinai Classic Golf Tournament - June 13
at Angus Glen Golf Club, in support of the **Leadership Sinai Chair in Surgery and Technology Centre.** Almost sold out, so please reserve your participation today! Thank you to our confirmed sponsors, ***Equitable Trust, Scotiabank,*** **and** ***Nike.***

Henry's Tournament Fore Health - August 12
at The Board of Trade, Country Club, in support of the **Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre.** Registration has begun, so please reserve your spot for this popular event today! Thank you to our sponsors, ***Henry's Camera, Scotiabank, Unilever, IBM, Brampton Brick, Iceberg Vodka,*** and ***Druxy's.***

For more information, please call Hannah Slavens at (416) 586-8662 or e-mail: hslavens@mtsinai.on.ca

Keep up with events on our website
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Walk with Israel

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2002

SKYDOME

Check in from 9:15–10:15 a.m.
at Roundhouse Park
(across from Gate 6 on Bremner Blvd.)

Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. SHARP!

- 5K FunRun begins at 10:15 a.m.
- Fabulous Festival following the Walk

Walk with Israel RAIN OR SHINE!

This year ...

More than ever

UJA FEDERATION
ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2003

Israel, we're with you

Your participation in the
UJA FEDERATION Walk with Israel
– beginning and ending at SkyDome –
this year is about more than just having a good time ... it's about showing the people of Israel they are not alone. It's essential to let them know that Toronto stands with Israel ... MORE THAN EVER!

This year's Walk with Israel features great fun, great food, and entertainment to please everyone.

This year there's even an Israeli-style shuk (open-air market) to enjoy. Combine that with the best of Mandell Entertainment, a Sony Playstation 2 Demo Vehicle, an Israeli Rock concert with Toronto's Bais Groove, carnival games, and much, much more!

There are also more prizes than ever at this year's Walk including: 2 airline tickets to Israel courtesy of EL AL Israel Airlines, a Sony Playstation 2, Roots gift certificates, a Sanyo CD Walkman, Spin Master Toys, plus T-shirts (with a minimum sponsorship of $36).

If you become a CHAI Walker (raise $1,800 or more), you will receive prize choices and a plaque, and you'll even be invited onto the main stage at Roundhouse Park where you'll be featured as one of our most valued walkers.

... and we'll be there

UJA Federation Walk with Israel

Monday, May 20, 10:30 a.m. @ SkyDome

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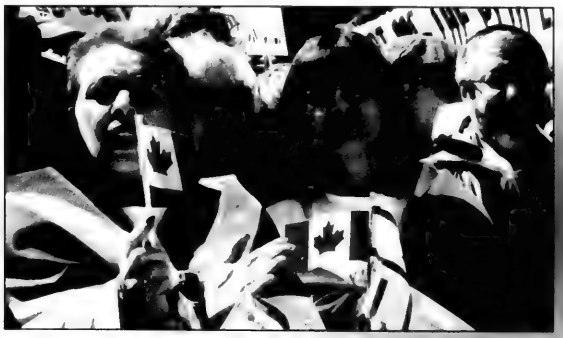
ISRAEL
EMERGENCY
CAMPAIGN 2003

Now. More than ever ... ISRAEL Needs Us!



For almost two years Israel has been facing some of the darkest days in her history.

Relentless terror has stretched Israel's social services to the breaking point.

Israel's way of life has been altered drastically.

That's why this year's **UJA Federation Walk with Israel** is absolutely essential, as part of **Israel Emergency Campaign 2003.**

We need to show our support for Israel by taking to the streets of Toronto. For us it's easy. Unfortunately for Israelis, a simple stroll has become a dangerous situation.

The long-term damage to Israel, her economy and her social structure will take years to repair. But we can start now, and your participation in this year's Walk with Israel is an important first step!

So, on **Victoria Day, Monday, May 20th,** let's tell the people of Israel, "We're with you!"

For more information, call the UJA Federation Walk with Israel Hotline

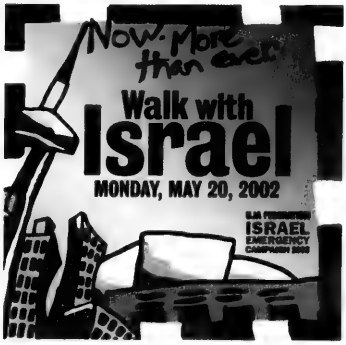
416-631-5700

or visit www.jewishtoronto.net

UJA FEDERATION

ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2003

Walk with Israel & FunRun
Sponsor Sheet



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5	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
	ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE	$
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7	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
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8	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
	ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE	$
9	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
	ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE	$
10	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
	ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE	$
11	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
	ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE	$
12	NAME		TELEPHONE	TOTAL DONATED
	ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE	$

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TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED

$

See reverse

Now. More than ever.

Walk with Israel

By taking part in this community Solidarity event, you are sending a strong message of support to Israel at a time when it is needed the most.

The money you raise will go directly to Israel

- To assist victims of terror and their families
- To increase security for children in day care centres, schools and other facilities
- To provide increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by the crisis, particularly the poor, the elderly and new immigrants

WALK, RUN & WIN!

The Walk with Israel is about having fun, too! By raising much-needed funds through sponsorship, you will be eligible for amazing prize incentives.

RAISE $36

Raise $36 and receive ONE FREE Incredible! Walk with Israel T-shirt WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. (1 per person)

Also, with a minimum $36 sponsorship, receive a FESTIVAL PLAY PASS for games & attractions at SkyDome following the Walk.

RAISE $72

For every $72 raised, receive one entry into the draw to win TWO TICKETS TO ISRAEL courtesy of El Al Israel Airlines, as well as other great prizes.

RAISE $250

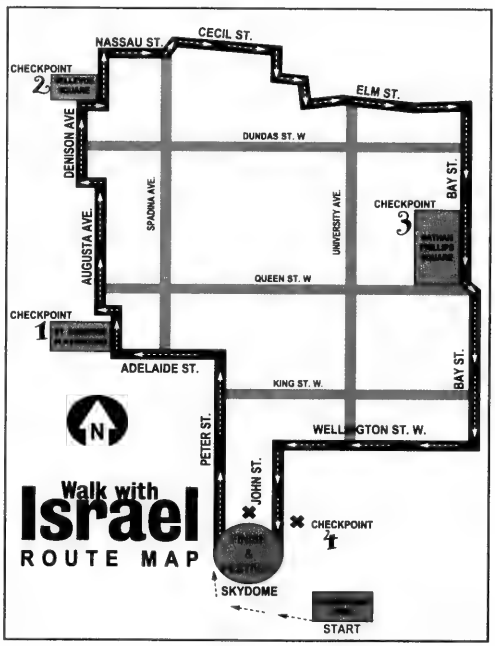
Automatically win your choice of Shrinky Dinks or AIR HOGS courtesy of Spin Master Toys

RAISE $500

Receive your $250 prize & automatically win your choice of Sanyo CD Walkman or $50 Roots Gift Certificate or Spin Master Toys AIR HOGS Radio Control Intruder

GRAND PRIZE

The participant who raises the most sponsorship money for the Walk with Israel will win a Sony Playstation 2 courtesy of Segal Communications



FUNRUN Sponsored by Camp Connection General Store

- 5km FunRun is open to everyone
- Check in at the FunRun registration table at Roundhouse Park (across from Gate 6 on Bremner Blvd.)
- Register at 9:15 a.m. – FunRun starts at 10:15 a.m.
- Runners are eligible for all prizes and incentives

PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR COMPLETED SPONSOR SHEET AND A CHEQUE FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF SPONSORSHIP COLLECTED TO:

- **Lipa Green Building – 4600 Bathurst Street (5th floor) during regular business hours OR**
- **On the day of the Walk at Registration tables at Roundhouse Park (across from SkyDome Gate 6 on Bremner Blvd.) from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.**

I raised $250. My prize choice is:
❑ Shrinky Dinks ❑ AIR HOGS

I raised $500. My prize choice is:
❑ Radio Control AIR HOGS INTRUDER
❑ Sanyo CD Walkman
❑ $50 Roots Gift Certificate

Don't forget to choose your $250 prize! *(Check one above)*

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This Week

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Teen fund-raising whiz nets thousands for cancer.
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Most Ontario campuses lack formal faith day policy.
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www.cjnews.com

Canada abstains in UN vote

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Canada last week abstained on a United Nations resolution that condemned Israel only hours after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 15 Israelis and wounded dozens at a recreational hall in a Tel Aviv suburb.

The 189-member General Assembly, meeting in its "10th Emergency Special Session" on the Middle East, condemned Israel's recent military operations in the West Bank and its rejection of a UN fact-finding mission to the Jenin refugee camp.

Resolution focuses on IDF at Jenin

The Arab-sponsored resolution passed by a vote of 74 to four, with 54 countries abstaining. The voting took place soon after the bombing attack at the billiards hall and casino in Rishon Lezion.

Voting against the measure were Israel, the United States, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

Israel's ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Lancry, said the resolution "would be an offence to the memory of Israeli victims of Palestinian terrorism."

Arab states rejected a proposal to include a condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks against Israel.

Continued on page 40

'I want to show support for Israel'

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

JERUSALEM — For a group of three young Canadian volunteers, painting a large carton with red and white identification panels at an Israeli army base last week was more than just manual labour.

Youths volunteer at army base

"I had been sitting at home watching the news and not really been able to deal with what's been going on," said Ilana Halperin as she set aside a paint brush loaded with bright red paint.

"I wanted to come to Israel myself and speak to people and get the real story and give my assistance, because even though I live in Canada, I still consider Israel to be my country and I want to give it my assistance during these hard times."

The three Canadians – Halperin, Aliza Shupac, both from Toronto, and Anna Kahane from Calgary – were painting the cartons, intended to hold emergency supplies, at the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) base near Tel Aviv as part of a delegation of 65 young people visiting Israel for a week to show support for the country's soldiers and needy communities.

The mission arrived in Israel with more than 2,000 kg of supplies for Israel's needy and soldiers. Apart from basic supplies, there were children's games, candies, food staples and clothing. The goods will be put into gift boxes together with letters written by Canadian school children to the recipients.

The mission was organized and the supplies were collected by the Canada Israel Experience, UIA Federations Canada and Birthright Israel.

This is the third major mission to Israel from Canada in the past month to support Israel in its time of need. In addition to volunteering, the delegation also heard speakers from the Foreign Ministry and the IDF on the present security situation.

Continued on page 40

Top photo, from left, Ilana Halperin, Anna Kahane and Aliza Shupac and below, the entire group of volunteers with Rabbi Reuben Poupko from Montreal, second row, fourth from left, and Lt.-Col. Rami Shmuel, standing in the centre. *[Israpet photo]*

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Yizkor Shavuot
Candlelighting: 8:18
Havdallah: 9:23

Likud rejects notion of a Palestinian state—please see page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

UJA Shabbat

TORONTO — Rabbis across the religious spectrum in the greater Toronto area will be speaking to their congregations this Shabbat (May 18) on the importance of the UJA's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. The day has been designated UJA Shabbat and will coincide with Shavuot.

Plaut, Kayfetz Kudos

TORONTO — Two of Canada's premier Jewish thinkers will be honoured at a prestigious academic conference, the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities, to take place here later this month. Rabbi Gunther Plaut and the late Ben Kayfetz will be honoured at the annual meeting of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS), which takes place during the congress. Rabbi Plaut, who will deliver the keynote address, will receive the ACJS Award for his lifetime contribution to Canadian Jewish studies. The evening will also pay tribute to Kayfetz as one of the foremost historians of Canadian Jewry. As well, the program will feature a panel of scholars who will review Prof. Morton Weinfeld's recently-published book, *Like Everyone Else But Different: The Paradoxical Success of Canadian Jewry.* The event takes place May 26 at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

Awards for Feld Carr

TORONTO — Judy Feld Carr, whose efforts over 25 years resulted in the rescue of more than 3,000 Syrian Jews, will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree on May 23 at the convocation ceremony at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Carr will also receive this year's Abram L. Sachar Medal at Brandeis University in Boston on May 31.

ISRAEL

Extremists Banned

JERUSALEM — A Knesset committee has approved a bill that would empower the Central Election Committee to ban any party or individual from running for parliament if they express support for the armed struggle of an enemy country or terrorist organization, engage in racist incitement or deny the existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Hotel Discounts

JERUSALEM — Dozens of Israeli hotels are offering steep discounts to reserve soldiers and their families. The Israel Hotel Association announced that reservists who can show they served at least 10 days in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can get a 50 per cent discount through July.

WORLD

Jewish Festival

ROME — Twenty-one countries plan to take part in the third annual European Day of Jewish Culture on June 16. Hundreds of Jewish heritage sites in participating countries will be opened to the public, and special programs, performances and exhibitions are planned. Last year's event drew some 170,000 visitors. This year's theme is "The Jewish Calendar and Festivals through Art, Music, Cooking and Other Encounters." Details can be found at www.jewisheritage.org.

Czech Exhibit

WARSAW — An exhibit is opening at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum commemorating the tens of thousands of former Czechs who perished at the death camp. Leading Czech officials joined Jewish representatives at last week's opening of the permanent exhibit. Senior Slovak figures plan to attend a separate exhibition, "The Tragedy of Slovak Jews."

N.Y. Times Boycott

NEW YORK — Two campaigns have been launched to protest what is seen as a pro-Palestinian bias in *The New York Times*' Middle East coverage. Both campaigns call on readers to cancel their subscriptions for at least one month in protest. The paper denies any charges of bias.

New Memorial

NEW YORK — Poland and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum plan to work together to create a memorial at a former Nazi death camp. Groundbreaking for the new memorial is expected to take place next month at the Belzec death camp in Poland.

Pro-Israel Insert

RIO DE JANEIRO — Some 150,000 subscribers to a Brazilian newspaper recently received a pro-Israel insert. The May 3 insert in *O Globo*, one of Brazil's largest papers, was a joint initiative of the Jewish Museum here and private donors. About 35,000 Jewish homes already received the insert in Jewish papers published in Rio and Sao Paulo.

Fund Ends

ZURICH — A Swiss fund set up to help needy Holocaust survivors has wrapped up its work. Created five years ago, the fund paid out some $180 million (US) to nearly 310,000 people around the world. It was established after Swiss banks were accused of looting dormant Holocaust-era accounts. In Canada, $3.7 million (Cdn) was distributed to 7,091 survivors with immediate financial needs, for an average payout of $521.

Move to Expel Israel Thwarted

NEW YORK — In what's being seen as a victory for pro-Israel groups, a resolution to expel the Israel Medical Association from the World Medical Association (WMA) was thwarted last week.

The expected resolution, which blamed Israeli doctors for not opposing Israel's recent military operation, was initiated by Denmark and expected to be introduced by one of the Scandinavian member countries of the 14-nation executive body of the association at its annual meeting in Geneva.

The WMA, a nongovernmental organization that works closely with the United Nations but operates as an independent consortium of national medical associations, had denied knowledge of any motion to expel the Israel Medical Association.

On its Web site, it called the subject a "hoax" that elicited 20,000 e-mails.

Instead, there was a "proposed resolution on the assurance of medical and health services during the armed conflict between Israelis and Palestinians," the WMA said.

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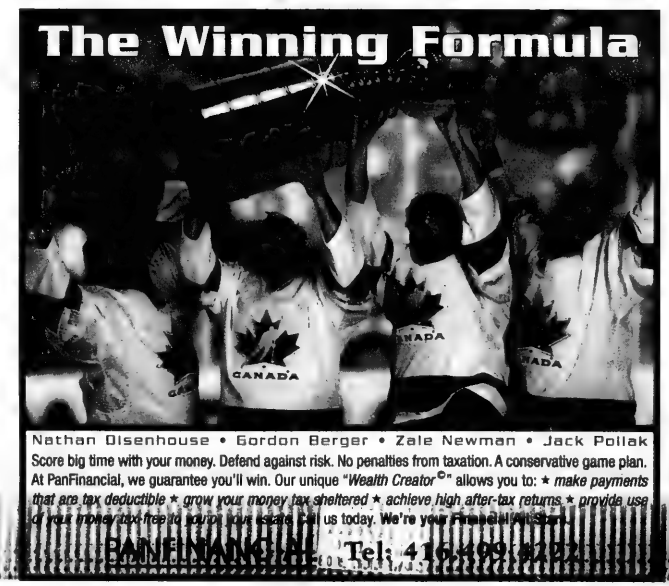
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Israel confident but bleeding, says Israeli envoy

Alon Pinkas addresses UJA Federation campaign launch

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Contrary to many critics, diplomat and frequent television commentator Alon Pinkas believes that, overall, media reports on the situation in the Middle East are balanced.

But Israel's consul general in New York, who was here last week as keynote speaker for the launch of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, said in an interview before the event that he is not always happy with what he calls the media's "Polaroid shot" of a powerful, rich Israel versus weak, victimized Palestinians.

Alon Pinkas

"As a Polaroid shot it's probably correct, but that doesn't reflect the history."

Nor does he attribute negativity toward Israel to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's image. When Sharon's more moderate predecessor, Ehud Barak, was in office, there were similar problems, Pinkas said.

The media's need for instant gratification and impatience with historical context sometimes frustrates him, but "if you're insistent and persistent, they'll let you get your point across.'

As an Israeli, Pinkas said, he has less of the "complex attitude toward being Jewish" than North Americans do. "We don't have this urge to constantly apologize or explain... maybe we should."

His comment reflects a common criticism leveled at Israel's handling of public relations, some of which, he noted, is now being handled in New York by a prestigious public relations firm.

For Pinkas as an Israeli, being able to look in the mirror and being accountable to his own conscience matter more than wondering about the opinion of non-Jewish neighbours, he explained.

The fact that North Americans have heard about allegations of looting by Israeli soldiers, and the fact that a lieutenant colonel was court martialed, attests to the openness of Israeli society, he said.

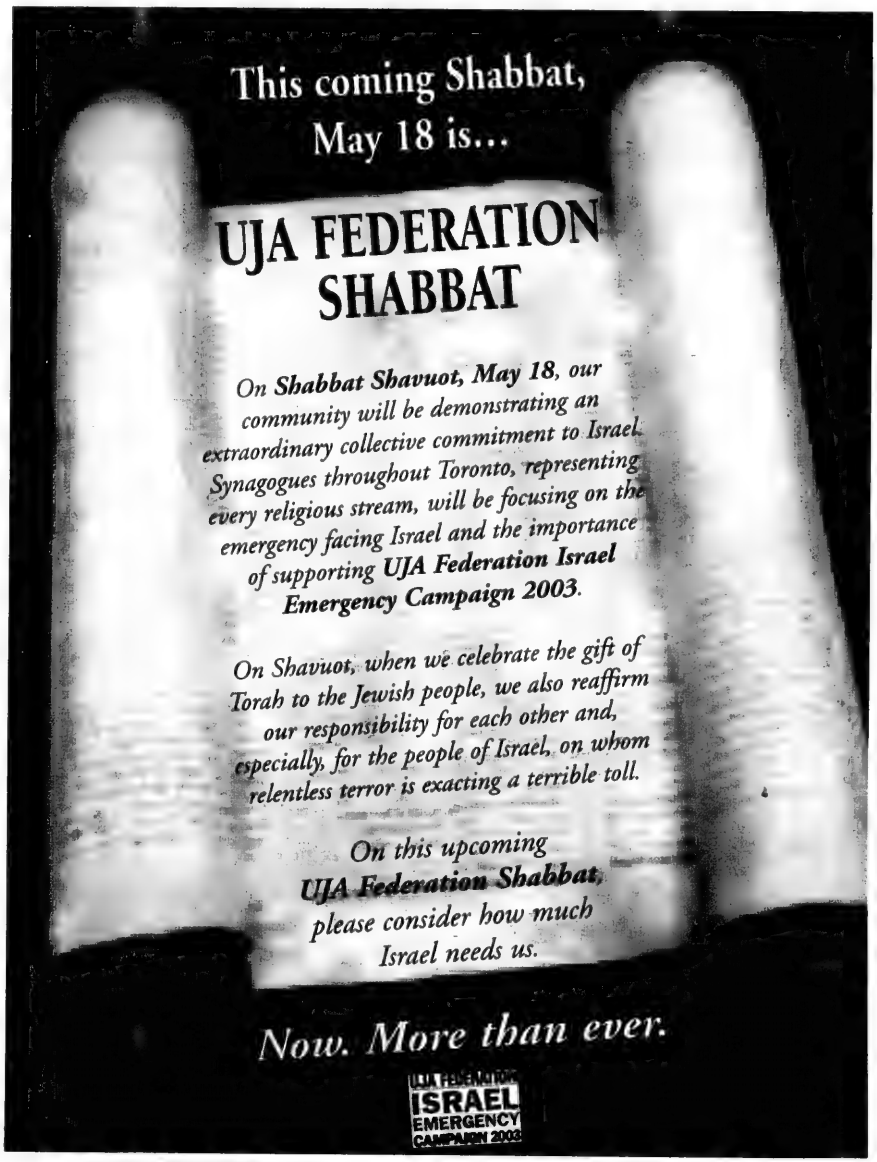
Pinkas doesn't believe anti-Israel attitudes are as prevalent in the United States as some people think. "I think that if you look at American public opinion polls, you will see increasingly high numbers of people who support Israel and denounce the Palestinians for their use of violence."

In his speech at the launch, Pinkas, a third-generation Israeli, lauded the crowd of more than 1,000 people at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel for their support of Israel.

The campaign began four months ahead of schedule in response to the current crisis in Israel, and has raised $31.5 million in its first 26 days, campaign co-chair Howard Sokolowski announced.

Pinkas urged people to remember that, as bad as things seem, Israel also has a symphony orchestra, universities, rabbis with advanced theological learning and a thriving high tech industry.

Continued on page 21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Into the Negev

David Ben-Gurion, one of Israel's founding parents and its first prime minister, dreamt of, spoke of and actually tried reclaiming the Negev Desert.

In this space last week, I wrote about Ben-Gurion's personal attachment to the Negev and his decision to live out his days in the remote desert kibbutz, Sdeh Boker.

During my recent visit to Israel, as I wrote last week, I was able to visit Sdeh Boker and from there, see and feel the vastness of the desert.

From the editor's desk

The descent is a relatively short one from the stepped, green and gold, pine-forested hills surrounding Jerusalem southward to the flat beige approaches whose horizon yields the modern skyline of Beersheva in the northern Negev, the region's largest city.

Mere moments from Beersheva's city limits, however, the desert unfolds in all its sculpted, wind-swept, haunting beauty. Travelling a short distance southwest, we stop at Ein Avdat National Park. This is no park of trees, shrubs, grass and flower beds. Rather, it is an imposing desert canyon, a dry wadi bed between two steep, statuesque walls of wind-carved stone and sand.

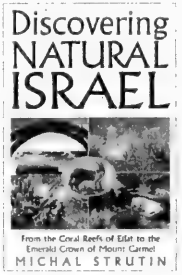
The park is not far away from the archeological ruins of Avdat, one of the key stops along the ancient Spice Route tying Asia to Europe and to Africa.

Avdat was built by the Nabateans, a remarkable people renowned for their ability to husband the precious, scarce sources of water in the desert from which they sustained a sophisticated, agrarian way of life.

We left our car at the entrance of the park and walked along a sandy, chalky trail along the edge of a waterbed, a small stream coursing through the wadi. On the other side of the stream, metres away, were two ibex, unbothered by the humans intruding upon their wilderness space, feeding on the dust-covered shrubs that seemed to grow out of the very face of the rock canyon.

After 10 minutes, we arrived at the end of the trail, a waterfall that drops from some 20 metres above at the roof of the canyon, into a pool carved by nature at the base of the canyon wall. Apart from the sounds of our own shoes scraping the stones beneath our feet, we could hear only the downward stream of the waterfall splashing into the pool, the cooing of overhead desert doves and the wind breezing through the smooth, rocky gorge. There we rested, like tiny pebbles in the cupped palm of one's hand, at the edge of the pool, in the shaded protection of the steep ivory-coloured walls of the canyon.

After Ein Avdat we travelled due south some 30 kilometres to Machtesh Ramon, a breathtaking, unique, crater-like, geological formation, dubbed by many as Israel's Grand Canyon. The town of Mitspeh Ramon rings the northern edge of the machtesh and is an accommodating, friendly base from which to explore the geological treasures of the machtesh.



One of those treasures is a sandstone hill near the main trail in the machtesh, known as the nagariah, the carpentry shop. At the top of the hill are countless thousands of sharp-angled, rectangular prism formations of sandstone carved by sun and water. The rocks are so symmetrical and uniformly shaped, it is as if they were all manufactured in a carpentry shop. Hence the name.

The noise, pace, clogged-up roads and relentless clatter of the cities are only a memory in the sheer, total stillness of the "gaping grandeur" of the machtesh.

So uncommonly beautiful, so absolutely quiet, the desert exudes a contemplative power that is tangibly therapeutic and surprisingly comforting.

For anyone wishing to read about the many inspiring natural treasures of tiny Israel, one of the finest new books on the majesty of Israel's geography is *Discovering Natural Israel* by Michal Strutin, published last year by Jonathan David Publishers, New York.

Her sections on Ein Avdat and Machtesh Ramon are superb.

Strutin is an experienced, award-winning author whose easy, deft, accessible style of writing combines geography, history, Bible and legend in her descriptions of the nature lovers' hikes, two of which I was fortunate to take last month in the Negev.

Nearly 40 years ago in Sdeh Boker, Ben-Gurion wrote: "When I look out of my window today and see a tree standing there, that tree gives me a greater sense of beauty and personal delight than all the vast forests I have seen in Switzerland or Scandinavia. Because every tree here was planted by us. It was nursed to life by the water we brought to it at such cost and effort. Why does a mother love her children? Because they are of her creation. Why does the Jew have affinity for Israel? Because here again everything remains to be accomplished. It is his privilege and his place to share in this creative act. The trees at Sdeh Boker speak to me in a special way, in another language than any other trees anywhere. Not only because I helped to grow them, but because they constitute a gift of man to nature and a gift of the Jews to the cradle of their culture."

If ever the opportunity arises, I suggest you visit the Negev, to see and to feel the splendour that so stirred Ben-Gurion.

–MBD

SeeJN

PEACE NOW RALLY:

Thousands of Israelis gathered last weekend in Tel Aviv to visibly and vocally convey their opinions to the government for an immediate resumption in negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

[Israel Sun photo]

Herut leader says Israel should retake West Bank, Gaza

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel should re-occupy the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to ensure its security, says Israeli parliamentarian Michael Kleiner.

"I'm not talking about an agreed solution," said Kleiner, whose Herut party is identified with Israel's far right. "This is impossible. We have to impose this solution."

Kleiner, a member of the Knesset's security and foreign affairs committee, broke away from the Likud party after the 1998 Wye agreement, condemning its leader at the time, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for betraying Likud's Greater Israel principles.

Today, Kleiner sits in parliament as a one-man faction of the Herut party, also known as The National Jewish Movement.

Claiming the Palestinian problem can only be resolved if Israel seizes full control of the West Bank and Gaza, Kleiner said Israel should declare sovereignty over them.

The Palestinians should be allowed to administer their own affairs, provided they do not engage in anti-Israel incitement, he said.

Kleiner, who spoke to *The CJN* during a recent trip to Toronto, believes that if Israel retakes the West Bank and Gaza, it will be able to put a virtual stop to Palestinian suicide bombers.

In his view, Israel should arrest Yasser Arafat, the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, and place him on trial as a war criminal, "like Adolf Eichmann."

And, he added, Arafat's associates should be exiled.

"We need a new Palestinian leadership," Kleiner.

Calling his ideas realistic, Kleiner said the United States would accept reoccupation as a fait accompli if it is done quickly.

Bi-partisan support for letting Israel keep the West Bank and Gaza is strong in the U.S. Congress, said Kleiner, who was here to address the Toronto Zionist Council.

He characterized Operation Defensive Shield, which Israel officially wound up last month, as a short-term panacea.

He voiced regret that the massive incursion into the West Bank had increased Arafat's popularity.

Michael Kleiner

Belittling Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal to establish a buffer zone between Israel and the West Bank, Kleiner said it would not enhance Israel's security and would therefore be a waste of money.

Nor should Israel declare unilateral separation by withdrawing from portions of the West Bank and Gaza, he warned.

"It's a dangerous illusion, and will solve nothing. It will be like France's Maginot Line [in World War II] – an illusion."

Blasting Sharon for having come out in favour of a Palestinian state, Kleiner said the move backfired because it encouraged U.S. President George W. Bush to express official support for Palestinian statehood.

"If there will be a Palestinian state, there will be no Israel, sooner or later," he claimed.

A Palestinian state, however small, discontiguous and de-militarized, would be hostile to Israel, would expand its borders and would gain control of its air space, Kleiner said.

Such a state, he predicted, would eventually absorb Israel.

Israel would cease to exist as a sovereign, independent country, and Jews would be a minority in a greater Palestinian state.

"We can't take another risk by giving the Palestinians a state," he said.

Arafat, Kleiner said, breached the Oslo accords by resorting to violence, and he would do it again.

Kleiner disclosed he may yet reintroduce a bill, defeated recently, to annul the Knesset's 1993 approval of the Oslo process.

He accused Netanyahu, the premier from 1996 to 1999, of betraying Likud principles – first by relinquishing much of Hebron and, secondly, at the Wye summit, by agreeing to give up 13 per cent of the West Bank.

"He gave away land for nothing," said Kleiner, adding that Sharon is better able to withstand external pressures than Netanyahu.

Turning to a different topic, Kleiner charged that most Israeli Arabs are disloyal to Israel and suggested they are a fifth column.

Disloyal citizens should not be permitted to hold Israeli citizenship, nor should they participate in Israel's political life.

Loyal Israeli Arabs, on the other hand, should be given all rights of equal citizenship.

Kleiner, a lawyer, said the recent decision by an Israeli Knesset committee to strip Arab MK Azmi Bishara of his parliamentary immunity was, in fact, illegal because the anti-Israel speeches he is alleged to have made were delivered within a political context.

Bishara was charged with sedition after praising Hezbollah, which fought Israel in southern Lebanon. He is now on trial in Nazareth.

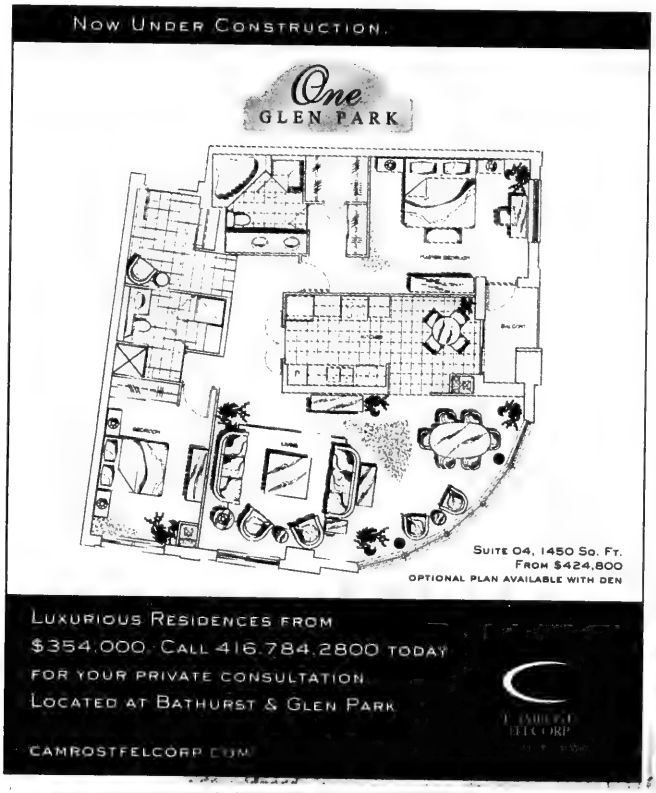
Kleiner, who believes Bishara is guilty of treason, said Israel would be better served if it bans his Balad party.

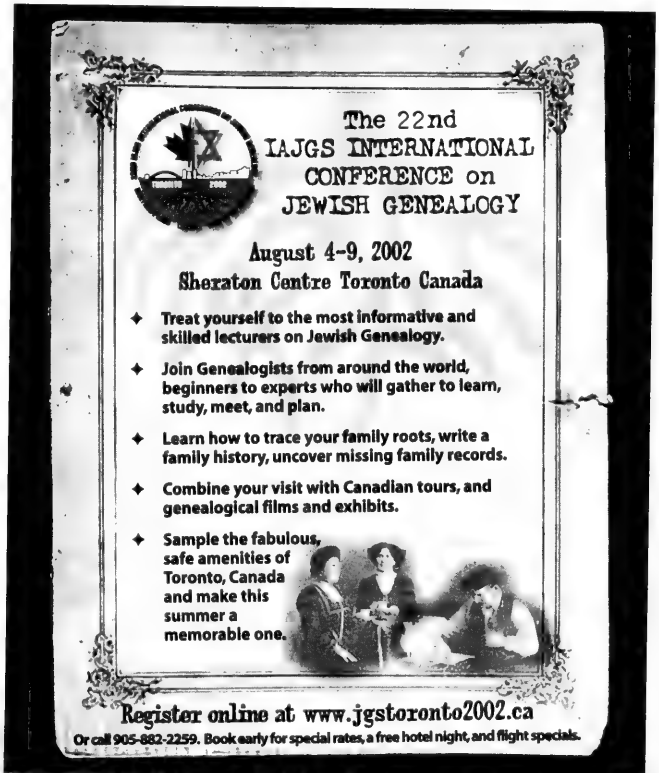
Nevertheless, if Bishara is found guilty, he should be put in front of a firing squad and shot, Kleiner said.

He said Bishara is not the sole Arab MK to have shown disloyalty toward Israel. He pointed out that Arab members of the Knesset reflect the views of their constituents.

"A big majority of Israeli Arabs support their MKs, and I'm not ready to help Israeli Arabs who are against Israel."

Before entering politics, he was director-general of the Jewish Agency's Department for Education in the Diaspora and chairman of the Amidar National Housing Company.

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Conservative sisterhoods take on advocacy role

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Strength in Unity – the theme of a recent Women's League for Conservative Judaism conference – refers to unity both within and beyond the organization, which is the umbrella for more than 700 Conservative and Masorti women's groups.

At the two-day conference, held recently at Adath Israel Congregation for members of the League's Canadian Seaway branch, delegates from sisterhoods of Conservative synagogues in Ontario were encouraged to pursue Jewish study personally, to strengthen their own sisterhoods and to advocate for Israel.

Speaker David Goldberg, director of research and education for the Canada-Israel Committee, proposed a "call to action" to the group of about 80 women, encouraging them to help Israel fight its "PR battle."

Karen Mock, executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, also encouraged advocacy, a message Lynne Lurie, a co-chair of the conference, said she would take back to her congregation, Shaar Shalom.

Part of the Women's League mandate is to reinforce bonds with Israel. "We must talk with our friends, our neighbours and even more importantly, with our governments," said Cory Schneider, Pennsylvania-based consultant for Canadian Seaway and chair of strategic planning for Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Schneider also encouraged delegates to pledge to study Torah. "As you educate yourselves, the future of Judaism will be secure," she said.

The Torah study initiative is part of a project involving the writing of a Torah that will be housed in the Women's League Synagogue at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. The Torah will be dedicated at the Women's League international conference in Philadelphia in November.

The goal of Women's League, which also offers extensive leadership training, is to "perpetuate traditional Judaism," Schneider told *The CJN*. "We're hoping to make women aware of how much they can benefit from their involvement, both as Jews and as leaders."

"One of our missions is to promote and develop future leaders," said Bertha Gold, who succeeded Rivy Blass as Canadian Seaway president at the conference.

"A lot of our younger women want to go on to serve their synagogue," said Gold. "We're trying to keep them [in Women's League] in some small way."

> ***'As you educate yourselves, the future of Judaism will be secure'***

Although Jewish women today don't need organizations like Women's League to give them access to power or a full social life, there is still a need to bond with other women with whom one has things in common, said Schneider in her keynote address. Today's generation of women is also "thirsty for a richer, deeper engagement with Jewish tradition," which the organization can provide, she added.

Within individual sisterhoods and in the umbrella organization, attracting younger members (under 45) is an issue being addressed by an initiative called Z'hava. There is also an online discussion group for women in their 20s who want to connect with other Conservative Jewish women but are not ready to join a sisterhood.

The purpose of Z'hava is to "help build sisterhood membership of younger Jewish women in our community, and to bring them into leadership positions," said Rochelle Grossman, Z'hava chair for Canadian Seaway branch.

Edda Laxer, 49, incoming president of Beth Tikvah Congregation's sisterhood, was one of the younger women at the conference, although she is not the youngest in her sisterhood. She agrees that attracting new members and getting new ideas are important, but added that one of the best things about her involvement is that she's formed close friendships with people her mother's age.

The stereotype of sisterhood being for older women is changing, Gold believes. "I don't think sisterhood is what it was 25 years ago." The educational and leadership resources available from the umbrella organization are "phenomenal," she said.

"Welcome every one of the women in your congregation," Schneider said in a closing speech. "Find out what their buttons are, their needs and interests."

It's harder for all organizations to get people involved, said Donna Kleiman, a conference co-chair and member of Congregation Or Shalom in London.

In her community, access to speakers and resources is also more difficult than it is in Toronto, she said.

But despite that challenge and the relatively small size of her congregation (300 families), her sisterhood is in a "good, healthy condition."

Kleiman, who was one of seven Londoners at the conference, returned home enthusiastic about the networking at the conference, the possibility of Mock speaking at her congregation and the Z'hava initiative.

"You can always improve your camaraderie or welcoming of new people. Sometimes you get into a little bit of a rut."

POSTWORD

Only a person whose moral compass has been overwhelmed by political bigotry would speak of civilians killed deliberately and civilians killed accidentally by commandos fighting terrorism as if their killer were equally evil. But the obvious difference is overlooked, deliberately it seems, by the pundits and political leaders who are now demanding that Israel withdraw from Ramallah, the rest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.....If the world desires peace in the Middle East, it should stand foursquare behind Israel and guarantee that Palestinian violence will not be rewarded. National Post Editorial
April 1, 2002

The Canadian Zionist Federation has just awarded its Jerusalem Prize to National Post for its balanced reporting on the Middle East.

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A week of puzzling Canadian policy

As of this writing, the final destinations of the 13 Palestinian thugs whom Israel wanted to arrest have not yet been determined. They walked out of the Church of the Nativity last week along with the rest of the hoodlum gang that overran the Christian holy site more than four weeks ago. The deal granting their release effectively marked the end of Operation Defensive Shield launched by the Israel Defence Forces against the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure after the Passover slaughters.

These suspected murderers and murderers' accomplices will find sanctuary in Europe. For a while, however, it seemed – incredibly so – that some were headed to Canada.

At a press conference last week in Madrid, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien strongly implied that Canada would receive some or all of them because, as he explained, "Canada is always willing to be helpful in that very tragic situation in the Middle East."

"Being helpful," especially in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is a laudable objective. But providing a home *in our midst* for men known to be terrorists cannot possibly fall within the meaning of "being helpful." Indeed, it would be a setback. Moreover, and perhaps most important of all, it would be a betrayal of the rights and freedoms embedded in the democratic core of our own way of life.

Keith Landy, the national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, last week summed up the feelings of disbelief and disapproval shared by most Canadians at the prime minister's apparent offer of safe haven for the suspected terrorists. "Canada is fighting a war on terror. Canada has declared Hamas a terrorist organization. It is totally inconsistent with this country's policy to turn around and accept these violent and dangerous men on our shores. These individuals are unrepentant and their presence in our country poses a threat to all Canadians."

It leads us to point out therefore, that Canada's offer of sanctuary as a way of "being helpful," was very puzzling, at the least.

Also puzzling was the abstention last week by Canada at the United Nations General Assembly on a vote that condemned Israel's actions in the West Bank. The positive sentiments toward Israel expressed by the Canadian government prior to the vote were no consolation to us and certainly of no lasting significance for the history of the occasion. Those sentiments will not prevent the record from becoming fatter with the lies, distortions and mistruths about Israel that in the Third World are now standard reading, all of which form the backdrop to their governments' anti-Israel policies in the Middle East.

It is undoubtedly true that Canada assists Israel in myriad important ways "behind the scenes." Indeed, Israeli spokespeople have often publicly attested to the fact. But an abstention on an unfair, anti-Israel vote relating to the violence of the conflict, held mere moments after the Rishon Lezion massacre, in which 15 Israelis were killed, is puzzling and disappointing to Canadians. It is also a great shame.

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Deafening message for Israel

Imagine the response if 800 Montrealers had been savagely assassinated and thousands injured over the last 18 months – ordinary citizens going about their daily lives in restaurants, in churches and at family celebrations, blown apart limb by limb? Proportionately, that is what has taken place in Israel over the past year and a half.

Chances are our reaction would be comparable to that of the Israeli government. We would expect our government to take whatever proportionate action was necessary to protect our friends and neighbours from terrorism. We would not be satisfied with temporary security but would seek permanent safety.

Yet, why is it that we don't afford Israel the same right? Why does it seem the world community has placed a lower value on the lives of Israelis than they have on terrorists? I'm not a Jew and I'm left wing, but I recognize an insidious double standard when it hits me in the face.

Sadly, in their hour of need, Israelis are receiving a deafening international message that their lives are expendable. If the world needs a sitting duck and your last name happens to end in -stein or -berg, step on down.

It would be easier to show greater respect for the Palestinian cause if its leaders showed the wisdom of Mahatma Ghandi or Martin Luther King, and its supporters were as prepared to place human shields around pizzerias in Haifa as they are around Yasser Arafat in Palestine. Instead they opt for turnstiles for terrorists.

If we allow suicide bombers to win in the Middle East, we will allow them to succeed on Wall Street or at synagogues in Saskatoon.

Israel's price to give peace a chance was twofold:

First, Yasser Arafat had to renounce terrorism in Arabic and ensure seven days of calm. Surely, for the millions of Palestinian refugees that is a price worth paying.

Second, for those who value human life, standing shoulder to shoulder with Israel against terrorism will always be a price worth paying.

Dermod Travis
Montreal

* * *

In praise of Srul Glick

As a proud Jew and Canadian, and a lover of classical music, I was deeply saddened by the passing of Srul Irving Glick. Canada has lost a true national treasure. In my opinion, Glick was the quintessential composer of Jewish music – he spoke to my Jewish soul and his melodies touched me more deeply than virtually any other composer's works ever have or ever could. Despite visiting Toronto on countless occasions over the years, I was only fortunate enough once – just within the past few years — to meet him briefly and watch him conduct the Beth Tikvah choir in a festival service. What beautiful music it was to my ears and soul!

As much as I can't help but be profoundly saddened at his passing and the realization of how much more he could have enhanced my life if he had lived to create additional wonderful compositions, I am nevertheless comforted by my appreciation for what he did compose, and I will always treasure the many CDs of his music that I possess, in particular one performed by the talented Canadian saxophonist Paul Brodie. May Mr. Glick's memory be for a blessing for all peace-loving Canadians and peace-loving peoples around the globe.

Fred Ball
Thunder Bay, Ont.

* * *

Buy Israeli products

At a time when Israel is increasingly being singled out for ostracism and penalization, the Jews of the Diaspora have to demonstrate their support in as many ways as possible.

There are rallies to attend, charities to support, and for those who can visit, our homeland awaits. However, with all the goodwill in the world, rallies do not put bread on the table of our brothers and sisters in Israel.

There is another means of support where we receive a tangible return for our money. We must purchase the products that are made in Israel whenever and wherever possible. The supermarket shelves are replete with various groceries imported from Israel, and even if they cost a few cents more, together we can send money to the people who need it most – the everyday person who has to provide food and shelter for his or her family.

Without our support of this kind, Israelis in manufacturing, agriculture, transportation in all its forms and the various service industries that support them – banking, insurance, accounting, etc. – will suffer at our hands by virtue of our collective apathy.

Neil R. Nathan
Toronto

* * *

Cowards are contemptible

It is often said that the worth and value of a society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members. Those sneaking cowards who, under cover of darkness, recently spray-painted graffiti at the Reena Battle Centre, frightening the developmentally disabled people Reena serves, are as contemptible as those they support, who advocate and foster suicide killings of innocent men, woman and children. They lack the courage to stand up and speak out in support of their point of view, but prefer to crawl out from under a rock and slither back again before they can be discovered.

Bert Raphael
Honorary Legal Counsel
Reena Foundation
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Hypocrisy and double standards

By MICHAEL POSNER

Suppose for a moment that a group of 200 Israeli soldiers took refuge from a company of Palestinian fighters in an ancient house of worship. A church, perhaps – otherwise occupied, let's say, by a few dozen Roman Catholic monks, friars and nuns. In other words, a simple reversal of the situation, occurring as I write, at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Would it be 30 minutes – or 30 seconds – before the Palestinians torched the entire building?

Michael Posner

Or suppose instead that the same Israeli soldiers took refuge in a hospital crowded with the sick and the elderly, much as a group of Palestinians did in Hebron last month. In that event, how long would it be before the righteous editorialists and instant pundits unleashed their venom at the Israelis? How long before envoys of the sanctimonious and duplicitous aid and relief organizations, the Red Cross, Human Rights Watch and all the others – not to mention the United Nations – began a bombardment of e-mails, press releases and sound bites accusing Israeli soldiers of using innocent civilians as human shields and other heinous violations of internationally recognized standards of warfare?

Of course, the gun is on the other shoulder, as it were. It is not Israelis but Palestinians who hold hostages in one of Christianity's holiest places. It is not Israelis but Palestinians who have taken their guns into geriatric and maternity wards. But about this the anguished columnists and "even-handed" editorial writers – not to mention the Christian clergy – are utterly silent. About this the human rights activists do not feel compelled to speak. They are busy people, after all, busy scurrying through Jenin trying to dredge up manufactured evidence of a massacre that never occurred.

The hypocrisy of it all is staggering. Last month, when it must have become clear even to virulent anti-Semites that nothing remotely like a massacre occurred in Jenin, that the original Israeli body count was largely accurate and that everything the Israeli government had initially asserted was in fact the case, the entire circus of Jenin had descended to the level of a Jackie Mason monologue.

"Well, it wasn't a massacre exactly, but it was like a massacre. Or maybe it wasn't a massacre, but it was certainly an atrocity. Okay, so it wasn't precisely an atrocity, but it was absolutely, definitely, undeniably, a disproportionate use of force. Disproportionate to what? Who knows? So maybe it wasn't disproportionate, maybe it was roughly proportionate, but I can tell you for sure it was illegal, unlawful, and illicit – they should not have done it. And they destroyed thousands of homes. Alright, it wasn't thousands of homes, it was dozens of homes, it was several homes, maybe a few homes, one or two homes – a tent, for sure. And how do I know all this? The Palestinians told me, so it must be true."

Late last month, still seeking to create a massacre that never happened, officials from the United National Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and other erstwhile humanitarian agencies were trying to pump up the body count by identifying missing people. They came up with a grand total of 22, most of them presumably in hiding. In one story, a UN expert said it would take two months to remove all the explosives and make Jenin safe for reconstruction. The story neglected to point out who planted the explosives.

Of course, if Israel had planted thousands of mines and booby traps in a heavily populated civilian neighbourhood, there would have been an emergency debate of the UN Security Council – soon to be chaired by Syria, of all nations – to condemn this gross violation of humanitarian principles, and various European statesmen – models of integrity, every one – would doubtless have shaken their heads (more in sorrow than anger, you understand) at what had happened to the once-laudable Israeli sense of morality.

All this might actually be funny if it weren't so tragic. Tragic because our moral universe is experiencing a dangerous pole reversal, in which the Palestinian leadership – a corrupt and venal gang of murderous thugs – and the people they purport to represent have somehow been transformed into desperate victims, while Israelis who attempt to defend themselves from these same killers are routinely depicted as racist and Nazi aggressors.

There are, of course, two fronts in the current war.

The critical one, on the ground, involves Israel's long-overdue response to the wave of Palestinian suicide bombings, a campaign of indiscriminate terror against civilian targets that would not be tolerated for a second by any other government in the world.

Even if you support the maximum territorial demands of the Palestinians, even if you inhabit the delusional realms of martyrdom preached by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, what is the appreciable difference – beyond the raw number of casualties – between a psychotic who crashes a hijacked airplane into the World Trade Center and one who detonates explosives packed with spikes and nails in a room filled with elderly Passover celebrants? Let us at least refer to both acts by their proper name: homicide – and on an epic scale.

The war's second front is in the media, where the battle for public opinion is being fiercely waged. In effect, that means western public opinion, because the state-controlled media in most Arab, and many Third World, countries are used principally to demonize the Jewish State through systematic, unrelenting propaganda.

In a recent piece, *The Nation* columnist Eric Alterman compiled a scorecard purporting to show that an overwhelming majority of U.S. pundits in print are pro-Israel. But his scorecard conveniently ignored dozens of Israel-based TV and print journalists, as well as the editorial boards of major newspapers. The copy and footage of both groups tends to lean no less decisively in favour of the Palestinians, and arguably has more influence on readers and viewers.

The tragic irony here is that the same reporters and editors who led the flag-waving campaign for U.S. President George Bush's war on terrorism are somehow unable to connect the dots to Ramallah and Jenin – to recognize that the goals of Yasser Arafat's Al Aqsa Brigades and Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorists are one and the same.

Michael Posner is a Toronto journalist.

By MICHAEL BROWN

It's open season on Jews, again! At least that's the way many Jews (and not a few non-Jews) are feeling these days. Some will put the perception down to Jewish touchiness, others to Jews' unwillingness to bear criticism, especially of Israel. But is it more than that? And how do we know whether statements are anti-Semitic or not? Svend Robinson's pronouncements, for instance, or those of church leaders, academics, UN officials, and media panjandrums denouncing Israel's recent military actions?

Michael Brown

Everyone agrees that burning or bombing a synagogue (such as in Djerba, Marseilles and elsewhere, not to mention suspicious fires in Toronto and Saskatoon, all in recent weeks), defiling a Jewish cemetery (as has occurred many places in Europe recently), or writing obscene graffiti on buildings and washrooms ("Kill Jews," "Israelis=Nazis," seen now in many public places in Toronto) is an anti-Semitic act. But is criticism of Israel anti-Semitic?

Robinson and those other guardians of Israel's morality have never, I am sure, torched a Jewish building nor written an obscene graffito. But what about their positions in recent months and weeks?

As someone who has researched and published a fair bit about anti-Semitism here in Canada and elsewhere, I have developed what I consider to be the foolproof litmus test of anti-Semitism. It is this: Having one standard for Jews and a different one for the rest of the world.

Since this is exam time at university, here are a few questions from my test.

Who could be so hard of heart as not to feel deeply the suffering of the Palestinians? I feel it, and so do most of my friends and family.

But the passion and vehemence of the critics are hard to understand when compared to the relative apathy regarding Chechens, Kurds, Tibetans, Pashtuns, Rwandans, Afghani and Saudi women, and the Zimbabwe opposition, to say nothing of Muslims and Hindus slaughtering each other on the Indian sub-continent in great numbers. Those groups, too, are confronted by hostile states or state-sponsored movements. But they excite little righteous indignation in the West.

Who could not agree with the politicians, clergy, and community leaders who urged us not to scapegoat Muslims or Arabs after Sept.11?

But where are those same leaders today? Where are the voices urging people (including Muslims) not to scapegoat all Jews because they are angry at Israel? And where were they in Durban, that UN-sponsored, anti-Semitic hatefest?

Who would not agree that children should not be killed by soldiers in the West Bank or Gaza or anywhere else?

But why do those same guardians of children's welfare not care about the murder of Israeli children in indiscriminate bombings of buses and restaurants? And why are those voices not denouncing the teaching of hate in Palestinian schools, which results in children taunting armed soldiers?

Who would not agree that losing one's home and becoming a refugee is a human catastrophe?

But how is it that those who insist on the Palestinians' right of return do not care about the more than 750,000 Jews who have fled Arab lands since 1945 and have mostly been resettled in Israel? And how is it that they do not claim the right of return for the millions of Muslims and Hindus in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh displaced since 1947? Or the Turks and Greeks in Cyprus since the Turkish invasion? Or the Germans chased out of Poland and the Poles chased out of Russia after World War II?

Who would not agree that war is evil, that destruction and the suffering of the innocent are inevitable "collateral damage?"

But why is it that only one country in the world has no right to defend itself, no right to exist, according to some?

So how do the critics of Israel score on my anti-Semitism test?

Most of them fail.

Robinson says Israel is a "terrorist state," but that we must understand the motivations of Palestinian bombers. Naomi Klein – you don't have to be gentile to be a party to anti-Semitism – writes in the *Globe and Mail* about "Sharon-style brutality" but sees Palestinian suicide murderers as merely "resisting an occupying force." The Nobel committee wants to revoke the Peace Prize awarded to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, one of the foremost Israeli advocates of concessions and compromise, but not that of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The media and the politicians urge immediate Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, but not immediate American (and Canadian) withdrawal from Afghanistan. Church people want the sanctity of the Church of the Nativity respected, but say nothing about the destruction of Jewish holy sites by Muslims or the murder of Jews at a Passover seder.

We hear a lot now about the power of "the Jewish lobby" or "the Israeli lobby," as if there were no Arab lobby or oil lobby. To those who know their history, the term "Jewish lobby" sounds like an updated version of that old libel invented by the czarist secret police: the fantasy of an international Jewish conspiracy.

And the new term is being used as the old one was: to cover up the real conspiracy. The old term was meant to deflect attention from czarist oppression, and later, from fascism and Nazism. The new term is meant to hide old fashioned prejudice and often serves as a smokescreen for Al Qaeda and its allies.

The conclusion is inevitable, and it saddens those of us who hoped that the blood of six million Jews crying out from the soil of Europe had opened the eyes of the world to the evils of anti-Semitism and other forms of blind hatred.

But Jews' lives are again worth less than those of others. The Jewish people are not yet accorded the same rights and respect as other nations. And that's why it's hard to believe Svend Robinson and others like him when they proclaim themselves free of anti-Semitism.

No one has a right to expect Jews in Israe or Canada or anywhere else to live up to ideals to which others are not held. Let Jews be judged by the same standards and abide by the same rules as other peoples, other religions, other nations. Anything else is anti-Semitism, no matter how it's couched, even if you don't scrawl graffiti on public buildings.

Michael Brown is professor of humanities and languages at York University and former director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies.

Suicide bombings?

As I write these lines, the topic of suicide bombings is still uppermost in many people's minds.

More than once in social conversation, I have heard comments about the "idealism" that people are said to exhibit when they are willing to sacrifice their lives in order to achieve what appears to them to be a larger purpose.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

But the term "suicide bombing" means more than sacrificing one's own life. It describes people who strap explosives to their bodies and then set them off among people they intend to kill, and, of course, they lose their own lives in the process.

In other words, the term "suicide bombing" is putting the emphasis on the wrong party. The objective is not to commit suicide, but to kill others, and dying in that attempt is an aspect of the execution, but not its ultimate goal. The primary objective, to repeat, is to kill others, and suffering death in the process may be an inevitable part of the plan.

Since that is the case, the emphasis on suicide in the term "suicide bombing" is clearly mistaken.

That being the case, I have pleaded before – and so far without any success – that the term "suicide bombing" reeks of idealism rather than of murderous intent. I therefore suggest that we should abandon this terminology, because it makes admirable idealists out of killers. Instead, we should call such acts "homicide bombings."

To me, suicide bombers are terrorists plain and simple. They commit deliberate and indiscriminate murder of innocent people – young, old, whole families, men, women and children – it makes no difference, as long as they kill.

But the "homicide bombers" are part of a larger problem: there cannot be, and there will not be, peace in the Middle East as long as Israel's enemies refuse to accept the legitimacy of the Jewish State. Nothing short of that will bring a cessation of violence. Israel is willing to acknowledge the legitimacy of others, but so far it has not been met with the kind of reciprocity that is necessary to create a livable future.

Some of my readers will think my portrayal of these issues is too simplistic, but sometimes the most complex matters in history are basically simple. In my opinion, the issue of "homicide bombers" and the root causes of the Mideast conflict fall into this category.

The death of a giant

The death last month of former Israeli Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen leaves a giant void in Israel's judicial community. Described by many as "Israel's conscience," Cohen brought civil rights into the mainstream of Israeli public debate. After a decade in the attorney general's post, Cohen sat on the Supreme Court for 20 years (from 1961 to 1981). There, he said repeatedly – and ruled accordingly – that society would be judged by its treatment of the weak and disadvantaged.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Cohen's legacy is particularly resonant today, when the limits of free speech and civil liberties are debated anew. At a recent meeting of Israel Television Channel 2's public council, philosopher Shlomo Ben-Yosef argued for limits on press freedom, due to the overriding value of the right to life. He argued that when the country is at war, even more limits are necessary.

No one would argue with Ben-Yosef in principle. Most democracies accept limits on certain freedoms while at war. But for Israel, the challenge is both different and greater. It has been formally at war for 54 years, and its emergency regulations, which grant the police and military broad powers, are renewed annually by the Knesset. For Israel, then, the challenge to its democracy and its commitment to individual rights is pervasive and constant. At issue is the threshold of tolerance for limits on civil rights.

In recent weeks, the debate has come to a head over statements by several Israeli human rights organizations, which have criticized some of the Israel Defence Forces' actions in the West Bank. This new "chilling effect" on free speech is far more prevalent than in the past. It stems from the personal vulnerability of Israelis in the aftermath of the horrific wave of terrorist attacks over Passover. While it may be of concern, this trend is not surprising. Israeli polls have always shown a link between people's willingness to suspend civil liberties and the extent of their concern for personal security.

The debate is even more complicated when it comes to Israel's Arab citizens. They are more than an ethnic and religious minority. For many, they are perceived as the enemy. Although the vast majority of Israel's 900;000 Arabs have remained loyal in practice to the state, they all support the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza, and they question Israel's brand of ethnodemocracy, in which preferential treatment is granted to the majority. And while Israeli Jews are generally highly supportive of equal rights for citizens in a democracy, more than 60 per cent of them believe Israeli Arabs do not deserve equal treatment.

Israel's liberal elements have always argued that Israeli Arabs are citizens, above all, and that equality of resources and opportunity should be the goal. Ironically, for the first time ever, in his recent report, the Israeli State Comptroller criticized the inequality in allocation of resources to Arab municipalities. As attitudes towards Arabs are hardening in Israel, the comptroller called for improvements to the dire conditions of roads, sewage systems and other infrastructure needs.

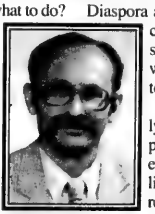
Prof. Ruth Gavison, one of Israel's leading legal scholars, wrote recently: "A nation that is itself a citizens' army cannot afford to stifle criticism and dissent. If it wants to be ultimately victorious in its existential battles, it must be prepared to deal head-on with criticism of its actions. It is true that many of our critics are enemies who simply want to undermine us. It is also true that much of the criticism is hypocritical. But we shall be making a huge mistake if we completely absolve ourselves, as a result, of a critical analysis of policy and its implementation in the field. And if we label all our critics anti-Semitic, we shall be making an even greater mistake. This would simply increase our enemies' hostility and create suspicion and resentment among our supporters."

Justice Cohen would likely have agreed. It isn't easy to deal with the consequences of being an open democracy, especially in a hostile region and world. Israel has been remarkably successful in maintaining both its openness and a vigorous debate on human rights. In the final analysis, if forced to choose between a society with active, dissenting human rights organizations, and one without them, I choose the former.

Defending Israel to non-Jewish friends

Many Diaspora Jews may wish to help Israel, in the face of perceived unfair media coverage, international hypocrisy, and a rising tide of anti-Semitism often commingled with anti-Zionism. But what to do?

Trips to Israel can certainly buoy the morale of Israelis in the face of the collapse of tourism and the cancellation of tours. Charitable contributions are also important, given that the Israeli economy has been suffering from both a general recession and the renewed intifadah.



Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

But most important, Diaspora Jews must use their contacts with the non-Jewish world to promote a case for Israel. In fact, there is no single case for Israel: there still remains a spectrum within the Zionist and pro-Israel Jewish world that stretches from right to left.

Those Canadian Jews who see themselves as liberals or progressives can make an appropriate case for Israel, directed to their non-Jewish friends and associates with similar orientations. Those who see themselves as hard-nosed conservatives can defend Israel to their like-minded colleagues. There are enough powerful arguments to sustain all positions.

The hard part is for Jews to feel enough confidence to risk potential discomfort by letting their non-Jewish friends, business associates and neighbours know exactly how they feel, and why. It is hard enough to do this in face-to-face contacts. Perhaps one way to start is through the Internet.

Over the past months and years the Internet has helped to create a robust "virtual" Jewish community. Concerned Jews, in the Diaspora and Israel, are in a worldwide caucus, distributing and exchanging the same articles, editorials, petitions, which seem, in one way or another, to help make Israel's case.

This is important, but it ultimately does little to enhance the Israeli position. These e-mails are forwarded to all the addresses on the various lists, to the point that Jews often receive the same article from many sources. A good example is the recent "J'accuse-like" polemic from Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci, the progressive journalist known for sympathies with the Palestinians. Fallaci attacked the left-wing European intelligentsia, media, governments, society and churches for their unfair targeting of Israel and for the rise of anti-Semitism.

The problem is that most of the address lists used for these Middle East e-mail relays are full of Jewish names. So Jews send e-mails to each other, making themselves feel good. But they are preaching to the converted.

What would be more effective is for Jews to mount, at the individual and private level, their own campaigns aimed at their non-Jewish friends, work colleagues, and neighbours. This would mean adding select non-Jews to e-mail address lists. This could be done slowly at first, by including mainly those who would be more interested or receptive. Try e-mail at first, and then a conversation over lunch, coffee or a beer.

But this is hard to do. It is far easier to attend a Jewish rally in defence of Israel than to bring up the Middle East over lunch at work. Regardless of how the issue arises, many Jews will feel uncomfortable if they are too up front, too honest in articulating their concerns or criticizing, say, the CBC, the UN or the Canadian government. Most Jews do not want to appear too narrowly focused on Jewish self-interest or the welfare of Israel. They do not want to risk antagonizing friends and co-workers with special pleading, or appearing to dwell excessively on the issue. Diaspora Jews want to fit in.

On most days, on most matters, Canadian Jews are indeed like everyone else and can fit in well in every domain of Canadian life. But when it comes to Israel, there is a difference.

The American sociologist Marshall Sklare used to claim that insecure Jews in the 1950s played an "ambassadorial" role in their social relations with non-Jews. They considered themselves to be ambassadors of the Jewish people and, therefore, could never be honest or open in their social interactions.

For most matters, that insecurity is now gone or diminished. But not regarding Israel. Diaspora Jews are ambassadors for Israel and should not shrink from the role if they wish to help the Jewish State.

The Kirshner File

Israeli Arab MKs increasingly outspoken

In a landmark decision that generated surprisingly little attention in the Israeli press, the Knesset's law committee recently gave second and third readings to legislation that would ban political parties and candidates from running for office if they are deemed disloyal to Israel. Under the proposed bill, which the Knesset has yet to pass, disloyalty would be defined as an expression of support for an armed struggle aimed at Israel, incitement to racism or denial of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

MK Yisrael Katz (Likud), one of its sponsors, admits that the bill is largely designed to rein in outspoken Arab members of the Knesset, chief among them being Azmi Bishara. Israel has accused them of sedition and/or incitement, Public Security Minister Uzi Landau has denounced them as "agents" of the Palestinian Authority and Herut party parliamentarian Michael Kleiner has branded them as "criminal MKs."

Bishara, one of 13 Arab MKs, was indicted last November for praising Hezbollah and thus encouraging acts of violence against Israel, and of illegally organizing trips to Syria for Israeli Arabs. On Feb. 27, his parliamentary immunity having been removed, Bishara went on trial in Nazareth, his home town, before a panel of three judges. Bishara's trial, which may last as long as a year, could lead to a maximum sentence of three years.

The main charges against Bishara – a Christian Arab who contested the 1999 prime ministerial election until he was persuaded to drop out to help Labour party challenger Ehud Barak defeat Likud incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu – stem from two inflammatory speeches he delivered last year.

Shortly after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon, he talked about the intifadah, telling a gathering in the Israeli Arab town of Umm al-Fahm: "Lebanon, the weakest of the Arab countries, has presented a tiny model from which... we can draw the conclusions necessary for success and victory." Then, in a reference to the Six Day War, he added: " Hezbollah has won, and for the first time since 1967, we have known the taste of victory."

A month later, at a memorial meeting held in Syria to mark the first anniversary of the death of Hafez Assad, the former Syrian president, Bishara referred to the "heroic resistance" mounted by Hezbollah, and called on Arab leaders to back the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Bishara, who vehemently attacked Israel's Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank, is not the only Arab MK in hot water with the authorities. In the past year, four of his Arab colleagues – Ahmed Tibi, Taleb a-Sanaa, Mohammed Barakeh and Abdel-Malik Dehamshe – have been accused of incitement and sedition by Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein.

Tibi, who has served as Yasser Arafat's advisor on Israeli affairs, visited the Palestinian Authority chairman when he was besieged by Israel at his headquarters in Ramallah, and then is said to have joined Arafat in chanting: "A million martyrs are marching to Jerusalem." The reference, of course, was to suicide bombers, whom Palestinians generally hail as "martyrs." An urbane medical doctor who often appears on Israeli TV, Tibi has excoriated Gen. Shaul Mofaz, the Israeli chief of staff, as a "murderer," equated the Sept. 11 destruction of the World Trade Center with Israel's occupation and denounced Israel's "policies of aggression" against the Palestinians and their leaders.

Sanaa voiced support for a Palestinian shooting attack outside the Ministry of Defence in Tel Aviv in the spring of 2001 during which several passersby were injured. In an interview with Abu Dhabi television rebroadcast on Israel TV, he reportedly described the assault – the first of its kind during the current intifadah – as "an act of special quality," since it was supposedly directed against soldiers rather than civilians.

Ahmed Tibi

Barakeh, having labelled Israel's targeted killing of Mustafa Zibri – the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – a "criminal act," called on Israel to "abandon warfare" and return immediately to negotiations with the Palestinians.

Dehamshe sent a letter of condolence to President Bashir Assad of Syria following the deaths of three Syrian soldiers in an Israeli air raid on a Syrian radar station in Lebanon last summer. Israel bombed the site after an Israeli soldier was killed by Hezbollah in a disputed area of the Golan Heights known as Shabaa Farms. Dehamshe said he regretted Israel's "abominable attack" and urged "Arab unification to bring an end to Israel's radical actions."

In self-defence, Arab MKs argue that they are being persecuted and that the principles of free speech are being flouted by Israel. As duly elected parliamentarians, they say, they have a right to express themselves freely.

Bishara, an academic who entered politics six years ago, maintains that his trial and tribulations are intended to have a chilling effect on Israel's one-million-strong Arab minority, many of whom are the descendants of Palestinians who remained in their villages and towns during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

It is indeed true that his trial has heightened the feeling among Israeli Arabs, comprising about 20 per cent of Israel's population, that they are victims of official discrimination in terms of government services in budgetary allocations and education grants.

Azmi Bishara

Claiming they are second-class citizens, Israeli Arabs complain that their communities suffer from unacceptably high levels of poverty and unemployment, that government employment opportunities for Arabs are scarce and that much of their land has been confiscated. (The furor surrounding the Arab villages of Ikrit and Biram, whose residents have not been allowed to return to their homes despite a Supreme Court ruling in their favour, is symptomatic of the unresolved land issue.)

By all accounts, the situation is particularly bleak among Bedouins. Sixty per cent live below the poverty line, about half of all their households depend on welfare and at least 30 per cent of their men are out of work. Topping these grim statistics is the baleful fact that the Bedouin infant mortality rate is three times that of Jews.

Elie Rekhess, a Tel Aviv University scholar who studies Israeli Arabs, wrote recently that "the socio-economic crisis in the Arab sector is worsening," while the government's "neglect" of Arab communities continues. Successive prime ministers, from David Ben-Gurion to Barak, have promised to improve their status. There have been improvements, but they have generally fallen short of Arab hopes and expectations.

In short, Israeli Arabs have been alienated and radicalized. As Rekhess put it: "There is a marked radicalization within the Israeli Arab community and this is not just on the part of the leadership, but also on the grassroots level."

The unprecedented riots in the Arab sector in October 2000, during which 13 Arabs were killed, still resonate bitterly, contributing to the belief that the police officers who fired on the demonstrations were trigger-happy. The Or Commission, which is investigating these allegations, has received telling information that the police, lacking non-lethal means to disperse the protesters, used live ammunition instead.

The rioting was undoubtedly touched off by Israeli Arab sympathy for the intifadah, but the simmering anger over their status in Israeli society was an important contributing factor as well.

Yet, since the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, only a handful of Israeli Arabs have been imprisoned for committing terrorism or treason, and only one Israeli Arab has been a suicide bomber.

Although the silent majority of Israeli Arabs probably seek the path of greater integration into Israel's mainstream, a significant number want Israel to be a secular state, or as Bishara and other Arab MKs have demanded, a "state for all its citizens" in which its Zionist symbols – notably the national flag and anthem – would be abolished.

Israel, he claims, cannot be a Jewish state and a democracy – a view staunchly rejected by most Israeli Jewish liberals, who call for equal rights for Jews and Arabs.

Apart from the problem posed by outspoken Arab MKs, Israel faces the spectre of the increasingly popular and confident Islamic Movement. Shaker Hubeishi, the Israeli suicide bomber who blew up three civilians in Nahariya last September, was a member or sympathizer. Ra'ad Salah, the leader of its more radical northern branch, was recently quoted as saying that Israel must return six per cent of its territory to the original Arab owners. Three months ago, Israel banned him from leaving the country, signalling a tougher approach to the Islamic Movement.

It's clear that a troubling proportion of Arab citizens are disaffected with their place in Israeli society. Israel's challenge is to address their grievances without compromising its fundamental Jewish character.

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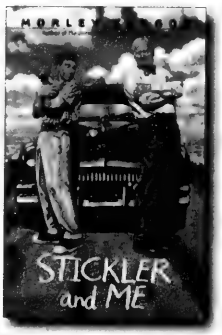

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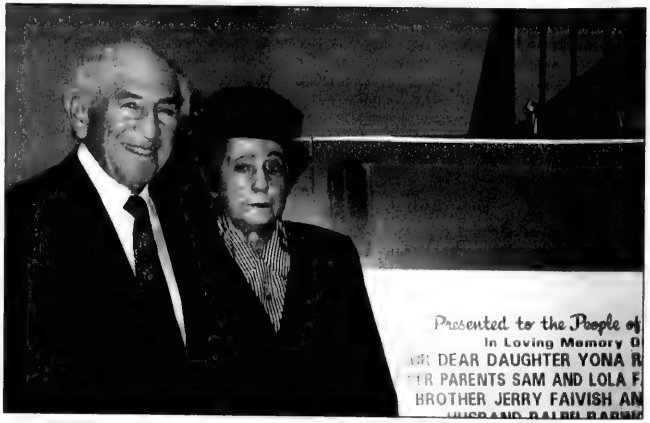
Greater Toronto Area



Sam and Lola Faivish donated an ambulance to MDA.

Ambulance dedicated in daughter's memory

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Sam and Lola Faivish, longtime members of Beth Jacob Synagogue, have dedicated an ambulance to Magen David Adom in memory of their daughter Yona Rabinowicz.

Rabinowicz, wife of Ralph, and mother of Jesse, Danelle, Joanna and Kari, died four years ago at age 48 after an illness.

Sam Faivish, a Holocaust survivor who is the "permanent" State of Israel Bonds chair at the synagogue, said they donated the ambulance on behalf of the Rabinowicz family, as well as the Faivishes' son Jerry, his wife and four children.

Their ambulance, a mobile intensive care unit which functions as a hospital on wheels, contains standard and high-tech equipment, and oxygen and medical supplies. The cost is $106,000.

At a recent ambulance dedication held at Beth Jacob Synagogue, Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and an honorary director of Canadian Magen David Adom (MDA) for Israel, said he has known the Faivish family for many years, and the ambulance will stand as a testament to their daughter.

"They are demonstrating what we all must do as Jews, especially now. The Jewish community is calling on all of us to do what we can to ensure the longevity of Israel.

"The MDA is the only board on which I sit, so it is doubly important for me to bring honour to the Faivish family for leading the way," he said.

Meir Romem, Israel's Consul General in Toronto, said he does not know of any organization that does more important work than MDA. "Israel today is living under special circumstances. It is wonderful that people here are helping."

Citing MDA statistics, Alan Spector, a past president of Canadian MDA, said that between Sept. 29, 2000 and May 1, 2002, MDA took care of 3,695 casualties in Israel.

"Of them, 397 were killed, 313 severely injured, 434 moderately injured, and 2,551 lightly injured, among them 11 MDA crew members."

He said MDA has had 77 vehicles damaged, one blood machine and one ambulance stolen, five ambulances broken into, and two armoured ambulances hit by bullets.

Faivish said that "these are tragic events and it makes me happy that we can help people in the name of our daughter. She would be very proud."

A CHEQUE OF LIFE:
Eli Goldberg, president of Don Mills Lodge, B'nai Brith Canada, presents a cheque for $2,000 to Canadian Magen David Adom vice-president Gerald Berley. The money will be used for the purchase of medical equipment.

Teen fund-raising whiz nets thousands for cancer

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Little kids barely four feet tall line up at lunch to buy raffle tickets for Phil Birnbaum's cash-for-cancer lottery.

To witness this scene is to witness the power of one person to make a difference in the world.

By the end of his fourth annual draw on May 15, Phil will have raised a total of more than $10,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS).

This is no small feat for someone who started fund-raising at the age of 10, two years after his father died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

In those two years, Phil came up with a way to remember his father, Perry, and thank the CCS for the all the help it provided while Phil's dad was sick.

Former Ontario premier Mike Harris with Phil Birnbaum.

"At first I thought of holding a bake sale," says Phil, now 14 and sitting behind a table topped with prizes during his lunch hour at Pleasantville Public School, an elementary and middle school, where he and a number of his friends can be found every day from April to mid-May selling raffle tickets to students.

"But people get tired of bake sales, and they'll get fat," he says.

"With a raffle it's a win-win situation. I want everyone to win."

Indeed, Phil is determined to ensure that everyone – from families touched by cancer to students too young to know what the disease entails – wins something.

There's the Big Draw, which was scheduled for May 15 and was open to the public. Prizes included gift certificates to a spa and a weekend getaway hotel package.

For every $10 spent on raffle tickets, a second entry went into a bonus draw for a leather baseball jacket.

In addition, there is a weekly draw available only to Pleasantville students. A few weeks ago, the prize was a house made of chocolate.

And there's more for the students.

"Students who spend $2 get a key chain. Those who spend $10 get a free CD from Sony," explains Phil.

"I try to give them an incentive to buy tickets. Not only do they help a good cause, but they get fantastic prizes."

Phil works hard each year to get the prizes, which are donated by a range of sponsors, including the Toronto Maple Leafs, Famous Players movie theatres and the CN Tower.

In November, he and his friends write a letter, explaining the raffle and asking for help.

"I ride on my bike each weekend and go to local businesses to receive prizes. Hopefully it's not too cold. I fax or e-mail the bigger companies, depending on what they prefer. Two weeks later I call them up and ask if they're able to help," says Phil, who appeared on Canadian Living television at age 12 as a fund-raising expert.

Then the prizes begin to roll in.

"One day I was in class writing a math test when this package came in from the Maple Leafs. I opened it up and inside was a jersey autographed by Tie Domi with a sticker of authenticity," he says, his voice rising and his eyes widening with excitement.

Some prizes are so good that Phil wants to win them for himself, but he says it wouldn't be right.

"If I were to enter and win, it would be stingy because people would think it was rigged. One time my mom won the deluxe weekend getaway, but she gave it back."

Even after all the draws are over and the prizes won, Phil's job isn't done. He writes thank-you cards to all the companies and people who donated prizes to his cause.

Phil has won a number of honours for his hard work and dedication. In 2000, he won the Judy Stein Junior Volunteer of the Year Award, established by Beit Rayim Synagogue, and he was named the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association. In 2001, he earned the Town of Richmond Hill Achievement Award for volunteerism and dedication to the community, becoming the youngest-ever recipient of the award.

Recently, he was asked to make a 40-minute speech for the Canadian National Synagogue Youth on "the power of one." It was his first major speaking appearance.

"There's no way I could talk for 40 minutes, so I'm going to talk for 15 to 20 minutes about what one person can achieve," he says.

"All it takes is one idea and that could change everything."

The words begin to flow faster.

"Put the idea on paper, show it to someone and it can expand. You just have to put your mind to it."

This year he will be graduating from Pleasantville and moving on to high school. His younger sister, Deborah, who often helps out at lunch, will take over in his place.

In his graduating yearbook, he's going to be named 'Person most likely to find a cure for cancer,' but Phil says that's not going to happen.

"I won't be a doctor because I can't stand the sight of blood, but I love fund-raising."

His goal is to raise $1 million for the CCS, perhaps by holding charity golf tournaments, but as a career, he's still undecided as to what he wants to do.

"My first job is to graduate from Grade 8 and then I'll decide from there."

For more information or to donate prizes for next year's raffle, visit Phil's Web site at www.geocities.com/philsraffle.

Ha'aretz is now part of *The CJN* Internet

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Greater Toronto Area

Council brings youth together

By SHIRA ZELIGER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — A mosaic of left-wing and right-wing, secular and religious, male and female teenage Jews listen attentively to two representatives from the Labour Zionist youth movement Habonim Dror as they speak about the ideals and history of their organization.

Some nod their heads in approval, while others congregate after the meeting to discuss the differences between Habonim Dror and other youth organizations.

This scene one winter Sunday at the local headquarters of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, a youth group under Orthodox auspices, was part of the Toronto Jewish Youth Council's (TJYC) "Bus Tour."

For four hours, representatives of eight youth movements in the Greater Toronto Area travelled to headquarters around the city to familiarize themselves with the diversity of Jewish youth groups in Toronto.

"The bus tour was a fantastic opportunity for the current leaders of Toronto's Jewish youth organizations – and future leaders of our community – to educate themselves about the history, ideology and structure of the various groups," said Michael Ferman, the president of the Eastern Canadian region of United Synagogue Youth, the youth arm of the Conservative movement.

Members of the council (which began with the youth movements and now includes representatives from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto – CHAT) felt it was necessary to hold the tour prior to implementing TJYC programming, in order to make each representative sensitive to the others they would be working with.

The TJYC, formed in October 2001, operates under the auspices of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The constituent organizations are B'nai Brith Youth Organization, Bnei Akiva, Habonim Dror, Hashomer Hatzair, NSCY, North American Federation of Temple Youth, United Synagogue Youth (USY), Canadian Young Judaea and CHAT.

Since October, two representatives from each organization, along with second-year York University student Daniel Held, the council's facilitator, have gathered monthly to discuss pluralistic Jewish programming and to become better acquainted with each other's organizations.

Staff members of the respective organizations also meet regularly to facilitate the joint programming.

"I wasn't aware of all of the impressive youth activities from across the spectrum until I became involved with the youth council," said Noam Lockshin, an OAC student at Yeshivat Or Chaim and a Bnei Akiva representative on TJYC.

"Because of the diversity of the representation, it won't be easy to reach any political or religious consensus, but we can successfully co-operate on tikkun olam issues," he added.

On March 24, the TJYC and members of its constituent organizations gathered in support for Israel at Mel Lastman Square for the community Stand With Israel rally, with a youth kick-off 45 minutes before the main event.

"The ruach and energy emanating from Toronto's Jewish youth was absolutely incredible," said Sara Davidovits, an OAC student at Ulpanat Orot High School and a council representative from Bnei Akiva.

The TJYC has organized other recent initiatives.

On April 17, each TJYC-affiliated movement created a poster board featuring a famous Zionist leader in Jewish history, and the posters were displayed at IsraelFest 2002 in Toronto. As well, one representative from each TJYC member organization was selected to participate in the community Yom Hazikaron ceremony April 15 at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation.

TJYC facilitator Held said the council's activities are important in the current climate.

"As the Jewish world battles the rise of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiment, unity among the Jewish community is vital. The Toronto Jewish Youth Council is setting an example for the Jewish community at large by paving the way for the Jewish leaders of tomorrow to become active today," Held said.

"By combining the resources of all the representing organizations on the council, the possibilities of what we can achieve are endless," said Erez Sussman, a TJYC representative from Hashomer Hatzair and a Grade 12 student at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute.

For more information on the Toronto Jewish Youth Council, contact Held at daniel_held@edu.yorku.ca

Shira Zeliger is a Grade 12 student at CHAT and serves as a USY representative on the TJYC.

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Jewish Life

The soft break

By RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC

Rabbinic Reflections

There are three acts in the drama of history. Creation, the Revelation at Sinai, and the ultimate utopian Redemption. On the holiday of Shavuot, we rendezvous with the Creator to recharge our connection to the gift of Torah we received seven weeks after being liberated from Egypt 3314 years ago. It is noteworthy that in both Creation and Revelation, God is described as "speaking."

The etymological roots of "Torah" denote both instruction/teaching and shooting (a bow and arrow or rifle in modern Hebrew). The Torah doesn't simply convey ideas, but strives to generate their actualization. Torah's goal is not only to inform, but to transform.

Much of our communication is also designed to influence. And like God, we also find an audience that is often resistant to the direction of our communication. People have a tendency to see themselves as being basically OK, which creates a state of inertia to confront forces seeking change. Our challenge is how to pierce the defensive armour that we all too often encounter.

I witnessed something remarkable at a karate exhibition many years ago that shed some light on this issue for me. The demonstration commenced with the destruction of a cinderblock – shattered by a tremendously forceful blow. This was impressive, but we had all seen it done before, and if something is hit with enough force, it's bound to break. Later, the karate expert took a large rock, and, to the astonishment of everyone present, demolished it with the slightest tap of his fingertips!

The power of the "soft break" can be seen in how the Torah was transmitted to us at Mount Sinai.

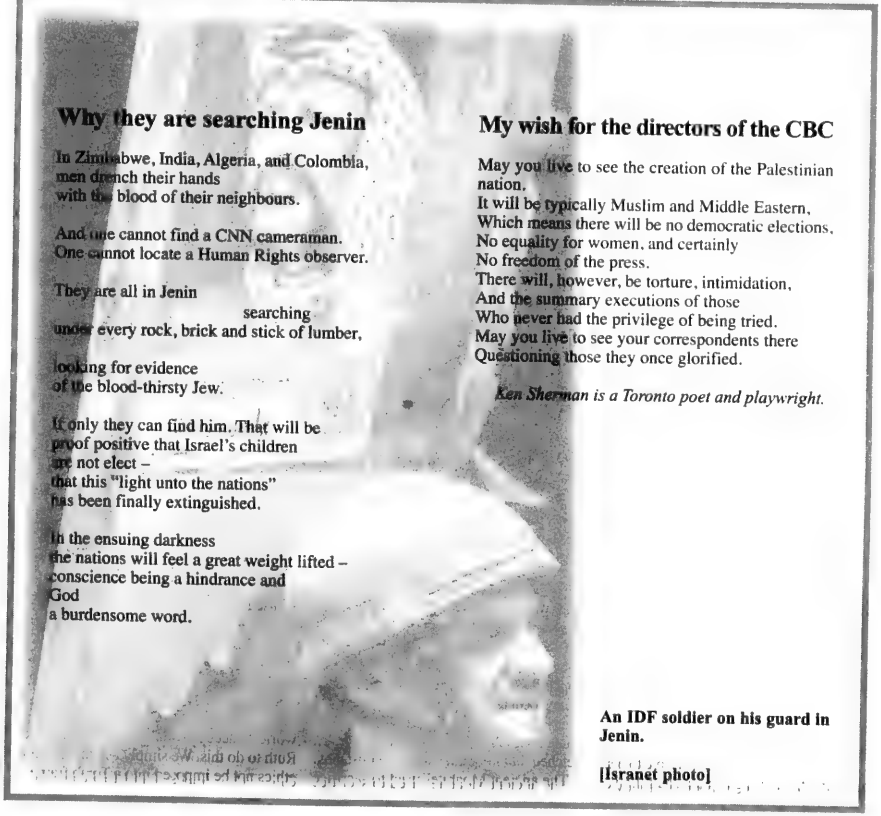
The Bible relates that the revelation of the Ten Commandments was a cataclysmic event – replete with thunder, lightning and smoking mountain. However, the impression created by this hard sell was rather short-lived. The Jewish people soon afterward were dancing at the feet of the Golden Calf. Upon seeing this, Moses smashed the two tablets containing the Decalogue, and ascended the mountain to pray for the forgiveness of the Jews. The Midrash Tanchuma tells us that the second tablets were given quietly, without all the fanfare. It was only this second revelation that had the power to create a lasting impression on our national consciousness.

Even if we have the truth in our hand, it rarely does any good to crack someone over the head with it. What is often resisted is not the content of our message, but its form.

The parable is often an effective means of communication because it is indirect and doesn't provoke a defensive posture. The prophet Nathan was able to bring King David to an "aha!" awakening in a very sensitive situation by employing this approach (2 Samuel 12:1-9).

Similarly, the Torah employs symbols such as the lowly hyssop plant to counter arrogance. The Sefat Emet explains that a frontal directive to be humble will only lead to an affected and superficial humility. Personal growth can't be instructed, it must come from within. Effective communication provides a stimulus for introspection; it doesn't overwhelm the listener with the force of its presentation. By giving breathing space to the listener, seeds of awareness can be planted that may lead to change. Our efforts to influence will be greatly enhanced if we remember what Elijah the Prophet experienced: the Lord was not to be heard in the wind, or the earthquake or the fire, but in the still small voice (I Kings 19:11-12).

Rabbi Skobac is the director of education and counselling with Jews for Judaism.



Why they are searching Jenin

In Zimbabwe, India, Algeria, and Colombia,
men drench their hands
with the blood of their neighbours.

And one cannot find a CNN cameraman.
One cannot locate a Human Rights observer.

They are all in Jenin
searching
under every rock, brick and stick of lumber,

looking for evidence
of the blood-thirsty Jew.

If only they can find him. That will be
proof positive that Israel's children
are not elect –
that this "light unto the nations"
has been finally extinguished.

In the ensuing darkness
the nations will feel a great weight lifted –
conscience being a hindrance and
God
a burdensome word.

My wish for the directors of the CBC

May you live to see the creation of the Palestinian nation.
It will be typically Muslim and Middle Eastern,
Which means there will be no democratic elections.
No equality for women, and certainly
No freedom of the press.
There will, however, be torture, intimidation,
And the summary executions of those
Who never had the privilege of being tried.
May you live to see your correspondents there
Questioning those they once glorified.

Ken Sherman is a Toronto poet and playwright.

An IDF soldier on his guard in Jenin.

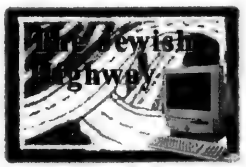
[Isranet photo]

Jewish Life

Megillat Ruth and the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (*Ruth* 1:16)



Those beautiful words will be recited on Shavuot this Saturday morning as we remember the story of Naomi and the loyalty and love shown to her by her Moabite daughter-in-law, Ruth. The story tells how Ruth refuses to abandon her mother-in-law and how she eventually meets and marries Boaz. *Megillat Ruth* has inspired both classical and modern commentators, artists and poets. Today, insights into the story of Ruth from the World Wide Web.

There are many reasons why we read *Megillat Ruth* on Shavuot. Shavuot is known as the harvest festival of the first fruits. The crucial events in the story of Ruth occur during the harvest season **[http://www.torah.org/advanced/mikra/5757/bm/Ruth1. html]**. Just as the Jewish people received the Torah and commandments on Shavuot, Ruth as a convert to Judaism received the mitzvot on a personal basis **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ special/shavuos/]**. Tradition tells us that King David was born and died on Shavuot. The story of Ruth concludes by revealing that King David is Ruth's great-grandson **[http://www.aish.com/holidays/shavuot/]**.

You can read the entire *Book of Ruth* online in English, and if you have Hebrew fonts installed, in Hebrew **[http://www.breslov.com/bible/Ruth .htm]**. If you can't wait to hear *Ruth* sung in shul, listen to it recited by Cantor Pinchas Rabinovicz at **[http://www.613.org/shavuot.html]**.

There are several Web sites that challenge us to look at the story of Ruth and find lessons to live by. Here's something to think about from The Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Table Talk site: "Whether someone is born Jewish or converts, each of us chooses how we observe Judaism. What choices have you made about Judaism? What has influenced those choices?" **[http://uahc.org/shabbat/stt/shavuot.html]** The Shalom Center points out that when Naomi and Ruth returned to Israel in poverty, they were able to survive, since Jewish law required landowners like Boaz to provide them with grain. The site then asks what "If Ruth the Moabite Came to America Today?" "Imagine Boaz as the Jewish people in America today: well-off, comfortable, suddenly challenged by the poor and outcast. In this allegory… what should we be doing?" **[http://www.shalomctr.org/html/seas05.html]**

Aside from traditional rabbinical commentaries, the story of Ruth has inspired artists and poets for centuries. You can read Marge Piercy's poem *Ruth and Naomi* at Jewish Heritage Online Magazine **[http://www.jhom.com/calendar/sivan/poem.htm]**. One of the loveliest sites I've come across in quite a while is Women's Early Art created by Sarah Whitworth. In her section on *Megillat Ruth*, Whitworth illustrates the story with beautiful paintings by Rembrandt, William Blake, Chagall, Arthur Szyk and many others. A gorgeous site **[http://www.womensearlyart.net/ruth/]**.

Finally, insight into Ruth's remarkable personality, from the Virtual Jerusalem: **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/shavuot/ruth.htm]** "Among Biblical figures, Ruth, the Moabitess, is unique in that there is no criticism of her in Jewish sources. Although others were as great or greater than Ruth, their shortcomings are highlighted by the sages. Ruth, however – the epitome of modesty, idealism, and loyalty – is portrayed as being faultless."

Chag sameach.

***

Here is an update of two recent articles about the situation in Israel. Several readers have asked me to mention a site I hadn't seen before, Real-israel.com **[www.real-israel. com]**. There you'll find news and commentary drawn from major newspapers on the site, but the section I found very interesting reprinted recent editorials from such papers as the *New York Times* and the *National Post*. This site is run under the auspices of the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canada Israel Committee.

And an addendum to the column about buying Israeli products on the Internet. Shop in Israel is a large, well-organized Web site with extensive links to Israeli e-retailers and exporters **[http://www.shopinisrael.com]**. You can browse souvenir Israeli T-shirts, check out some Israeli jewelry and in a case of old meets new, even order a shofar online! **[http://www.shofarshop.com]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

The ethical frame

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

This year, Shavuot is a much-awaited holiday. With the Jewish people and the Jewish state constantly at the forefront of world events lately, and very little of the news positive or reinforcing, Shavuot is a welcome guest.

For a brief window of time, the community can turn inwards and celebrate our relationship with the Torah. Shavuot, among other things, is the day on which we received the Torah at Mount Sinai. No matter where on the spectrum of Judaism we find ourselves, there is a moment of beautiful commonality for all Judaic branches intrinsically connected to the Torah, the tree of life.

Interestingly, while we are celebrating what seems to be a very internal holiday, we are reading the Book of Ruth, the story of a foreign woman.

Ruth, a Moabite, follows Naomi, an Israelite, back to her homeland, ancient Israel. Naomi at first resists Ruth and implores her to return to her family in Moab. Only after Ruth has pledged allegiance to Naomi, her people and God, does Naomi stop insisting that Ruth depart.

In fact, the reader sees Ruth as true to her word, for although she is poor, she follows the Torah's laws of charity and gleans in the fields along with the other poor people. She does not bring her former traditions into her new identity but accepts the values of the Torah.

With the story of Ruth, then, we are reminded of two things. First, there are righteous people among the foreign nations. Moab was a nation with whom Israel had waged war and yet we cannot deny there were righteous people among them. Secondly, although there are righteous foreigners, if we have to live together, there cannot be divergent standards of right and wrong.

Whereas one can debate the interpretation or application of a given law in Torah, one cannot debate that the laws and the values they reflect are the foundations of a Jewish society.

The Torah lays the ground rules for ethical living and for relationships with all people. The study of Torah allows us to bring whatever contemporary event occurs into the frame of Torah and debate how it fits. The debate is rarely smooth and the fit is often stretched, but the frame always withstands.

The ancient Moabites used to sacrifice their children to their gods. If Ruth had insisted on bringing ancient Moabite practices to her life in Israel, we would have rejected her and her practices. There are some things Torah does not leave open to debate. There is a standard of morals that cannot be compromised. Ruth understood that to participate in a Jewish society means to accept that there is a language of ethics already in place, which has its own vocabulary.

Once that vocabulary has been accepted, the debate can begin, and a debate is necessary, but it must use the words of the ethical system we have.

A midrash in Taanit states: "Why are the words of Torah like fire? A fire is built by many logs and the words of Torah survive only through many minds." We need not all agree on how a contemporary event or response reflects the values of Torah. By engaging in the debate, we are ensuring that the vocabulary thrives.

Torah contains infinite truths, and by committing yourself to it, you gain the right to argue, debate, disagree and add your voice to the dialogue of study. We do not ask the world to accept Torah. Naomi did not ask Ruth to do this. We simply ask that foreign ethics not be imposed into a Torah frame.

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Up until this time, pensions from the German Social Security System were paid exclusively to workers in the Lodz Ghetto who were subsequently residents in Germany between May 1945 and December 31, 1949. This is being replaced by a new regulation.
1. Pensions will be paid to workers in all Ghettos in Poland, provided they were in the annexed or occupied territories.
2. Work in the Ghettos will in the future be evaluated on a higher scale.
3. A subsequent residence in Germany is no longer required. Also, those who had left Germany as displaced persons after December 31, 1949 will now become eligible.
4. The pensions will be paid retroactively to 1997. (Retirement or widow's pensions).
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Greater Toronto Area

Lawyers jockey over Seifert court documents

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Government lawyers are asking Federal Court to strike out sections of Michael Seifert's legal defence in which the alleged war criminal argues that former citizenship and immigration minister Elinor Caplan exhibited a "Jewish animosity" against him.

The allegations of bias and conflict of interest are not supported by any documentary evidence and Seifert "impugns the moral character of the (former) Minister who has initiated these proceedings," the Crown's documents contend.

Crown lawyers argue that Seifert's claims are frivolous, malicious and designed "to cast unreasonable aspersions on the minister."

Seifert, 78, is a former member of the Nazi SS who was convicted in absentia by an Italian court for war crimes committed in 1944 and 1945 at the Bolzano transit camp. He was found to have taken part in the brutal murder of 11 prisoners.

Following his November 2000 conviction in Italy, the federal Citizenship and Immigration Department launched denaturalization proceedings to remove his citizenship. More recently, Seifert was arrested and denied bail after the government of Italy initiated extradition proceedings against him on nine counts of murder.

In court documents related to the citizenship case, Seifert's lawyer, Doug Christie, claims a statement by Caplan in which she expressed "delight in signing what she calls 'Nazi war criminals' into deportation" creates a reasonable apprehension of bias.

Caplan "expressed Jewish loyalty and affirmed her own Jewish ethnic or religious background," Seifert's legal argument states. Furthermore, she expressed a "Jewish ritual significance to an act of signing deportation orders which rationally denote a motive of revenge," the defence documents state.

Christie is apparently referring to a speech delivered in Ottawa by Caplan in September 2000 at an event honouring Holocaust survivors.

In the speech, Caplan recounted Canada's mixed record on dealing with refugees and outlined Canada's policy of welcoming immigrants while deporting those who entered the country by lying.

"When the procedure for the revocation of citizenship has reached its end, when all appropriate measures have been taken to ensure fairness, when cabinet has weighed all considerations in making the final decision, and we are all in agreement, then citizenship is revoked.

"One of my first official duties in becoming minister was to revoke the citizenship of two Nazi war criminals. And as I signed, I silently said the *Kaddish*."

Seifert contends that statement indicated public misfeasance of duty.

The court has yet to rule on the Crown's request to strike out that portion of Seifert's defence arguments.

In a related matter, B.C. Supreme Court Judge Linda Loo denied Seifert's request for bail pending an extradition hearing. Loo said his release might undermine confidence in the administration of justice.

The *Vancouver Sun* reported that Loo outlined details of the Italian court's decision, including the findings that Seifert beat prisoners before shooting them, savagely beat a teenager with a stick, hanged a prisoner on the fence until he died and gouged out a prisoner's eyes.

Golf tournament to fund research fellow

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Charles Krowitz died two years ago at age 30, his family was determined to turn his death into something positive.

Krowitz, a husband and father of an infant son, died of Burkitt's lymphoma, a rare, highly aggressive B-cell tumour that affects mainly males in his age group.

Patients – the disease strikes only about 100 people a year in North America – are usually diagnosed at a late stage of the disease and only 45 per cent survive five years; Krowitz had been diagnosed six months before his death.

At his shivah, his parents Barry and Penny decided that because their son had been a huge sports fan and an avid golfer, they would establish a cancer research fund at Mount Sinai Hospital and run a golf tournament in his memory.

The planned a small golf day for family and friends, but "the tournament took on a life of its own," said Penny Krowitz, who organized it with, among others, her husband, and Charles' in-laws Ron and Elda Sparaga.

They had expected 70 people, but ended up with 89 golfers and 159 people for dinner.

"It was a warm and caring tournament. It gave people an opportunity to express their feelings about losing Charles and allowed them to express their sympathy," she said.

They raised $14,000, said Krowitz, but donated only $10,000 to Mount Sinai because they wanted to use the extra money to start a fund for Burkitt's Lymphoma research.

They were put in touch with Dr. Mark Minden, a researcher in lymphoma and leukemia at Princess Margaret Hospital, and decided to transfer their fund to that hospital, in order to to provide a research fellow to conduct research into Burkitt's lymphoma.

Currently, they are putting the finishing touches on their plans for this year's tournament, the Charles Krowitz Woodchuck Golf Classic to be held at the Glen Eagle Golf Club in Bolton on July 9.

To date, they have almost $40,000 in corporate sponsors, which will go towards the $60,000 it costs annually to fund the research fellow.

For information on the tournament call 905-889-0210 or 416-446-1433. E-mail charlesdrowitzgolf@mail.com.

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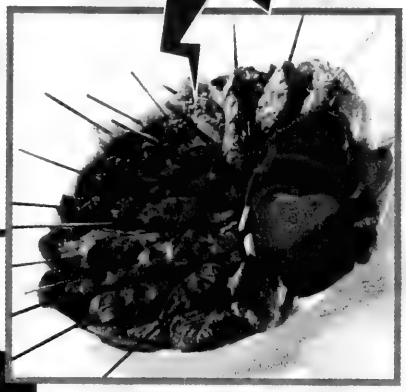

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Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

Annual Meeting of Members

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Auditorium
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Monday, June 17, 2002 at 8:00 P.M.

for the following purposes:

1. To receive the annual report of the President.
2. To introduce the new School President.
3. To receive the financial report of the Corporation.
4. To appoint auditors.
5. To transact such further and other business as may properly come before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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Greater Toronto Area

'Walk with Israel' planned for May 20

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Toronto's annual walk in support of Israel has a new name this year. It's the Walk With Israel, and organizers are emphasizing the "With," says walk co-chair Elyza Litwin Polsky.

The event, to be held Victoria Day Monday, is expected to draw record numbers – estimates are running as high as 20,000 to 30,000 – including a significant contingent of non-Jewish participants.

Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said this is the first year organizers are reaching out to the non-Jewish community, specifically the Christian community.

"In the very recent past they have shown a passionate interest in wanting to stand with us on the State of Israel," he said, referring particularly to the Apr. 21 rally in Ottawa. Participants included six busloads of Christians from Toronto and almost as many from Hamilton.

CJC's outreach to the Christian community, at the request of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, under whose auspices the walk takes place, was prompted in large part by calls and e-mails from Christians asking how they could show their solidarity with Israel.

Other innovations this year include a new route and a new location for the post-walk festival. The 5-km walk will begin and end at Skydome. Checkpoints along the way will be located at St. Andrews Playground, Bellevue Square and Nathan Phillips Square.

Raanan Gissin, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's principal spokesperson and key advisor, will speak at the festival. There will also be games, activities, music and vendors, said Litwin Polsky. "We've gone all out."

Organizers have been torn between wanting to celebrate Israel and at the same time wanting to recognize that there are victims of terror, said Litwin Polsky. "Whatever the situation is, we have to show we're going to survive and stick together, to show our support."

Walkers (and runners, who will set out at 10:15, 15 minutes before the walk begins) will also have an opportunity to show support by signing a petition calling on the Canadian government to hold Hezbollah, Lebanon, Syria and Iran accountable for the welfare of four Israeli hostages or the return of their remains for proper burial.

Renanah Goldhar, co-chair of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's Israel Action committee, has collected 5,000 signatures for the petition since November and is aiming for 10,000 before she sends it.

The crisis in Israel has influenced the walk's agenda, and has also prompted UJA Federation to start Campaign 2003 several months ahead of schedule. The official launch was held last week, four months ahead of schedule, but telethons got under way early last month and have already raised more than $26 million for social services in Israel.

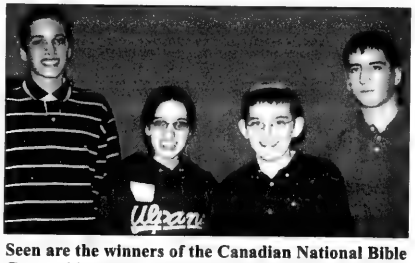
Last year walkers raised $300,000, said Abe Glowinsky, Litwin Polsky's co-chair.

Bible contest draws almost 200 kids

TORONTO — The UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education of Toronto hosted the Canadian National Bible Contest April 28-29.

Close to 200 students participated from 30 schools across Canada in Victoria, Vancouver, Winnipeg, London, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

The winners of the high school division are: Michael Kurin, CHAT Richmond Hill, and Hillel Nadler, Yeshivat Or Chaim, both in Toronto, tied for first; Leah Breslow, Ulpanat Orot, Toronto, was third; and Gilad Ben-Shach, Bialik High School, Montreal, was fourth. All four will represent Canada in next year's International Bible Contest in Israel.



Seen are the winners of the Canadian National Bible Contest high school division: from left, Michael Kurin, CHAT Richmond Hill, Toronto; Leah Breslow, Ulpanat Orot, Toronto; Hillel Nadler, Yeshivat Or Chaim, Toronto; and Gilad Ben-Shach, Bialik High School, Montreal.

Other finalists in the high school division include Daniel Gutenberg, Yeshivat Or Chaim, Toronto; and Raphael Rush, CHAT Tenenbaum campus, Toronto.

The winners of the other divisions are as follows:

Grades 7-8 Hebrew division: Shoshana Warner, Eitz Chaim Viewmount, Toronto, first; Joshua Gutenberg, Netivot HaTorah, Toronto, second; David Pellow, Netivot HaTorah, Toronto, third.

Grade 7-8 English division: Sheldon Paquin, Temple Israel, Ottawa, first; Erin Brassel, United Congregational Schools, Toronto, second; Joshua Silver, Beth Tikvah, Toronto, third.

Grade 5-6 Hebrew division: Joshua Satok, Associated Neptune, Toronto, first; Maya Harel-Sterling, Hebrew Foundation School, Montreal, second; Ron Baruch, Associated Atkinson, Toronto, third.

Grade 5-6 English division: Ilana Decter, Congregation Emanuel, Victoria, first; Yonatan Clark, Congregation Emanuel, Victoria, second; Sharon Green, Temple Israel, Ottawa, third.

On Campus

Most Ont. campuses lack formal faith day policy

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Most universities and colleges in Ontario have at least a "quasi-formal" policy allowing students to request religious accommodation when exams or important events occur on religious holidays, according to a recent survey by Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region (CJC).

However, only 25 per cent of the approximately 50 institutions surveyed have a written policy. "I think that's a challenge for institutions in Ontario, and I think it's a challenge that can be easily met," said Len Rudner, CJC's director of community relations.

Congress undertook the survey after a major career fair for business, engineering and computer science students was held last fall at the University of Western Ontario on Yom Kippur.

About 60 per cent of the institutions sent responses. "I think it was sufficient to allow us to draw some conclusions," Rudner said.

The surveys were sent to the office of the president of each institution in January. Five questions were asked, with the following results:

- Twenty-seven per cent of schools indicate major faith days on their calendars.
- Twelve per cent have a policy prohibiting or strongly discouraging scheduling events on those days.
- For schools without such a policy, 4 per cent have a policy of scheduling alternate dates for affected students.
- Four per cent of schools have a policy ensuring that exams are not scheduled on faith days.
- Likewise, 4 per cent have a policy to ensure that assignments need not be handed in on faith days.

York University, which scheduled exams on Saturday this year, has in place all the policies addressed in the survey. Rudner had no comment about the situation at York, in which CJC is not directly involved.

Rudner said "quasi-formal policies" were not addressed in the actual survey, but emerged as a trend – usually in the form of a commitment to respect diversity or multiculturalism – that he said it would have been unfair to ignore.

"That's positive," said Rudner, who recalled his own student days in the late 1970s at the University of Toronto, when his request to modify his exam schedule because of Passover was not viewed favourably. "Things have changed, largely for the better."

'We're hoping the universities will rectify their policies'

A follow-up letter sent by CJC last week strongly recommended that "all universities and colleges in Ontario develop and publish a policy that specifically outlines institutional commitment to the principle of religious accommodation in student life and outlines the roles and responsibilities of both students and administrators to achieve this goal."

Enclosed with the letter was CJC's 12-page *Guide to Jewish Customs and Practices for Employers and Educators*.

Frank Bialystok, chair of CJC's community relations committee, said he was "quite surprised" by the results of the survey. "With everything we've been through – multiculturalism, anti-racism – the onus is still on the student to go to the professor to ask for some change. That shouldn't have to be…We're hoping that by drawing attention to this, the universities will rectify their policies."

UJA campaign gets early launch

Continued from page 3

Israel will not be defeated, he said. "We don't have a choice. And we've kind of grown to like who we are, as imperfect as we are… I couldn't think of any place else being home."

The premises that led Israel into the peace process – its democratic political system and its military and economic strength – are still valid, Pinkas said.

Israel's economy is still stronger than any Arab economy, he noted. "Our GDP per capita is $18,000 [US]. It's down from [$18,400]. For comparison, Syria has a GDP per capita of $1,200." Israel even compares favourably to Spain, which has a GDP per capita of $17,000, Pinkas said.

"We need to find a way to separate and cohabit, hopefully in a peaceful way." This is important to maintain a Jewish majority in Israel and to maintain a democracy. "We cannot, should not… have 3.3 million Palestinians under our control."

It is "almost impossible to negotiate a serious deal with people who treat truth as something that is expedient but not necessary," Pinkas said.

If there are not major fundamental reforms in the Palestinian Authority, Israel will have to consider unilateral steps ranging from buffer zones to full-fledged separation along the lines of the Berlin Wall or barbed-wire fences, said Pinkas, qualifying his assessment by adding that this is not government policy.

"Israel is strong, powerful and confident, but it's also bleeding, tired and confused, because everything we tried with the Palestinians did not work."

Advertising Feature

FEELING CONNECTED

On a blustery winter day, six school buses braved the deep snow to take the grade sevens to a celebration of their bar and bat mitzvahs. After a student-led *tefillah* (prayer service), the children watched a presentation on heroes and listened as guest speakers talked about their connection to the community.

It was just one of many special events planned for students at Associated Hebrew Schools Middle School. In addition to celebrations of Jewish holidays and assemblies, students can participate in a winter sports day, hockey team, basketball team, *Rikudiyah* (Israeli dance), public speaking contests in Hebrew and English, an annual school play and many class trips.

"Our goal is to educate a generation of knowledgeable and intelligent Jews, committed to their people, to Torah and Canadian life," says Rabbi Pinchas Brumer, Middle School Principal. Students put together gift bags with socks, scarves and personal notes for the homeless. Food is collected every *Succoth* and *Pesach* and distributed in the community. After 9/11, a run raised money for victims of the attack.

In addition to the study of classical Jewish texts from the *Torah, Navi* (Prophets) and *Talmud*, students learn about and experience Jewish life cycle events and develop an attachment to the land of Israel. Judaic Studies are taught *Ivrit B'Ivrit* - texts and discussions are conducted in Hebrew. More than 80% of Associated graduates continue into a Jewish high school.

The General Studies programme meets or exceeds the guidelines of the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training. In science and art, there is an emphasis on hands-on activity. Students participate in a science fair, invent toys and create native art. The yearbook and a French newspaper are written and illustrated by students.

Four school counsellors deal with academic, social and personal challenges that are an inevitable part of adolescence. They monitor students' academic progress and, where necessary, make recommendations to teachers and parents. The counsellors, who teach children how to communicate and resolve conflicts, are always available to discuss personal difficulties. Remedial teachers go into class or take students out for extra help. There is an ESL (English as a Second Language) programme to help new immigrant students.

Student council representatives deal with issues like schoolbags in the hallways or too much homework, connecting with fellow students and staff to come up with solutions. **"The whole school is like a family,"** says Judy Cohen, Middle School vice-principal. "Even though the students come from all areas of the city by shuttle bus, they become an integrated community once they get here."

"It's wonderful to see a grade 8 student helping a grade 6 student with schoolwork," says Gail Freeman, head of the Guidance Department. "It's very supportive." To ease the transition from elementary to middle school, an orientation day is held each May. Students are bussed to the new campus where they tour the building, observe classes, and speak with student council members and peer counsellors.

There are over 550 students in grades 6, 7, and 8. **For more information on choosing the best education for your child, please call Associated's Admissions and Tuition office: 416-494-7666, ext. 323.**

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, May 21 is deadline for May 30 issue and Monday, May 27, is deadline for June 6. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, May 16

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

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TORONTO'S WATERFRONT

Slide presentation on Toronto's Changing Waterfront by **Florence Lichtman**, 2 p.m., Village Park Retirement Residence, 288 St. Clair W.

Sunday, May 19

SHAVUOT EVENT

Celebrate this fun holiday. Make dairy treats, create flowers, singalong, learn about seven kinds of fruit mentioned in the Torah, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 636-1880, ext. 456.

Monday, May 20

WALK WITH ISRAEL

Join Toronto's Jewish community for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Walk for Israel. Keynote speaker is **Raanan Gissin**, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's principal spokesperson. Registration begins 9:15 a.m. at Roundhouse Park, across from SkyDome's Gate 6 on Bremner Blvd. The Walk with Israel begins 10:30 a.m. and returns to SkyDome for a festival beginning at noon. 416-631-5700.

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 37, led by **Prof. David Novak**.

CRAFT AND GIFT SHOW

Na'amat's semi-annual craft and gift show runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bayview Village Shopping Centre. Jewelry, ceramics, toys, oil paintings, and much more. Special attractions include hourly draws, clowns, face painting, balloons, silent auction. 416-636-5425 days or 416-633-6538 evenings.

Tuesday, May 21

DINNER AND DANCE

Canadian Magen David Adom fund-raiser, Hava Nagila together with the Kosher Gourmet present glatt kosher dinner and dance sponsored by Daphna Pages. Grand raffle, silent auction, 7:30 p.m. at Hava Nagila, Concorde Square, 1118 Centre St., Thornhill. Advance tickets essential. Contact organizer **Sara Nimni** 416-489-8135

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood luncheon features **Cynthia Gasner Warshafsky** of *The Canadian Jewish News*, speaking on The Media: Objective or Opinion? 12:30 p.m. **Ruth Fruitman** 905-731-6660.

Wednesday, May 22

JEWISH WOMEN UNITE

Show solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel. One Hour, One Prayer, One Purpose. Women and girls join together at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre, 7026 Bathurst St., at 8 p.m. Guest speaker **Julia Koschitzky**, footage from

Continued on page 23

A Night of Sacred Stories

On the first night of Shavuot, study Torah through the retelling of stories from the Jewish oral tradition.

Stories to be followed by discussion.

featuring

• YITZHAK BUXBAUM
internationally known writer, lecturer & storyteller and author of two upcoming books: "Jewish Tales of Mystic Joy" and "Jewish Tales of Holy Women," published by Jossey-Bass

other storytellers

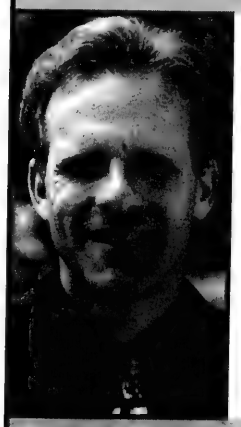
• ALEC GELCER, Jewish Storytelling Arts

• AVRUM ROSENSWEIG, Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

• ELI RUBENSTEIN, Congregation Habonim

Thursday, May 16, 2002 • 8:30 p.m -2:00 a.m.
Congregation Habonim
(5 Glen Park Avenue, one block North of Glencairn)
Program is suitable for adults and children

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning at Holy Blossom Temple
presents
the Canadian launch of an important new book
Six Days of War:
June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East



Michael Oren
Mon. June 17, 2002, at 8 p.m.

With its swift and stunning military victory against an Arab coalition led by Egypt in the Six Day War, Israel preserved its existence and redrew the map of the region — with fateful consequences.

The Camp David Accords, the assassinations of Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin, the first intifada, the failed Oslo Accord and the current crisis, all trace their origins to the Six Day War.

Michael Oren, a Princeton-trained scholar in Middle East history, Senior Fellow at The Shalem Center in Jerusalem and former advisor to the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, will give a gripping account of one of the pivotal events in modern Middle Eastern history.

Refreshments and book signing to follow the lecture and questions.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
1950 Bathurst Street, Toronto (416) 789-3291
Everyone welcome; admission free.

Continued from page 22

Israel, Tehillim/Psalms, women's musical presentation.

PIRKEI AVOT

Pirkei Avot from the perspective of sociologist **Stuart Schoenfeld**. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3514.

Thursday, May 23

ATERET KAVOD AWARD

Ateret Kavod Award Celebration honouring 6 community leaders in the Canadian Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, **Ruth and Morris Adams**, Adath Israel, Toronto; **Beryl and Noam Chernick**, Or Shalom, London; and **Marilyn and Bob Cohen**, Beth Tikvah, Toronto. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Reserve. 905-738-1717 or 1-899-417-1332.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE!

The Running to Daylight Foundation, the Ben Globerman Memorial and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Social Work present Friday Night Live! with the Downchild Blues Band, comedians **Alex Nussbaum, Carilynn Nicholson, Leanne Stewart, Les Aaron.** Emcee **Jane Hawtin**. Pre-event buffet 6 p.m. at J.J. Muggs, 500 Bloor St W. Performance 8 p.m. at Bloor Cinema. Proceeds go to improving health care for the elderly. Tickets 416-872-1212 or 1-800-461-3333.

JEWS OF TORONTO

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, and Council 60 Branch, lecture in memory of Pearl Banks, longtime member of Council 60. Guest lecturer **Prof. Frank Bialystock**. Topic is the Jews of Toronto, 8 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St.

COMEDY CABARET

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living calls all amateur comedians and raconteurs to get their 5 minutes of fame on stage. Everyone is invited to join in this afternoon of laughter and entertainment 2:30 p.m. 416-225-2112.

And What Else Is New

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall. 905-882-8509.

Pint Size Spirituality, a discussion led by **Rabbi Mitch Mandel** to help you answer your children's questions about God, followed by Tiny Torah Time, a special Jewish circle time for very young children. Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Infant Massage-techniques to soothe and relax baby. Monthly class, Thursday, May 23, 10:45 a.m.

After the Ecstacy, the Diapers, a workshop with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**, director of Kolel, on the joys and challenges of spiritual parenting and grandparenting. Learn the "10 Commandments" for turning your home into a Jewish spiritual home. Wednesday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.

A CELEBRATION OF PSALMS

Lachan Toronto Jewish Chamber Choir is presenting a concert titled T'Hillim: A Celebration of Psalms along with DaCapo Chamber Choir from Kitchener-Waterloo and percussionist **Beverly Johnston**. Program includes The Chichester Psalms by **Leonard Bernstein**. Tuesday, May 28, 8 p.m. Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd. For VISA purchases of tickets, 416-816-1653. For information, **Helena Fine** 416-489-4709.

TORAH STUDY

Jewish Russian Community Centre Institute of Torah Study, 18 Rockford Rd. Information/registration, **Chana Weisberg** 416-222-7105.

Monday, May 20, Rivka (Rebecca): Her Incredible Power of Perception continues for women only Monday evenings at 8 p.m. and Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. with **Chana Weisberg**, lecturer/columnist, Source material provided.

Do you want to learn more about current events and how ancient sources prophesied what is happening today? Join the 3-part Prophecy Series with **Rabbi Isser Weisberg**, educator/researcher, 8-9:30 p.m. Sundays May 19, 26 and June 9.

PRAY AND LEARN SHABBAT

Bring a friend to Pray and Learn Shabbat, Saturday, May 25, at 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Join **Rabbi Elliott Diamond** for this special Shabbat morning. For information, call the shul office 416-789-3123 and speak to **Carol** or **Zorach.**

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Spend an evening with renowned cookbook author and food consultant **Norene Gilletz.** Door prizes, raffle, cooking demonstration, Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Proceeds go to Beit Halochem. Reserve. 416-783-6103.

ONE FAMILY: TWO HOMES

A 3-session group for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age-appropriate groups. Sessions for parents deal with tips for keeping kids out of conflict, trends in family law presented by a lawyer, and the impact of separation and divorce on children. Starts Tuesday, May 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St.-Lipa Green Building. To register, **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

SINGLES DANCE PARTY

Shaar Shalom Singles and Intersynagogue Singles (35+) Summer's Eve Dance Party, featuring music of the '50s and '60s, Sunday, June 2, 7:30 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd. 905-889-4975.

SUNDAY NIGHT SCENE

Come to the Sunday Night Scene, an evening of fun and inspiration for Jews in their 20s. Includes thought-provoking seminars, pizza, beer and lots of mingling. Every Sunday at 7:45 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. For more information, **Ilana**, 905-764-1818, ext. 225.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Hazel Burns Hospice, Eglinton-Bathurst area, Wednesday, May 29, 6 p.m. Call **Arno Lowi,** volunteer co-ordinator, for details, 416-782-5915.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement meeting, Wednesday, May 22, at noon. Topic:, Confessions of a Former Jew for Jesus, speaker **Julius Ciss**. Bring your own dairy lunch. Coffee, tea, cookies are served. 416-789-3291

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002. Sunday dance with live band, May 19, June 2, 23; Saturday dance, 7:30 p.m., May 25, June 8, 15, 29; Casino Rama May 29, June 12, 26; Thousand Islands trip, May 28-31; Stage West Dinner Theatre June 13 to see *Joseph*; Casino Niagara June 20; Catskills July 22-28. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Please note: get ready for the summer party June 2, 7:30 p.m. with live music. Club closed May 16 for Shavuot. Regular programs: May 23, bingo; May 30, free evening for stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Mothers and Fathers Day Luncheon Wednesday, May 22 at 11:30 a.m. The Senior's Cultural Club weekly meetings continue every Tuesday at 10 a. m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, **Libby** 416-782-2059 or the office 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Post Impressionists by **Edith Altschuler**, Tuesday, May 21, 19-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Therapeutic Touch with **Sharon Mehl**, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Book appointment at ticket sales desk. ext. 126.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Group, Tuesday, May 21, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Joan Bennett,** a volunteer with Sleep/Wake Disorders of Canada, discusses living with a sleep disorder.

Literary Luncheon, Wednesday, May 22, at noon. Psychologist **Anne Balaban** reviews *Self Matters* by **Phillip C. McGraw.** For more information, **Barbara Zigler,** ext. 134.

Let's Have Fun With Yiddish Thursday, May 23, 1 p.m. Jokes, stories, videos, speakers. Volunteer facilitator **Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky**. Contact **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. May 21, lecture; May 28, concert. **Anna,** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

The Miles Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital Eat Well, Be Well workshops feature General Overview of Nutrition for Pregnancy and Breastfeeding, with **Erin Collins**, Monday, May 27, 5-6 p.m.

Summer Camps: Programs for all ages – toddlers to teens.

Teen Programs: For information **Gillian Levene.**

Special Workshop: Resume and Cover-Letter Writing, Monday, May 20, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Volunteer information night Friday, May 31, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Also, teen breakdancing, weight training, teen hip hop, basketball, floor hockey.

CIT (Counsellor in Training) Program Summer 2002.

Good Age Club: Thursday, May 16, 2 p.m., Informal Sing-along with Friends.

ABOUT PEOPLE

NEW PRESIDENT

Gary Fine was installed as president of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University's Toronto chapter at the chapter's recent general meeting. He has been an active member of the Toronto board of directors and executive committee for many years. He is also on Mount Sinai Hospital's board of governors.

Also elected were Vice-Presidents **Bruce Bronfman, Jordan Cohen, Gerda Frieberg, Millard Roth** and **Martin Unger;**. Treasurer **Michael Wynston**; Secretary **Carol Slatt**; Assistant Secretary **Eliane Labendz**.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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• Experience the Festival following the Walk for the first time ever @ SKYDOME
• Hear RAANAN GISSIN, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's principal spokesperson and key advisor speaking at SKYDOME
UJA Federation Walk with Israel Hotline 416.631.5700
s now, more than ever, please be there!

St. Catharines shul to mark 100 years of services

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Unlike many Canadian small towns, St. Catharines has a Jewish community that is holding its own.

Over the past few years, the "big small town" has experienced a rejuvenation in Jewish communal life, said David Cooperman, a third-generation native.

The community is looking forward to celebrating 100 years of continual communal services on the May 17 weekend with extended Shabbat services featuring New York Cantor Howard Shalowitz at Congregation B'Nei Israel, the city's only synagogue, to be followed by a gala dinner Sunday night.

Jewish settlers began to arrive in the city, located on the Niagara Escarpment between Hamilton and Niagara Falls and near Buffalo, N.Y., in the 1860s.

"But [Jewish communal] services didn't really begin until the early part of the 20th century," Cooperman said.

At that time, David's grandfather, Jacob Cooperman was hired by the community as a ba'al koreh (Torah reader) and Hebrew teacher.

He couldn't support himself in the Torah-reading business, so he eventually found his way to dry goods and furniture, said David's father Bernie, 90.

Bernie remembers growing up in St. Catharines as an experience that encouraged close friendships.

"At that time, the general society was closed to Jews, so by necessity the community did things with each other," Bernie said.

World events affected the city, and St. Catharines experienced growth spurts after the Russian Revolution and the two world wars. Later, Jewish immigrants arrived from as far away as South Africa and from as close as Montreal.

Today, the community has more than 250 families, David said.

In addition, with the recent expansion of Brock University, many Jewish academics have found their way to St. Catharines, he added.

As with all small communities, Jews began to have an effect on the general populace around them as they integrated into their environment, said Michael Grand, director of regional communities for Canadian Jewish Congress.

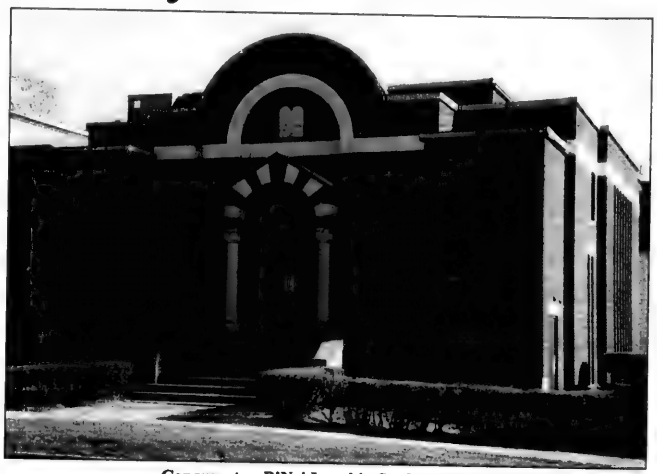
Jewish communities in small towns have always played an important part in bringing relevant issues to every nook of our province, said Grand, a professor of psychology at the University of Guelph.

The community expresses its views on anti-Semitism and Israel as they interact with the people around them, whether they are members of Parliament or the board of education, and give voice to issues that would not otherwise be heard in small towns, Grand explained.

For fourth-generation St. Catharines native Noah Slepkov, 20, growing up in a small town has not been without some difficulties.

Slepkov, a Jewish studies student at York University in Toronto, said he had to explore and learn about his Jewish identity on his own.

His father, Howard, is past president of the synagogue and is actively involved in Jewish community life in St. Catharines.



Congregaton B'Nei Israel in St. Catharines.

Noah has also always been involved in Jewish life, but found that retaining a Jewish identity in a community where a minyan isn't always readily available and kosher meat has to be brought in from elsewhere has been somewhat of a challenge.

"My friends from big cities went to day schools and had their Judaism spoonfed to them," Noah said, adding that "I had to work at being informed on all the issues because they weren't easily accessible."

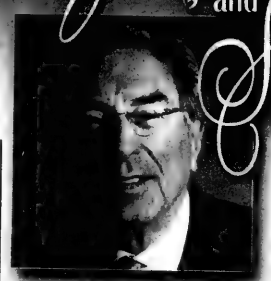
Eventually, Noah would like to move to Toronto where job opportunities may be better and where he will be able to choose from many different minyans to go to. "I would like to be able to do things like send my children to Jewish day schools or just go down to the corner and get a kosher hamburger," Noah said.

But Noah acknowledged that small-town Jewish living may have contributed to his strong sense of identity.

Grand noted that larger Jewish communities don't really appreciate the many roles that smaller communities play in Canada. Besides teaching about tolerance and diversity through their very presence, it can be a lonely experience to arrive in a town and not be "able to find a Shabbas dinner and a minyan whenever you want it."

The upcoming weekend celebration will feature a display of St. Catharines memorabilia, as well as music and entertainment by Bais Groove. For further information, call 905 685-6767.

A Celebration of Jewish Song and Spirit



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Historical analogies often misleading

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Historical analogies can often be as misleading as helpful in understanding contemporary events. But such analogies are appealing and fashionable. One recent trend is to compare the Israel-Palestinian quagmire to the French-Algerian struggle (in which French troops killed approximately one million Arabs between 1954 and 1962). Two recent examples are Andrew Mack's Globe and Mail article *Sharon's Algerian shadow* (May 7) and Tony Judt's essay in the *New York Review of Books* titled *The Road to Nowhere* (May 9).

Mack, a former director of strategic planning for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and Judt, a professor of European studies at New York University, argue that unless Israel ceases to be a "colonial" power "oppressing" the Palestinians the way the French exploited the Algerians, it will become an "international pariah."

Both writers lay the blame for the Israeli-Palestinian debacle on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's shoulders. Both ignore Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's role, long before Sharon was elected, in rejecting former prime minister Ehud Barak's offers to negotiate an end to Israel's "occupation." And, of course, both find the comparisons to the French-Algerian struggle compelling.

The Palestinians and their supporters lap up this analogy. Only once does Mack acknowledge Israel's argument that "Palestinian violence can no more defeat Israel than Algerian violence could have ousted the French from France." But then Mack attempts to counter this argument by claiming that "the goal of the Palestinian mainstream is to force the Israelis from the occupied territories – not from Israel." Crucially, it is this very assumption, which Mack states as fact, that many Israelis, including a large number on the left, reject.

Oddly, Mack admits that "The Palestinian suicide bombers have killed the Israeli peace movement." But he never stops to consider why this might be so. After all, the Israeli peace movement propelled the spirit of Oslo. Now the movement is reacting to what they know is Arafat's betrayal, to what they sense is his desire not just to possess the West Bank and Gaza, but all of Israel too.

The parallels with Algeria are misleading. The Algerians never declared France to be illegitimate, nor did they call for its complete annihilation, as did the Palestine Liberation

Continued on page 30

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YIDDISH DAY IN TORONTO

Presented by the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies with the Committee for Yiddish and 'Friends of Yiddish'

Sunday May 26, 2002, Beth Tzedec Synagogue
1700 Bathurst St.
10am – 3pm
Free of Charge

10am: **Panel Discussion in Yiddish: Yiddish Literature in Montreal with Adam Fuerstenberg, Pierre Anctil, Vivian Felsen, Rebecca Margolis and Seymour Levitan.**

12pm: **Screening of Sharon Katz's Yiddish animated film, Angel's Foot Cake. An introduction will be provided by Seymour Mayne and Adam Fuerstenberg. An "Angel's Foot Cake" will be served.**

1pm: **A strictly kosher buffet lunch will be served at the synagogue ($10 Charge).**

2pm: **Yiddish Concert featuring Marilyn Lerner and David Wall.**

At 7pm there will be a tribute to the memory of **Ben Kayfetz** and a presentation of a Jewish Studies Award to **Rabbi Gunther Plaut.** For more information on the Jewish Studies Conference please call
Randal Schnoor at 416-630-4464

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Beth Tzedec Congregation
Rabbi Moshe Shulman
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
The ceremony begins at 12 noon on stage at the "Israel Day" Festival
Sunday, June 2, 2002
Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge Street
The public is invited to attend

Coast to Coast

Investigations clear security officers in mall flag flap

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A police investigation and an internal probe have turned up no evidence that two Jewish men were subjected to racist statements or were mistreated by security guards at a downtown Ottawa mall, the building manager said last week.

"We don't feel we have the basis to take any further action at this point. The allegations that were made were not supported," said Robert Hasler, general manager of the Rideau Centre.

Hasler said mall personnel, as well as police, screened security camera videotapes, and also spoke to shopkeepers, the individuals involved and bystanders in order to get a sense of what transpired.

None of the evidence supports the allegations, and in fact, it contradicts them, Hasler said.

The incident being investigated took place April 21, shortly after a massive pro-Israel rally on Parliament Hill when two rally participants, Marc Abergel and David Abissidan of Montreal, entered the nearby mall with several friends. Abergel was carrying an Israeli flag.

At Ottawa's Rideau Centre

Abergel and Abissidan said two mall security personnel quickly intervened and told them to remove the flag. What's more, Abergel and Abissidan allege that the mall employees used rude language and were extremely aggressive. Abergel said one security officer pushed him against a wall when he was arrested.

Abissidan was detained when he photographed the incident and the two were detained in a small security room on mall's lower level.

That's where Abergel alleges most of the racist statements were made, with security personnel allegedly calling them "f-----g Jews" and "dirty Jews." Police arrived shortly afterwards and released the pair.

Hasler said video surveillance showed the flag was being held inside the mall and the security guards were enforcing the mall's policy against demonstrations. Security personnel maintained they were polite and never made anti-Semitic statements, Hasler said.

"These allegations are of the most extreme and disturbing kind. As a result, thorough investigations were conducted by officials of Rideau Centre and the Ottawa Police. These investigations have clearly shown the allegations to be unsubstantiated and without any foundation whatsoever... [T]here is no support for allegations that the individuals involved were subjected to improper use of force, unlawfully detained or that comments of a derogatory nature were made," Hasler said in a news release.

The mall received numerous phone calls and e-mails once the incident became public, Hasler said. "We know it has been upsetting to a lot of people in the community. It's been upsetting to us."

The mall "would never tolerate behaviour as alleged," Hasler stated. "We now want to reassure the community and others who have expressed concerns that the security officers acted appropriately."

Hasler said the mall has amended its arrest policies and procedures. Although security officers have the authority to detain trespassers and those involved in criminal activity, in future they will contact police when demonstrations are involved.

Calls to Ottawa Police and Abergel were not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דער פיוט „אקדמות"

פון ראובן קאשאני

(סוף פון פריערדיקן ווינקל)

דער מאַנסטער־דריילינג

אין סטערעסאַנט, אַז דער מחבר פון אקדמות דערמאָנט נישט אין זיין פּיוט דעם לעגענדאַרן פּויגל מיטן נאָמען „זיז שדי", האָט דערזען אויך אַנדערסדן הר־זיבר, האָט בעהאַרט צום מאַנסטער דריילינג: שור הבר, פון די חיות אויף דער יבשה אַן לויזן פון די באַשעפענישן אין ים. לויט די חז"ל, ווען דער זיז שדי צעשפּרייט זיינע פליגלען, פאַרשטעלט ער די זון אין בא־שיצט די וועלט קעגן רוחות און שטורמען. אויך אָט דער לע־גענדארער פויגל, וועמענס פליגל האָט פאַרשיידענע טעמעס, וועט דערלאַנגט וועדן אויף דער סעודה פאַר די צדיקים, האָט זיצן אין גן־עדן אַן נעניטן פון דער ליסערקייט פון דער אקדמות, וויל פאַקטיש האָט דער פויגל קיין שום ממשותדיקן קשר מיט די צוויי קעמפּנדיקע חיות, האָט וועדן לסוף בעשאַכטן דורכן כביכול אליין אַן מיט דער בארימטער וויך סעודה, וה׳ סיאז צוגעזאָגט בעוהאַרן פאַר צדיקים לעתיד לבוא.

אין „מדרש כונן", האָט שילדערט די סעג פון באַשאַף־ווערט בעזאָגט, אַז דאָנערסטיק, אינעם פינפטן טאָג פון באַשאַף האָט הקב״ה בענומען ליכט אוֹן האָסער אוֹן באַשאַפן פון זיי דעם לוחתן מיט זיין וויסע אַן אַלע מיט אַן אַנדערהאַנדען די באַ־צע וועלט אויף די פליסעדערן פון לוחתן. ער האָט צוזאַמענ־געמישט דאָס וואַסער־געמיש־כץ אוֹן באַשאַפן דעם זיז שדי, אַלע פיגל, אוֹן די פיס פון דעם פויגל אַנדערהאַנדען אויף די פליספע־דערן פון לוחתן מיט זיין קאָפּ קעגנאַיבער דעם כסא הכבוד.

פרייטיק, וועדט בעזאָגט אין דאָזיקן אלטן מדרש, האָט ער „בענומען וואַסער, שמדיב אַן ליכט אוֹן בעשאַפן בהמות אין די בערג אַן אַקס, וואָס פיטערט זיך אויף די מיזנוס בערג יעדן טאָג אַן שפּילן זיך יעדן טאָג אין גן־עדן פאַרן בורא".

אין די מחזורים אוֹן אַלטע הגדות דערשיינט זיז שדי מיטן קאַלאָס־דריילינג, וואָס איז צוגעזאָגט אויף משיחס צייטן, וויל עס איז בעוועון א מנהג אַשכנזלינגן אין דער קעדה פון דער סדר־נאַכט א פיס ליכר דעם לוחתן, אַן איי ווי א סימבאָל פון זיז שדי, אַן פליגט ווי אַ זכר פון שור הבר, כדי צו דערמאָנען משיחס צייטן. די מקובלים האָבן אין דער אגדה בעזען דעם בצחון פון ישׂראל איבער זייער שׂונאים.

נחזור לעניננו. וועגן פּיוט אקדמות זייַנען בעזוען א סך קשיות בי אונדזערע פאַרשערס, צוליכן אַנדערן תלמאי עו איז בעשריבן בעוהאַרן דווקא, אין א צייט וען די שפּראַך איז שוין נישט בעזוען באַזונדערס אין באַניץ, וואָרעם בעזוען זייַנען וען מען האָט בעשריבן אין דעם לשון, כדי צו פאַרליכטערן דאָס פאַלק זאָל פאַרשטיין דעם איהנאַלט. די מקובלים וויידער האָבן זיך באַציט מיט אַראַמעיש, וויל זיי האָבן זי בעוהאַלטן פאַר א מיסטעריעז שפּראַך דורך וועלכער מען קען אריסדריקן מיס־טישע קבלה־בעדאַנקען, וואָס קיינער פאַרשטייט זי נישט. אויך איז קשה די בשמיהודיקע שילדערונבען פון עסן אוֹן טרינקען, צי איז דאָס איינשטימיק מיט אונדזערע חכמים.

אין שליחות פון די עשרת השבטים

לאַמיר נאָך לסוף באַמערקן, אַז מיר האָבן וויניק בעזוגע פּרטים וועגן דעם מחבר פון אקדמות. מיר ווייסן נישט וזי ער איז בעבוירן אוֹן וזי ער איז בעקומען צו קבר ישׂראל. א לעגענדע דערציילט, אַז זיין קבר בעפינט זיך אין גוש חלב אין גליל. פאַראַן אויך א מיינונג, אַז רבי מאיר הנס, וואָס לינט אין סבריה, איז רבי מאיר ש״ץ, דער בעל אקדמות, האָט איז לויט דער מסורה בעוועון א בעל־נס.

סיזערט דערציילט, אַז אין מיטלאַלטער, בעת די קריצצטרע־גער, ווען סיהאָבן זיך בעשטאַרקט די ייִחסים מיט די קריסטן, איז רבי מאיר דורך זיין קהילה דעלעגירט בעוהאַרן צו די עשׂרת השבטים אויף יענער זייט סמבטיון, זיך צו זיי וועגן נאָך חילף. ער האָט פאַרלאָזט זיין הויז אוֹן אַוועק זוכן די פאַרלוירענע שבטים. נאָך לאַנג האָבן זוכן זי זוכענגן אוֹן זוכענגן איז ער וזי נישט איז דערגאַנגען צום סמבטיון, איז אים אריבער אוֹן פון דאָרט בעבראַכט איינעם פון די גיבורי ישׂראל, וואָס האָט מיט זיין חכמה גובר בעוועון אין א ויכוח מיט א גלח, א שׂונא־ישׂראל, אוֹן אַזוי אַרום בעראַסעוועט יידן פון דער סכנה. דער זכות איז אים שבטים. נאָך לאַנג האָבן זוכן זי זוכענגן אוֹן זוכענגן איז ער וזי נישט איז דערגאַנגען צום סמבטיון, איז אים אריבער אוֹן פון דאָרט געבראַכט איינעם פון די גיבורי ישׂראל, וואָס האָט מיט זיין חכמה גובר בעוועון אין א ויכוח מיט א גלח, א שׂונא־ישׂראל, אוֹן אַזוי אַרום בעראַסעוועט יידן פון דער סכנה. דער זכות איז אים שבטים. נאָך לאַנג האָבן זוכן זי זוכענגן אוֹן זוכענגן איז ער וזי נישט איז דערגאַנגען צום סמבטיון, איז אים אריבער אוֹן פון דאָרט געבראַכט איינעם פון די גיבורי ישׂראל, וואָס האָט מיט זיין חכמה גובר בעוועון אין א ויכוח מיט א גלח, א שׂונא־ישׂראל, אוֹן אַזוי אַרום בעראַסעוועט יידן פון דער סכנה. דער זכות איז אים

מיר ווינטשן אַלע יידן א פריילעכן שבועות!

Coast to Coast

Minister says media spreading 'Palestinian lies'

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — A Pentecostal lay minister here recently blasted the news media for "keeping the pot boiling by spreading Palestinian lies."

"The media keeps bringing forth these lies. They should be more responsible in reporting. Many Christian believers have the same conclusion. We can't listen to the news or we'll be bound to the lie," Bill Styles told members of the Beth Israel Synagogue at a breakfast meeting.

Styles and his wife Gerry, Maritime representatives of the Christian organization Bridges For Peace, both spoke to the congregation.

Bill Styles teaches academic upgrading and water chemistry at Nova Scotia Community College, and heads chemistry and microbiology labs at Saint Mary's University. He is also a staunch supporter of Israel, as is Bridges for Peace, founded in 1979 by the late Dr. Douglas Young, a Bible scholar and evangelical pastor in the United States.

"Gerry and I lived in Israel from 1980 to 1986, where I studied the physical and historical geography of Israel with the American Institute of Holy Land Studies [now Jerusalem University College]," Styles said. "We worked on the itineraries of Christian tour groups with Israeli guides, then became sales reps for a tourism company."

He said Bridges For Peace started when Young became deeply hurt after he discovered that anti-Semitism originated with early church leaders. He wanted the Jewish people to know there were many Christians who didn't, and don't, believe the anti-Semitic teaching.

Bridges For Peace raises funds to operate the first – and largest – food bank in Israel, according to Gerry Styles. Forty tons of food are distributed each month to a clientele ranging from Holocaust survivors to disadvantaged individuals. The organization also distributes Bibles, blankets, welcome baskets and school starter kits for young students, and operates Project Rescue to assist Russian Jews who wish to immigrate to Israel but are having difficulty affording the cost of visas, passports, transportation and lodging.

The Styles are from British Columbia. They are children, Bill said, of non-religious people, but started going to church in 1967, met a Jewish couple in B.C. and decided to visit Israel in 1974 to see the area that represents the roots of three major religions. He decided to move his family there in 1980.

His daughter Lori, now 27, lived in Israel in her elementary school years. Returning to Canada in 1986 at age 12, she returned on a solidarity mission last February. "I was there to show Christians are with the Israelis in their struggles. I went as a tourist this time, but when I arrived in Jerusalem, it felt like I was home," she told the Beth Israel audience.

Bill Styles was critical of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. "Israel has done a great deal, given money to the Palestinians, but Arafat has done nothing with it. There are still refugee camps. He has done nothing.

"The Israelis have had so much bad press. It's unbelievable. We must ask God to put His hand on the army, just as He did with King David's army," he added.

"We owe Israel a tremendous debt because of the rats' nest they uncovered in the West Bank and because of uncovering other blocs of terrorism [in 1982]... It's a blessing for us to be part of you and to see what has taken place in Israel. We just wanted to encourage you today [and tell you] that Israel has friends in the Christian faith," Gerry Styles concluded.

Shabbaton planned

VANCOUVER — Adam va-Adamah Environmental Society is holding its annual Wilderness Shabbaton in Elaho Valley from June 7 to 9.

The Shabbaton, held in conjunction with the Witness Program, gives urban Jews an opportunity to experience the beauty of the wilderness region, the effects of logging practices, and the rich traditions of the Squamish Nation, while honouring Shabbat.

Carpools plan to depart from the church parking lot at the corner of Taylor Way and Highway 1 in West Vancouver on June 7 at 3:00 PM, in order to make the four-hour drive and set up in time for Shabbat. The shabbatons ends around noon on Sunday.

Participants bring their own tents, sleeping bags, food and water.

For more information and to register, contact Michael Barkusky at (604) 874-4118, mb@mbcga.bc, www.av-a.org

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Historical analogies

Continuedfrom page 27

Organization (PLO) Charter regarding "the Zionist Entity." And while the French never had any historical attachment to Algeria, there has been a continuing Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 A.D., disrupted only during the 1948-1967 period when Jews were forbidden by Jordanian law to live there.

Lastly, once the French had left Algeria, the Algerians never insisted that they had a right to France itself. But today, even if Israel were to withdraw unilaterally from the West Bank and Gaza, that would not stop the Palestinians – and foremost Yasser Arafat – from pressing for a "right of return" to Israel, which would mean the end of the Jewish State.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

HOT TIME IN HAMILTON: Richard Leibtag stokes the fire at the Lag b'Omer community picnic held on the grounds of Hamilton's JCC. [Daniel Kollek photo]

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Likud Central Committee rejects Palestinian state

By YOSSI VERTER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a painful political setback Sunday night at the hands of his rival, former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, when the Likud Central Committee adopted a resolution completely rejecting the creation of a Palestinian state.

At a raucous meeting in Tel Aviv, Sharon and Netanyahu went head to head over whether the party should vote on the resolution. A proposal by Sharon to postpone the vote was defeated in a secret ballot by 669 (59 per cent) to 465 (41 per cent) votes.

Sharon desperately tried to prevent the vote, arguing it would precipitate international pressure on Israel and tie his hands diplomatically.

"Any decision taken today on the final [status] agreement is dangerous to the state of Israel and will only intensify the pressures on us," Sharon said prior to the vote. His proposal was met with a chorus of boos.

The adoption of the resolution directly contradicts the position expressed several times by Sharon. On two separate occasions last year, he publicly expressed readiness to back the creation of a Palestinian state.

Sharon opened his remarks by criticizing what he called the "naivete" of prior governments in making agreements with Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"I did not shake Arafat's hand," the prime minister said in a swipe at former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu who spoke before him, and who held several meetings with the Palestinian leader during his term in office.

"There can be no peace with terror, with a man of terror," he said. "To make real peace for generations, we must beat the terror. There is no other way."

Sharon also reminded the crowd that a Likud-led government had already participated in a regional peace conference – in Madrid in 1991 – and that Netanyahu was part of the Israeli delegation. That comment came as a result of Netanyahu's criticism of Sharon's idea of a regional peace summit.

Prior to Sharon's remarks, Netanyahu addressed the central committee, calling for Arafat's exile from the territories.

"We have no choice but to exile Arafat," Netanyahu said, referring to the Palestinian leader as "the engine that runs terror."

Netanyahu said that, during his recent visit to the United States, the problem he experienced "was not to explain why Arafat should be exiled, but why we haven't exiled him."

Netanyahu said a Palestinian state with or without Arafat at its head would threaten Israel. He also said Arafat still intends to use a Palestinian state as the first step toward destroying Israel.

The former prime minister had to stop his remarks on several occasions due to disturbances by the crowd. Channel One reported the disturbances were likely orchestrated in advance by the Sharon camp.

Netanyahu said that he supported an entity that would allow Palestinians to govern themselves, but opposed granting them all the rights that come with statehood – such as an army and acquiring weapons – because such a state would threaten Israel.

"Self rule – 'Yes'; state - 'No,'" Netanyahu said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that the Likud decision ruling out a future Palestinian state was "tragic, tragic to the state of Israel."

Peres told Army Radio he understands "that this is a battle for power, but I am convinced that if Netanyahu is elected, he will be as he was before previous elections, he was in favour of Oslo and he shook Arafat's hand."

Asked whether he believed that if Netanyahu were prime minister, he would agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state, Peres said, "I assume so."

Peres dismissed as "words, words, words devoid of meaning," Netanyahu's vision of self-rule rather than Palestinian independence.

"If they're under our sovereignty, we control their economy, their villages, their lives, their houses, and in any case they'll react as they are reacting. We must not delude ourselves. All in all, verbal therapy is an extraordinary thing, but we're too old for this."

Peres said the coalition government's policy guidelines effectively gave the nod to a Palestinian state, by backing a deal according to UN resolutions 242 and 338, which speak of return of territories captured in 1967.

He confirmed he met Palestinian Mohammad Rashid, Arafat's financial adviser, in Rome last week. He said Sharon knew of the meeting, which was one of the elements Netanyahu criticized as an example of the government's failure to root out and destroy the PA.

Peres said Rashid and other Palestinian leaders agreed that, in the context of reforms Israel is demanding of the PA, there should be only one PA security apparatus, rather than the dozens in existence at present.

Seated from left are Likud party members Uzi Landau, Limor Livnat, Silvan Shalom, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Tzachi Hanegbi and Benjamin Netanyahu. [Israel Sun photo]

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Saudis putting on the pressure to stop suicide attacks

By DANIEL SOBELMAN and SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Arab-language daily *Al-Quds al-Aravi* reported last weekend that Saudi Arabia intends to summon senior Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists to Riyadh, as part of its efforts to calm the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

According to a senior Israeli diplomatic source, Saudi Arabia has begun to act on its promise to rein in Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Information in Israel's possession suggests that Saudi foreign minister Saud al-Faisal applied pressure on Palestinian Authority minister Nabil Sha'ath, during Friday's meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, in order to bring about an end to the suicide attacks that Saudi Arabia believes pose a threat to the recent fragile quiet.

While Israeli sources say it is too early to know whether there have been direct meetings between Saudi officials and representatives of the two organizations, reports have reached Israel of "various types of [Saudi] pressure," aimed at kick-starting the diplomatic process.

On Saturday, the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria held a summit at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh. At the summit, which went on until the small hours, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Abdullah, tried to exert their influence on Syrian President Bashar Assad to bring about a regional accord, as well as a continued lessening of tensions between Israel and the Palestinians.

One of the participants in the meeting at Sharm el Sheikh was the head of the Palestinian preventive security apparatus in the West Bank, Mohammed Dahlan.

The summit ended with a condemnation of violence in all its manifestations and a joint call for Arab states to back the Saudi peace initiative passed at the Arab League summit in Beirut at the end of March.

It is believed Saudi officials also entreated Dahlan to do his best to prevent terror attacks against Israeli civilian targets.

A senior Hamas activist in the Gaza Strip, Abed al-Aziz Rantisi, denied Sunday that Saudi Arabia had been in contact with the organization. He added that Hamas operations against Israeli targets would continue for as long as the occupation continued.

In related developments Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal defended the distribution of funds by his government to Palestinians. Some 1,800 Palestinian families, including the families of suicide bombers, are currently receiving financial aid from Saudi Arabia, according to al-Faisal in an interview published in the latest edition of *Time* magazine.

He denounced the charge that Saudi money encourages other Palestinians to become suicide bombers. "Does this money, when it goes to the families of the suicide bombers, tell another boy or girl, 'Go kill yourselves, and we will give your family money'? This is ridiculous."

Israel sank arms ship bound for Gaza Strip: Report

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel last week sank a ship off the Gaza Strip coast that was carrying weapons intended for the Palestinians, the *New York Post* reported Sunday.

The report said the arms cargo had been supplied by Hezbollah.

The *Post* story was written by Uri Dan, who is considered to be a close associate of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Security sources in Israel claimed to have no knowledge of the incident.

Attempts by the Palestinians to smuggle weapons stopped temporarily following the Israel Defence Forces capture of the ship Karine A, in January. But the Palestinian Authority has stepped up smuggling efforts following the IDF's seizure of vast arms during Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank last month.

In May last year, the IDF also intercepted the Santorini, a fishing vessel that was carrying a cargo of arms bound for the Palestinians.

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The Saudi dossier

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

When Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's entourage arrived in Washington last week, one member of the group, MK Limor Livnat, handed out a comprehensive report that included documents seized by the IDF during Operation Defensive Shield, which she claimed proved Saudi Arabia was providing financial backing for Palestinian terror.

Comment

The 85-page report raised several eyebrows in the American capital, with some American journalists wondering out loud what the point was of proving the Saudis supported the families of Palestinian victims, especially since Saudi Arabia has admitted this in public.

It is possible, however, that the Saudi authorities are not comfortable with their support of the Palestinians being thrown into the spotlight. This is an assumption that is backed, for example, by the publication of a document, sent by the Saudi Committee for the Support of the Al-Quds Intifadah to Azam al-Hadar, who is responsible for aiding Palestinian security officers injured during the intifadah.

Several days before the document was faxed to Al-Hadar on Feb. 18, the official Palestinian newspaper, *Al-Hiyat al-Jedida* published an announcement that al-Hadar's organization was working together with the Saudi committee, and that families of the victims could receive financial aid from branches of the Arab Bank.

In its fax to Al-Hadar, the committee pointed out that no announcement bearing its name should be published without prior official permission. The fax was signed by the general secretary of the committee, Dr. Walid Ben Abed al-Razaq al-Dali.

That said, the question asked by American journalists is somewhat justified by the fact that the Saudi committee is far from being a secret organization. On Nov. 30, 2001, for example, the official Saudi news agency published an annual summary of the aid given to the Palestinians in the previous year – around $48 million (US).

Another example: Some 12 months earlier, on Nov. 14, 2000, the Saudi news agency reported that the Saudi interior minister had ordered the payment of around $5,000 "to the families of each of the Palestinian victims, as immediate aid to the Palestinian victims." The vagueness of this statement stems from the use of the word "victims" – "martyrs" in the original Arabic. The word "victim" could apply equally to an unarmed Palestinian civilian, a member of the Palestinian security force, or even a suicide bomber inside Israel.

These two examples are mentioned in Livnat's report, but Israel's primary claim in the "Saudi dossier" is one of principle: Any financial aid increases "the motivation to carry out terror attacks, including suicide bombings."

According to those who compiled the dossier, the financial support provided by Saudi Arabia to the family of a "dead terrorist" is equal to the total salary that the family could earn over a six-year period. And as far as financial support of the Palestinians is concerned, the report emphasizes, Saudi Arabia is second only to Iraq.

Those who compiled the report, which includes 13 appendices of photocopied and translated documents, attempted to show that the money transferred by Saudi Arabia for humanitarian purposes ended up in the Hamas coffers. To this end, they produced a document, signed by an officer in the Palestinian anti-espionage unit, which was sent to Col. Jibril al-Bakh-ri, commander of operations in the Palestinian counterintelligence unit in Bethlehem.

In the document, dated Feb. 10, 2001, the author points out that Saudi Arabia transferred funds to aid Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons. "Saudi Arabia refused to give this money to the Palestinian Authority [PA], fearing it would not reach the prisoners... The money eventually reached the brothers in Hamas, who hid it. Hamas only paid money to its leaders and confiscated the rest of the money."

Livnat's Saudi file also shows how PA Chairman Yasser Arafat was livid at the fact that the Saudi aid was being paid directly to Hamas, rather than to the PA and Fatah.

One appendix includes a collection of media articles transferred to Arafat on Jan. 7, 2001, in which it was reported that $33 million (US) was transferred to the families of Palestinian victims. At the bottom of the page, in handwriting that Israeli intelligence officers identified as Arafat's, the chairman asks Saudi representative Mustafa Div "to tell me where this money went and who received it, since the families of the martyrs and the injured did not see a single penny."

U.S. officials said last week that, together with Israeli experts, they intend to study the documents provided by Livnat. Undersecretary of State Mark Grossman confirmed Israel had provided the United States with documents relating to Saudi involvement in funding terror, but refrained from commenting on the contents of the file. Instead, he repeated the usual U.S. mantra about Saudi support of the United States' war on terror and the importance of Prince Abdullah's peace proposal.

May 6

• A Palestinian woman and three children were shot and killed Sunday on the West Bank by Israel Defense Forces troops. The IDF subsequently issued a statement expressing regret for the "harm to innocent" civilians.

May 7

• At least 15 people were killed and 57 wounded when a suicide/homicide bomber blew himself up at a pool hall in Rishon Letzion.

May 8

• A suicide/homicide bomber injured himself in a failed bombing attempt at the Megiddo junction, a few miles from Jenin. Police said that the attacker was alive and seriously wounded, and had struggled against a sapper robot that dragged him from the roadside into the centre of the highway.

May 9

• An agreement was reached to end the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The 13 Palestinians wanted by Israel were dispursed among several European countries.

May 10

• Jerusalem district police and the Shin Bet security service detained four Jews on suspicion of planning mass terror attacks against Palestinian residents of A-Tur and in East Jerusalem. Two of those detained were also arrested about two weeks ago.

• Four people were lightly injured when two Palestinians detonated an explosive device near a branch of Bank Hapoalim in the Old City of Be'er Sheva. By-standers apprehended and beat one of the assailants, who was later taken to hospital for treatment, while local police caught the second terrorist several kilometres outside the city.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

British Jews rally for Israel

By YAKIR ZUR
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — British Jewry has marshalled one of its largest crowds ever to show support for Israel.

Some 50,000 demonstrators from all over Britain filled Trafalgar Square on last Monday afternoon, carrying Israeli and British flags and banners reading "Yes to peace, no to terror" and "Suicide bombers kill people and the peace."

A small but noisy pro-Palestinian demonstration was held nearby, carrying banners supporting the intifadah and denouncing the "Zionist state." Two people at the counter-demonstration, which drew about 300 people, were arrested for public order infractions.

Thousands of police officers patrolled the square and neighbouring streets to prevent clashes between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian demonstrators, but apart from a little pushing and shoving, the rally ended without incident.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the main speaker, said Israel should not allow Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to head a state because it would be a terrorist state, not a peaceful one.

He also compared the British stand against the Nazis in World War II and Israel's struggle for survival.

> *Some 50,000 demonstrators from all over Britain*

Were it not for Britain's resistance, the course of history might have been very different, Netanyahu said.

"But now Britain stands before another road, and it must choose between two opposing paths – the path of appeasing terror or the path of confronting terror," he said.

Netanyahu also called on the international community to support Israel.

"Israel is determined to fight," he said. "The question isn't whether Israel will fight, but whether we will fight alone."

A number of high-profile speakers addressed the rally, including Labour Party legislator Peter Mandelson, British Conservative party Deputy Leader Michael Ancram and British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks.

Sacks said the turnout was the greatest gathering in the history of British Jewry.

"It is important that Israel knows that it's not alone," he said in his speech.

Mandelson, formerly the cabinet secretary for Northern Ireland, said a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute could not be imposed from outside, but could only be reached through negotiations between the two sides.

"Violence and terror will only delay and obstruct the just outcome they seek," he said. "Politics, not violence, secures people's lives."

Mandelson added that a vision of peace benefiting all had sustained the peace process for years.

"In the Middle East, this vision is of an Israel secure within its borders, its existence unchallenged, its people never with their bags packed, never prepared to run again," he said.

"And it is the equivalent for the Palestinian people – a viable, independent state, one that brings not just freedom but responsibility too, fulfilling all the obligations of international law."

Approximately 350 buses brought tens of thousands of Jews from all over Britain, including thousands of students and members of youth groups. The equivalent of hundreds of thousands of dollars were collected, mainly from the budgets of the United Jewish Israel Appeal, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish National Fund in England, as well as from private contributions.

A small number of Jewish peace activists, including groups called Just Peace and Jews for Justice to Palestine, staged a small vigil opposing the main rally.

Peace Now boycotted the rally, saying it was a show piece to support the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Ex-Nazi faces trial; prosecutor promises more to come

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — Proceedings began last week in Germany against a former Nazi SS officer charged with committing war crimes 58 years ago in Italy.

The trial of Friedrich Engel, 92, began May 7 in Hamburg. Among the charges, he is accused of having given orders to kill 59 prisoners in the Marassi Prison in Genoa in May 1944. The killings came as retribution for an attack partisans launched days earlier on German soldiers.

According to eyewitness reports, on May 19, 1944, the prisoners were bound together in pairs and forced to stand on wooden planks over a pit that Jewish inmates had been forced to dig.

The condemned waited their turn to die, as pair after pair was shot and fell on top of those killed before.

Engel, who has been living in Hamburg for decades and was sentenced in absentia to life in prison in 1999 by an Italian military court, has denied giving or approving the orders for the shooting.

"It was a matter of following orders," he was quoted as saying.

He also said those orders had been in keeping with international law, and added that the victims suffered an "easy death."

Chief Prosecutor Kurt Schrimm told the *Suddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper that such trials make sense even though the accused have become old and frail.

"We are showing the victims, and their relatives, that to us their fate is important," said Schrimm, who heads the Central Office for the Resolution of National Socialist War Crimes.

"And we are showing our society that no one who committed such terrible crimes can simply shrug off their guilt and responsibility."

Engel previously has rejected other charges lodged against him by Italian courts.

Among those charges, he was accused of participating in wartime atrocities in the Genoa area – including the shooting of 147 people near a Benedictine cloister and the shooting of 18 hostages in a village.

Hamburg state prosecutors had filed charges against Engel and several other accused war criminals in the 1960s, but the proceedings were suspended.

Engel's case was reopened in 1999.

His trial likely will not be the last war crimes case to come before a German court, according to Nazi-hunter Schrimm, who says some 20 other cases are being prepared.

For example, he says, his office is investigating a case involving the execution of 500 women, children and elderly in Italy's Tuscany region in August 1944.

Schrimm expects another Hamburg resident to face charges in that case.

He told *Suddeutsche Zeitung* that Germany had lifted the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes in 1979 so that perpetrators "could not run free without fear of being brought to justice."

Schrimm and a colleague recently found documents in the Central Intelligence Agency's archives in Washington, D.C., that included interviews with eyewitnesses and perpetrators.

"There is also a wealth of new information available from eastern European sources," Schrimm said. "Our work is far from over."

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Report on Muslim anti-Semitism 'bone-chilling'

By SHARON SAMBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Bone-chilling" and "hair-raising" are usually terms reserved for horror movies, not research reports.

But those words are being used to describe a new report on Muslim anti-Semitism published by the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

AJC officials hope the hate literature rampant in the Arab world no will longer be glossed over, but will become an issue to be acknowledged and confronted.

"We must not let such warnings go unheeded," said David Harris, the AJC's executive director.

For much of the past year, American Jewish groups have been warning of the virulent strain of Muslim anti-Semitism, particularly since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, which many in the Arab and Muslim world blame on Israel.

Many contend the worldwide spike in anti-Semitism, including a rise in attacks against European Jews and Jewish institutions, is the worst in decades.

But the AJC report says special attention must be paid to Muslim anti-Semitism, because of its ferocity and its capacity to complicate already difficult peace efforts in the Middle East.

In *Muslim Anti-Semitism: A Clear and Present Danger*, Prof. Robert Wistrich of Hebrew University writes that the anti-Semitism in the Arab world's press and governments "has taken root in the body politic of Islam to an unprecedented degree."

Already present for a number of years, Arab anti-Semitism has become more widespread, intensive and radicalized, Wistrich said at a press conference in Washington, D.C., last week.

In his view, Arab anti-Semitism is the "single biggest impediment to peace in the Middle East," and attempts to ignore it will boomerang, Wistrich warned.

It is a mistake to see the current wave of anti-Semitism as a by-product of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Wistrich said.

Components of classical European anti-Semitism – slogans, images, stereotypes and conspiracy theories against Jews – have now been incorporated into Arab anti-Semitism.

The contents of Muslim anti-Semitism often defy logic. Even as many Arab governments or media deny the Holocaust, they compare Israel to Nazi Germany because of its treatment of Palestinians, trying to "Nazify" Zionism, Wistrich said.

Wistrich is not the only scholar to sound the alarm. Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, a Philadelphia-based think tank, says Muslim anti-Semitism is part of a larger picture.

"It is a mistake to look at terrorism in isolation and it is a mistake to look at anti-Semitism in isolation," Pipes said. "They are part of a totalitarian ideology of militant Islam."

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), which translates Arab media reports, has been tracking Arab anti-Semitism and incitement.

While much of the rhetoric is not new, the Internet allows the message of hate to be spread more quickly, according to Steve Stalinsky, MEMRI's executive director.

Since completing the research for the AJC report a few months ago, Wistrich has seen no sign of improvement. Arab officials have heaped praise on suicide bombers, and a Palestinian official has charged that Jews killed Jesus.

> *'Warning must not go unheeded'*

Such accusations, blood libels and other charges are made against Jews and Israelis not just in Iraq, Iran and other terrorist-supporting countries. Even supposedly moderate Arab countries like Egypt are "just as bad" when it comes to spreading hate, Wistrich said.

Jewish groups have raised the issue of Arab anti-Semitism with the Bush administration. The White House has responded with words of condemnation, but nothing more.

The Anti-Defamation League, a vocal critic of anti-Semitism in the Egyptian media, was left out of a meeting in Washington, D.C., in March that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called with Jewish groups.

ADL has called attention to the upsurge of Arab anti-Semitism, saying that if it is allowed to grow it could become "one of the most destructive forces unleashed in this new century."

The AJC report traces the evolution of anti-Semitism in the Islamic world and looks at the "culture of hatred" that extends to schools and mosques. The basic message in such places is that Jews are a "hateful, loathsome people" intent on taking over the world and destroying Muslim society.

Wistrich also notes that the term anti-Semitism refers exclusively to hatred of Jews. The semantic game used by some Arabs – that they cannot be considered anti-Semitic because they are also Semites – is "absurd," he said.

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The apppointment may only be made after Monday, May 13, 2002 and must be made on the Appointment of Voting Proxy form available in the Clerk's Department. The form must be certified by the City Clerk before being used. The Clerk's Department will be open Monday to Friday to receive and certify the Appointment of Voting Proxy forms during the following times:

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Questions?
To find out more about who can vote by proxy and who may be appointed a voting proxy, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

First published: May 16, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

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2002 BY-ELECTION
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YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

First published May 9, 2002

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Stem cell research yields surprising conclusions

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — They're microscopic, but capturing headlines worldwide. Stem cells are central to everything health-related, from cloning to miracle cures.

The subject was on the agenda at the lunch session of the third annual Conference on Jewish Medical Ethics, held April 28 at Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz, where Rabbi Edward Reichman, also a medical doctor, spoke on the topic Stem Cell Research: Medical Miracle and/or Moral Meltdown?

Although people of all ages have stem cells, the current controversy surrounding stem cell research revolves around embryonic stem cells, retrieved just a few days after a human ovum (egg) is fertilized, said Rabbi Reichman of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Yeshiva University).

At this early stage, cells are undifferentiated: each one, he said, "could become a skin cell, a kidney cell, a liver cell, a brain cell… only by the direction of HaShem [God]… will [it] grow into the intended organ system." This adaptability gives researchers hope that stem cells may hide cures for diseases such as Parkinson's, Tay-Sachs and cancer.

However, to retrieve those "few magical, potent cells," Rabbi Reichman said, "one has to literally dismantle the embryo." This is the heart of the dilemma. "Is… the fertilized embryo," he asked, "grown just a few days, equivalent to human life – such that harvesting those stem cells is tantamount to homicide?"

While Catholic authorities argue that stem cells constitute a "human being," Halachah (Jewish law) says that rather than life beginning when egg meets sperm, the fetus passes through several developmental stages, culminating when it exits the birth canal, Rabbi Reichman said.

Since stem cells are harvested just a few days after fertilization, the main question is not whether the embryo constitutes human life, but whether it is considered potential life.

According to the Talmud, a fetus of less than 40 days is "mere water." Yet even at that early stage, Rabbi Reichman said, one can violate Shabbat to preserve it because the embryo represents potential life.

Here Rabbi Reichman introduced another variable. Jewish sources, he said, only mention this potential for embryos in utero. Since stem cells are harvested from embryos in vitro, they may have a lesser status.

Rabbi Reichman pointed out that the prohibition in Genesis 9:6, usually taken as "whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed," uses the Hebrew *b'adam*, which can also give a meaning of "whoever sheds the blood of a man within a man" – in other words, in utero. "A man within a petri dish," he said, is an entirely different matter.

In Halachah, the distinction between uterus and petri dish is crucial. Within the body, an embryo will very likely develop into a human being. "Such is not the case," said Rabbi Reichman, "with a fertilized egg sitting in the laboratory." Fulfilling its potential requires "very serious intervention" – careful storage, painstaking implantation.

According to most rabbis, then, the ethics of abortion don't apply here. While a fertilized ovum has more value than mere "sloughed-off skin cells… at the same time, it is not accorded the status of a fetus in utero." And since even a fetus in utero is not considered fully human, a laboratory embryo could certainly not be described as "human life."

Rabbi Reichman also pointed out that microscopic things have "no halachic weight" – for example, our drinking water often contains thousands of swarming "creatures" that would be non-kosher if visible. He suggested that embryonic stem cells might even fall into this category, which would allow for even further leniencies.

Rabbinic authorities, Rabbi Reichman said, have ruled overwhelmingly to permit stem cell research. Rabbi Levi Halperin, the director of the Institute for Science and Halachah, has even suggested – as a corollary to a stringency prohibiting wasting sperm – that there might be an obligation to donate "extra" embryos (following procedures to conceive a child) to medical research, since this avoids "waste" by potentially saving lives.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am wondering which oil has the least fat, and whether light oils are really light.

A. All oil is 100 per cent fat, containing approximately 14 grams of fat and 115 calories per tablespoon. The difference is that light oils are only light in flavour or colour, *not fat*.

Q. I recently asked in a restaurant not to have any oil added to my grilled vegetable appetizer. The waiter argued that the oil they used was pure extra-virgin olive oil and that it was OK. Is this true for someone who is dieting?

A. No, it is not. No matter how good the quality is, it is still 100 per cent fat. Tell the waiter you are impressed that they use high quality ingredients and ask them to leave it off anyway. While olive oil is a heart-healthy fat, it is still very high in fat and calories if you are trying to lose weight.

Q. I have an 18-month-old who does not really like milk. How much milk should a child this age consume?

A. Two cups or 16 ounces per day are enough at this age. Remember, if your child doesn't like plain milk, he or she can get lots of calcium from yogurt, cheese or even chocolate milk. Calcium enriched orange juice is another excellent source for those who don't like or can't tolerate dairy products.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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The story behind the Feldbergs' collection of self-portraits

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Feldberg Collection: Self-Portraits from 1920s Berlin is a notable legacy recalling turbulent times, subterfuge and secrecy.

On show at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery in Hart House, University of Toronto, May 23 to June 20, the portraits were accumulated by Hilde and Siegbert Feldberg, who at the outset could not have anticipated the collection's future significance. This exhibition will mark the first time the collection is on public view outside Germany. Hart House is its exclusive Canadian venue; from there it goes to Boston.

Hilde Feldberg with her two boys Hans and Heinz.

Born in Stettin, in north-east Germany, Hilde, an accomplished pianist, and her husband Siegbert, a lawyer who went into the family's clothing business, were discerning collectors and close friends of many Berlin-based avant-garde poets and artists, including such painters as Kathe Kollwitz, Max Liebermann and Josef Oppenheimer. During visits to Berlin, they indulged their numerous cultural interests.

In the aftermath of World War I when most Germans were experiencing grinding hardship, Siegbert provided impoverished artist friends with custom-made suits in exchange for self-portraits. He also financed theatre productions and granted loans to business partners without pressing for repayment.

With the rise of Hitler and the Nazis' organized boycott of Jewish businesses, banks, doctors and lawyers in April 1933, Siegbert immigrated to India, where he planned to open a textile factory. When his prospective partner reneged, he found employment as chief sales representative in India for the Austrian car manufacturer, Steyr-Fuchs.

Hilde remained in Stettin with their two young sons Hans and Heinz, to liquidate their property, later moving to Berlin. Kristallnacht and then a phone warning from a former Feldberg porter who was working in the registration office of the Berlin police, prompted her to join her husband as quickly as possible. Emigration laws compelled her to leave behind all valuables except her baby grand piano and a box specifically constructed to shelter the portraits.

Aboard a train to Genoa, Hilde shared a compartment with a Nazi official who noted what fine "Hitler boys" her fair haired sons could become. She kept him involved in such animated conversation that he waved off officers checking passports.

In India, she was hired as a receptionist at Sir Victor Sassoon's photo studios and as a musician with All India Radio in Bombay. The Feldbergs resumed a bourgeois lifestyle, though on a lesser scale than in Berlin. They also enrolled their sons in British boarding schools.

Following the declaration of war in September 1939, Siegbert was interned as an enemy alien. About a year later, he was released with 561 Germans, mainly Jewish refugees. He served in the British army for five years and he and Hilde became British nationals.

Hilde's relatives were not so fortunate. In 1940, Stettin's 800 Jewish families were deported to Poland. Her father died en route and the others were eventually sent to concentration camps or massacred by the Gestapo. Air raids and Russian shelling decimated Stettin in 1945. Today the city, known as Szczecin, is part of Poland.

The Feldbergs moved again in 1949 to newly independent Pakistan, returned to Germany in 1963 to assess restitution claims and in 1966, settled in Lugano, Switzerland. During a 1971 vacation to attend concerts and plays in Berlin, Siegbert died of a heart attack in Heidelberg.

He had written to a friend saying he hoped the self-portraits, "preserved through all the difficulties, will one day find a dignified home in a museum in either East or West Berlin."

In 1976, after selling the major part of the collection to the Berlinische Galerie, Hilde, almost 90, relocated to Edmonton to be near her son Heinz. Living in a retirement home but still effervescent, she studied tai-chi, took an interest in Canadian politics and played her grand piano, which like its owner, was well-travelled.

The Justina M. Barnicke exhibition comes to the gallery through the efforts of U of T's University College principal Paul Perron, who learned the Feldbergs' story from their granddaughter, historian Gina Feldberg. U of T professor Pia Kleber was able to unearth the self-portraits in the archives of the Berlinische Galerie, whose curator, Freye Mulhaupt, is lending them for travel and display.

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Woody Allen film burdened with a sense of deja vu

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Woody Allen has been churning out films at the frantic rate of one a year for the past few years.

So it is hardly surprising that his most recent movies have been disappointingly stale, compared to masterpieces like *Annie Hall* and *Manhattan,* which dazzled us in the late 1970s.

This is a great pity, since the man is a major talent who has rightly earned his place in the pantheon of American cinema.

His latest offering, *Hollywood Ending*, now playing at the Cineplex chain, does not break the mould.

The story is set in the centre of New York City, his favourite set. The chief protagonist, a Jewish filmmaker who's given one last chance to redeem his floundering career, is thoroughly neurotic, a schlemiel like so many of his previous characters. The film, propelled by a generally self-assured ensemble cast, is studded with jokey, sometimes absurd situations.

On the surface, then, *Hollywood Ending* possesses all the hallmarks of a quintessential Allen movie. But appearances are deceiving.

Although it hums along with Allen's familiar electric energy and inimitable levity, at least some of the time, *Hollywood Ending* is simply too predictable in tone and substance. It is burdened with a sense of deja vu.

Continued on page 37

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

ART EXHIBIT AT CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE CELEBRATES SHANGHAI'S ROLE AS REFUGE FOR JEWS

Between 1937 and 1941, over 20,000 Jews found refuge in Shanghai, China, at a time when many other countries refused Jewish refugees, ultimately denying them a chance of survival.

An art exhibit reflecting the theme of Chinese compassion for Jews during the Holocaust opens this month in Toronto. A Gift of Friendship Tribute Exhibit features works specially created by 18 Jewish and nine Chinese artists, all Canadian residents. Artists include **Beverley Abramson**, **Al Green**, **Edith Kernerman**, **Ann Lazare-Mirvish**, **Charles Pachter**, **Rochelle Rubenstein** and **Judy Singer**.

The exhibit was co-ordinated by ORT Toronto co-chairs **Ian Leventhal** and **Harriet Morton**, in partnership with honorary co-chairs **Renee Bleeman Bernbaum**, **Peter Kellner** and **Dr. Ming-Tat Cheung**. Honorary patrons are **Senator Vivienne Poy**, Israeli consul general **Meir Romem** and Toronto Mayor **Mel Lastman**.

A Gift of Friendship is on view from May 30 to June 12 at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, 5183 Sheppard Ave. E., at Progress Road in Scarborough. Admission is free. Afterwards, it goes on permanent display in Ohel Moshe Synagogue, Shanghai.

A gala reception features a Chinese Lion Dance (7:45 p.m.) and a performance by the **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**. $25. Chinese Cultural Centre, Wednesday, May 29, 7 to 10 p.m. ORT Toronto, 416-787-0339.

* * *

Music & Laffs for Health Care: Thursday Night Live, a lavish evening of entertainment, has been organized as a benefit for the Running to Daylight Foundation (Ben Globerman Memorial). Proceeds go towards improving health care for the elderly by funding patient representative programs.

The event features MC **Jane Hawtin**, the **Downchild Blues Band**, and **Alex Nussbaum**, **Carilynn Nicholson**, **Lee-Anne Stewart**, **Les Aaron** and other comedians. Bloor Street Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. Thursday, May 23, 8 p.m.

Tickets to the performance and dessert reception are $60. Tickets, including a pre-event dinner buffet at JJ Muggs, 500 Bloor St. W., 6 p.m., are $85. 416-872-1212 or www.ticketking.com.

Day-of-event tickets are $70 at the cinema box office between 4 and 5 p.m. and 7 and 8 p.m. (cash only). Tax receipts will be issued for the maximum allowable amount.

The Running to Daylight Foundation was established by the family of the late **Ben Globerman** of Ottawa. It focuses on providing elderly patients in Toronto and Ottawa with professional representatives to help them navigate the medical maze of hospitals, nursing homes and community care.

* * *

Broadway Bound: As reported recently in the *Toronto Star* and the *New York Times*, former Livent theatre impresario **Garth Drabinsky** is planning to stage his own Broadway comeback next year through a revival of the British drama *The Dresser*.

Although he does not intend to set foot in the United States, where he is wanted on charges of criminal fraud, Drabinsky told the *Times* in a telephone interview, "My intention is not to wither and die but to keep working."

He explained that he expected *The Dresser* to reach New York next spring after playing several weeks at the Elgin Theatre in Toronto, and that he would not invest personally in the production so as to prevent any potential seizure of assets. Starting with a production of **Athol Fugard's** play *The Island* last year in Toronto, the 52-year-old Torontonian "has been inching his way back to the stage," the *Times* noted.

While keeping busy with special marketing projects for the *National Post*, the Toronto Argonauts and Muskoka Sands luxury resort and condos, Drabinsky acknowledged that the thrill of live entertainment still pulsed strongly in his blood. "I'm very excited," he said. "I've never stopped thinking about the theatre."

* * *

Arts in Brief

- The Alexander Singers and Players production of *Iolanthe*, by **Gilbert and Sullivan,** continues at the Leah Posluns Theatre. $22-$18. 416-785-0333.
- Shaarei Shomayim Book Club discusses **Franz Kafka's** *The Trial*. All are welcome. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Sunday, May 19, 8 p.m.
- The Milk International Children's Festival of the Arts runs May 19 to 26 at Harbourfront. Highlights include a jamboree with **Sharon and Bram**, **Jack Grunsky**, **Eric Nagler**, **Ballet Creole**, the **Harlem Gospel Choir** and much more. 416-973-4000. Web site, harbourfront.on.ca/milk.
- Encore Entertainment presents **Neil Simon's** *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, directed by **Merle Garbe**. $22-$20. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Studio Theatre. 5040 Yonge St., May 23 through June 2. 416-733-0558.
- Glimpsed Through the Interstices, a new photography exhibition about Cuba by **Beverley Abramson**. Prince Arthur Fine Arts, 33 Prince Arthur Ave., May 21 to June 8. Reception May 23, 6 to 9 p.m.

Hollywood Ending predictable in tone and substance

Continued from page 36

Val Waxman (Allen), a seasoned director, has seen better days. As the film opens, he is finishing a deodorant commercial in Canada's far north, eager to return to the comforts of New York City. Allen, unfairly, takes this opportunity to knock Toronto.

Out of the blue, Ellie (Tea Leoni), Waxman's former wife, comes to his rescue. An executive in a Hollywood film studio, she still believes in him, and persuades her boss and fiance, Hal Yeager (Treat Williams), to hire Waxman for their next project.

As Waxman prepares for his comeback, he comes down with a bout of blindness. Fearing he will be fired, he and his agent hush up his infirmity.

Needless to say, the incoherent rushes do not impress the powers that-be. What else can be expected of a blind director?

The humour turning on Waxman's pathetic efforts to conceal his disability can be funny. But after a while, this conceit grates on the nerves, as does Allen's tired and hackneyed portrayal of yet another nervous Jewish schlemiel.

Indeed, one has the sinking feeling that Allen is running out of fresh, edgy material.

And the dialogue, written by Allen himself, is not as clever as it once was. In a scene with his estranged son, a punk rocker, Waxman offers him an "olive branch." To which his son replies, more or less: "What is this, the Israeli parliament?"

Williams is pretty much convincing as the ruthless studio czar, but Leoni fails to make much of an impression as Waxman's saviour. Debra Messing, who plays Waxman's ditsy wind-up-doll girlfriend, is considerably better. George Hamilton, the perennially-tanned thespian, is persuasive as Yeager's crass associate.

Much to its credit, *Hollywood Ending* pokes sardonic fun at Hollywood conventions and at pretentious French film critics. But these delicious lines cannot save this movie from itself.

It is clearly time for Allen to regroup.

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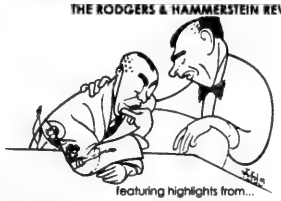
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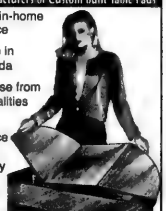
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Arts & Travel

Speed-the-Plow *falls short – but with panache*

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Theatre that revolves around a Hollywood cliche can become tiresome and unoriginal, but at least David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* falls into the trap with style.

Centering on two producers with a money-making idea and a manipulative secretary with her own Hollywood script, *Speed-the-Plow*, playing until May 17 at the Jane Mallett Theatre, is a glimpse into the bleakest moral vacuum.

Pop singer Phil Collins' daughter Joely makes her Toronto stage debut as Karen, the shy but determined temp with a passion to produce. But the conflict of the play revolves around the two producers Bob Gould (Jeff Seymour) and Charlie Fox (Bill Elliot), who come to blows over whether to make another soulless blockbuster or an uncommercial flick that might not rake in the summer movie dollars.

Just as the bigwigs battle over which film will put tushes in the seats, the play has its own possibilities to consider: will it be a fresh and innovative look into the Hollywood production process or a brainless copycat of Hollywood satires such as the films *State and Main* (a Mamet script) and *Get Shorty*?

Three-quarters of *Speed-The-Plow* feels like the latter, yet strong dialogue and a memorable performance from Seymour (who also directs) give the play enough substance to make it a passable two hours.

Known for his dialogue, playwright Mamet keeps it snappy in every scene. He is no stranger to the craft of con-man banter, or to the Hollywood game. His scripts, such as *American Buffalo* and the Oscar nominated *The Verdict*, are routinely made into films that focus more on conversation than action.

As he accomplished with *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Mamet stamps *Speed-the-Plow* with his familiar trademark: men with a penchant for bullying, trickery and four-letter words. Characters often interrupt each other mid-sentence, and the exchanges reflect the high tension involved with multi-million-dollar banter.

When Fox and Gould team up to produce a violent prison movie starring an A-list actor, the mood in the office couldn't be more slick and phony. The constant handshakes and compliments set the scene for the beautiful temp to disrupt the friendship with plans of her own. But Collins plays the part with a quietness that should have been replaced with fearless integrity, an element that becomes essential to her character's strong will.

Whether it's due to the over-the-top violence or the old sex-equals-power saw, the plot falls short when it comes to introspective drama. And if theatre is meant to entertain and offer some insight into the human condition, then *Speed-The-Plow* only fulfils the first criterion, albeit with panache.

One performance stands out. Even though Gould is a clone of virtually every other Hollywood producer portrayed in film or theatre (is it too original to create an artistic producer?), Seymour throws himself into the role. His convincing body language and clipped sentences hint at the actor's breadth and experience – Seymour has been acting and directing for more than 20 years in Vancouver and Los Angeles, where he ran the successful Gnu Theatre.

When Fox berates Gould for choosing to green-light an obscure film, he screams: "Your name is gonna be a punchline in this town!" If Mamet doesn't focus more on writing about original themes rather than concentrating on dazzling dialogue, his name could also become a punchline in the town of which his character speaks.

For tickets to *Speed-the-Plow*, call 416-366-7723.

VisionTV spotlight on Islam

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Islam, the world's fastest-growing religion, has been in the harsh glare of the spotlight since last September's unprecedented terrorist events in the United States.

Ever since 19 Muslim hijackers, nearly all Saudi nationals, deliberately crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., claiming nearly 3,000 victims, Islam has been the subject of countless debates.

The questions pundits and intellectuals have posed about the relationship between the identity of the hijackers and their religion may never be fully answered. Yet the quest for understanding is certainly worth the journey.

On May 23, at 9 p.m and again at 11 pm, Vision TV plans to launch *Mohammed*, a weekly five-part series on the life and teachings of Islam's founder, Mohammed the prophet. Each episode is one hour in length.

Mohammed's story, and the light it sheds on Islam, which commands the loyalty of one billion Muslims around the globe, is largely told through the medium of interviews with people of all stripes, from ordinary folk to scholars.

The interviews are supplemented by sweeping vistas of soaring mosques and majestic desert landscape.

The documentaries, which are measured in tone, describe his early years and the complex political, social and economic environment in which he lived.

They also chronicle his contacts with Judaism and Christianity, his revelation and efforts to spread the new faith, his persecution and flight to Medina, and his final years.

There are several references to Jews and Judaism in the series, a co-Canadian-French production.

Mohammed, who tried but failed to convert the Jews of Arabia, took a Jewish woman, Aisha, as his second wife. A captive who fell into the hands of Mohammed's soldiers, she played a role in the formation of Islam.

We also learn that Mohammed's pragmatism prompted him to tax rather than to banish the Jewish inhabitants of a city his army had conquered, and that the prohibition against the consumption of pork in Islam was derived from Judaism.

Mohammed gives viewers a rounded picture of Islam, but it's debatable whether it explains the connection between Islam and terrorism, if indeed there is one, and the terrifying rage of some of its adherents.

Local jazz singer's CD marks state of her career

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — It's not easy making a living singing. It's even tougher if you happen to sing traditional jazz standards instead of mainstream pop songs.

Toronto jazz singer Leah State, 27, knows this, but she is determined to persevere despite the odds. She recently released her first CD *Still*, a collection of 10 jazz and show-tune standards, in an attempt to get more people to hear her.

"It's hard when you're Leah State and not Ute Lemper," she admits. "It's a pretty big mountain and I'm not even at the bottom. Sometimes I feel like I'm still on the road that leads to the path that leads to the bottom of the mountain."

The CD also serves as a personal testament to the songs she started singing professionally in Toronto clubs three years ago. The songs are quite diverse. They include Irving Berlin's *Cheek to Cheek*; Duke Ellington's *Caravan*; Kurt Weill's *Lost in Stars*; Cole Porter's *In the Still of Night*; *Tall Trees in Georgia* by Buffy Sainte-Marie and others.

"I picked these songs from a body of songs I preferred in the beginning of my career. I wanted to have a record of them with my band and a marker of what I used to do."

Although she performs in the jazz milieu, the songs on *Still* have refreshingly original arrangements.

"A lot of the songs on *Still* are very short," she says. "There aren't a lot of solos [which one would associate with jazz recordings.] This is a singer's record."

State does have a beautiful voice, perfectly suited for this "singer's record."

"I chose jazz because I don't think my vocals are suited to pop," she says. "Also the lyrics are timeless and important – the tunes are so beautiful."

Leah State called the 'future of Toronto's jazz scene'

On this CD, State and her band – consisting of Craig Harley, Andrew Downing, Justin Hayes and Jean Martin – experimented with multitracking and overdubs, also something not common in jazz recordings. However, when she records next time, State might go the opposite route and try the raw sound of a "live-off-the-floor" recording.

"Sometimes it's nice to be able to hear the room and the space and to leave the mistakes on. It's more intimate that way."

State doesn't let high accolades, such as the *Toronto Star* calling her "the future of Toronto's jazz scene," get to her head.

"It is really hard to make a living," State says. "I could do weddings and bar mitzvahs – but making money is not my motivation."

There is some promise of that, though. CBC Radio may be recording one of her concerts for broadcast in the future, and State is optimistic that anything can happen.

"Whenever I get discouraged I realize that I have this record and I'm playing great clubs. Two years ago, I wouldn't have dreamed that CBC would call to record my show – maybe five years from now I'll be doing things I now wouldn't dream of doing. Who knows?"

State performs at the Top of the Senator and other local clubs frequently. She also performs with an all female group called Runcible Spoon. For the rest of May, State performs at Toronto's newest jazz club, Sax on Yonge, 545 Yonge St. every Thursday from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

You can get an updated list of her gigs at www.leahstate.com.

Her CD *Still* is available through jazzpromo.com, HMV and the breath.com

Leah State

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

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State comptroller's report criticizes Bedouin policy

By ORI NIR
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — The state comptroller has joined the harsh criticism academics and activists have been voicing for years about government policy toward Israel's Bedouin minority.

In an understated tone peppered with damning facts and figures, the comptroller's annual report, released last week, shows how the Bedouin community has grown in numbers and needs since 1948 – and how government after government largely ignored these needs.

Today, after years of neglect, the Bedouin community in the southern Negev desert suffers from a higher rate of poverty than the overall population, higher rates of crime, drugs and unemployment, worse health and education services, and appalling infrastructure.

"You neglect what is basically a loyal, quiet, nonpoliticized population, and it ends up exploding in your face. There is no way around it," says Thabet abu-Ras of Ben-Gurion University, an expert on the Bedouin.

It is a quiet explosion, with no big protests or violent riots, just a silent but steady process of alienation. Most Bedouin now share the antagonistic, estranged attitude most Israeli Arabs have toward the Jewish state.

Most Bedouin voters once backed Zionist parties, particularly Labour, but in recent elections, most voted for Arab parties, mainly the one that includes Israel's radical Islamic movement.

Most young Bedouin men once volunteered for the army. Today, only a handful of Negev Bedouin do so, by unofficial accounts, a mere dozen in 2001.

As well, the Negev Bedouin were once apolitical, almost unexposed to Arab nationalism. Today, they express opinions that often are more militant than their Arab brethren in the Galilee.

A poll taken among Israeli Arabs last year showed Bedouins feel more estranged from the state than do Arab citizens in the north. Forty-two per cent said they reject Israel's right to exist, compared with 16 per cent in the non-Bedouin Arab sector.

The Negev's Bedouin population, today about 130,000, has grown more than ten-fold since 1948. Half of them live in seven townships that Israel built between 1966 and 1990, and half live in many small villages, farms and tiny tent-and-shack communities that are unplanned and unrecognized by the state.

Land ownership in the unrecognized communities is disputed. The Bedouin who live there and work some of the land claim ownership. A minority say they can prove their legal ownership with documents from the Ottoman and British governments that ruled Palestine before Israel's founding, while most claim a historical right of possession.

In 1976, the first Rabin government approved a set of terms and criteria to settle Bedouin land disputes for an area totalling approximately 380,000 square miles. Of these, disputes over just 54,000 square miles have been settled.

Townships have become havens of unemployment, crime and drugs

Since then, Bedouin have illegally invaded vast areas of state land. The state demolishes some of their new, unlicensed buildings, but does not effectively enforce the law. When it does, it sometimes uses force, which further alienates the population.

In February, the Israel Land Authority hired seven light airplanes, which sprayed chemicals to destroy Bedouin crops on approximately 4,300 square miles of disputed land.

Bedouin leaders say they aren't opposed to settling the disputes, but demand reasonable compensation for land they have occupied for generations.

The state comptroller's report criticizes all governments since the mid-1970s for not having tried to settle these disputes, and for not supplying reasonable infrastructure and services to the recognized townships.

Ya'akov Katz, director of the Bedouin Administration, the agency that executes government Bedouin policy, said the report's description of previous governments' handling of Bedouin issues is accurate.

But Katz said he expects a major breakthrough soon on land settlements, which would "start the ball rolling" to resolving related issues.

The townships were intended to attract the Bedouin, who for generations have been gradually abandoning their nomadic lifestyle. They were expected to seize the chance to live in permanent homes, with running water and electricity, roads, a sewage system and services such as schools and health clinics.

But the towns were built with minimal investment. Most homes are not connected to a sewage system and suffer from an unreliable water supply and damaged roads. And infrastructure in all seven townships has been little improved since they were built, the report states.

Without reasonable infrastructure, no industry and hardly any land reserves for farming, they have become havens of unemployment, crime and drugs.

"How can you expect such sorry communities to attract anyone?" says Yosef Ben-David of Hebrew University, a veteran scholar of Bedouin society. "What is happening is an opposite process: People who moved into the townships are now returning to the farms, to the unrecognized villages."

This return to a traditional, semi-nomadic way of life is not only the result of governmental negligence. Observers say it's also the natural reaction of a society that has gone through a change that proved faster and more dramatic than it could handle.

"This is a society that is used to slow changes," explains Alayan al-Kreinawi, director of the Center for the Study of Bedouin Society at Ben-Gurion University. "It does not have the tools to adjust to a globalized modern society, while trying to hold on to its religious and cultural tradition."

As a result, the Bedouin are much poorer than the overall population, with a higher unemployment rate and more people earning less than minimum wage.

The Bedouin sector is also the youngest in Israeli society. With an annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent, versus 2.6 per cent for the overall population, about 54 per cent of Bedouin are under 14, compared to 29 per cent of the overall population.

Unfortunately, the level of investment in education for the Bedouin is the lowest in the country, contributing to a high dropout rate. Only 43 per cent of Bedouin in the appropriate age group studied in Grade 12 in 1998, versus 81 per cent among the overall population.

In addition to the Negev Bedouin, there are also 65,000 Bedouins in the Galilee. These "northern" Bedouin are generally better off economically than their southern brethren, and a larger proportion of them – about 80 per cent – live in recognized villages with better services and infrastructure.

More of the northern Bedouin serve in the army than do their southern counterparts and the area over which they claim ownership is much smaller.

Canada abstains at UN on Jenin

Continued from page 1

The resolution condemned "the assaults by Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Jenin refugee camp." It also slammed Israel's refusal to cooperate with the UN's fact-finding team to the Jenin refugee camp, "in disregard of Security Council resolution 1405."

The world body also demanded that Israel "cease all hindrances to the work of humanitarian organizations and UN agencies in the occupied Palestinian territory."

It an attempt to soften the text, countries also voted to emphasize "the importance of civilian safety and well-being in the whole Middle East region, [and] condemn in particular all acts of violence and terror resulting in deaths and injuries among Palestinian and Israeli civilians."

Canada said it abstained on the vote because the resolution "failed to address adequately and with full balance the chain of events that had led up to the situation today.

"Canada could not agree with the singling out of one party. The two parties must resume negotiations urgently. Israel must re-engage with the Palestinian Authority, and [Yasser] Arafat must use his authority not only to condemn terrorist attacks, but to bring those responsible to justice."

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) would have preferred that Canada vote against the resolution, said CIC national chair Joseph Wilder. Given Canada's explanation of its vote, which is welcome, one would expect the logical conclusion to be a vote against this and similar measures, Wilder told *The CJN*.

Overall, though, Canada's voting pattern at the UN "is moving closer to what we've urged. To that extent, we're pleased. We're not saying we're totally satisfied. We're saying it's a move in the right direction," Wilder said.

The day after the UN vote and the pool hall bombing, Canada and the European Union, at a one-day summit in Toledo, Spain, released a joint statement decrying Mideast violence on both sides.

"We state our shared condemnation of violence and terrorism and express our distress at the loss of innocent Israeli and Palestinian life. We reiterate that there is no military solution to the conflict," the joint statement read, adding that land for peace must be the focus of talks leading a lasting solution.

Canadian youth volunteer for Israel

Continued from page 1

Halperin, who has been to Israel three times before, worked at the army base for two days and then went with the other volunteers to Jerusalem to help paint buildings in one of the city's poorer neighbourhoods.

"Here I am a box painter," Halperin said with a smile as she painted the coloured identification panels on the cartons.

The trip was Kahane's first ever visit to Israel. "I thought it would just be a great experience to come to Israel at this time and help out and see the way the army works. My husband was here about a month ago and he knew a guy in Toronto who had sent us some information about the trip. We didn't know what we were going to do at the army base, but it doesn't matter – it is just good to be here. In fact, it's great!"

Shupac was visiting Israel for the fifth time.

"I want to be here and show support for Israel. My friend and I had been talking about Israel for a long time and two weeks ago we decided that instead of talking we just wanted to come and help out," she said.

"When I get back home I am going to tell my friends that Israel really needs our support... and the impression that I have gotten is that they feel isolated and we need to be there to show solidarity."

The Canadians were well received by the IDF officers and the men involved in finding temporary work for the visitors.

Sgt. Doron Amir from Bat Yam was one of the many reservists who had received an emergency call-up order for the recently concluded Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank.

Last week, he had still not been released back to his civilian life. Brush in hand, Amir was in charge of the Canadian carton painters.m

"It makes me feel good to see these people coming from Canada. It makes the people feel good," he said.

"It's very beautiful. What they are doing makes the soldiers happy to realize that the world thinks about us."

Base commander Lt.-Col. Rami Shmuel also thanked the volunteers for their help and concern.

"It's a wonderful project to see all these boys and girls come to Israel and help the army with all types of work we have here," Shmuel said.

"We are very happy to see all the people. I want to tell the leaders that arrange this project that if is a wonderful thing for Zionism for Israel and for [the IDF]."

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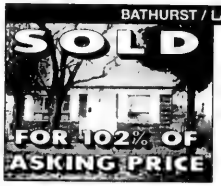

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330 OBITUARIES

GOLDFEIN, Jacob – on April 26, 2002.
STRAUCH, Rachel – on April 26, 2002, late of 14 Laurel Leaf Rd. S.
COHEN-BOULAKIA, David – on April 27, 2002, late of 130 Neptune Dr.
KAPLAN, Herta – on April 26, 2002.
FEIGELSOHN, Sol – on April 27, 2002, late of 1675A Bathurst St.
KURTZ, Abraham – on April 26, 2002.
GERCHIKOVA, Minya-Rokhilya – on April 28, 2002, late of , 35 Grenadier Cres.
SHIFRIS, Mira – on April 28, 2002.
PEARLMAN, Israel – on April 28, 2002, late of Surrie, BC.
SHERECK, Allen – on April 28, 2002.
WELLER, Aron – on April 28, 2002.
CROSSWELL, Horace – on April 30, 2002.
SMOLARZ, Jacob – on April 30, 2002.
KLEIMAN, Hannah – on April 29, 2002, late of 1463 Eglinton Ave. W.
KLEIN, Frank – on April 29, 2002.
RUBB, Iren – on May 3, 2002, late of 150 Almore Ave.
GROSS, Arnold – on May 2, 2002.
WINKLER, Sally – on May 3, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
BENDAYAN, Harry – on May 4, 2002, late of 383 St. Germain Ave.
ORGAN, Deborah – on May 4, 2002, late of 23 Tarlton Rd.
MANILLA, Frances – on May 5, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
NOSAK, Rafal – on May 5, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
DAVIS, Sylvia – on May 6, 2002, late of 1121 Steeles Ave. W.
RIVLIN, Pearl – on May 6, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SUTO, Margaret – on May 6, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

LINZON, Albert – on April 18, 2002, late of 85 Skymark Dr., #1501.
PRESSMAN, Annemarie – on April 16, 2002, late of 16 Bison Dr.
SLOMA, Sarah (Sally) – on April 17, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GOLDFRICHT, Mendel – on April 19, 2002, late of 3000 Dufferin St., #1807.
JORDAN, Janet – on April 18, 2002, late of 75 Greenbush Cres.

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SZYMKOWICZ, Simon – on April 19, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
MYRAN, Sadie – on April 20, 2002, late of 431 Glencairn Ave.
GLUCK, Hans – on April 20, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
PANZER, Sigmund – on April 19, 2002, late of 1555 Finch Ave. E., #2502.
GLOWINSKI, Mel – on April 22, 2002, late of 183 Bayview Fairways Dr.
STRANSMAN, John – on April 22, 2002, late of 97 St. Leonards Ave.
GOLOMBEK, Isie – on April 23, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave., 10th Flr.
WITTLIN, Ben – on April 23, 2002, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #2306.
WITTLIN, Ben – on April 23, 2002, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #2306.
RESNICK, Gordon – on April 23, 2002, late of 15 Almington St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

KAMMELMAN, Doris – on April 15, 2002, late of 1071 Eglinton Ave. W., #208.
BURSTYN, Helen – on April 24, 2002, late of 3276 St. Clair Ave. E.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
Sunday, May 19th at 10:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
#9 Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANNE LACHOVITSKY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 19th at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie
Community Section – Phase III
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY NAIMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 19th at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashiver Young Men's Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IDA CHARNEY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
(YMHA) Young Men's Hebrew Association Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HERMAN GLUCKMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANZELDA HAAS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26th, 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NINA WAISBROT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Old Section
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LIFE PARTNER
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, intelligent, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established male, who's over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable, and over 6 feet. **AD#1181**

CALL ME
Single female from Montreal, 50'ish, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, sense of humour, conservadox, enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, beach, seeks male, 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests. **AD#1034**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Beautiful lady, blonde with blue eyes, smart, extremely well educated, witty, outspoken, passionate, seeks male between 47-55 yrs, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1119**

SPEAK YOUR MIND
Single female, 60 yrs, seeks man who greets each day with pleasure, not afraid to speak his mind, but willing to consider other opinions, who loves classical music, opera, creative, preferably not religiously observant, but shares a deep love for Israel. **AD#1374**

LET'S TALK
Loving, warm, giving very affectionate, outgoing and friendly. She has a great sense of humour and likes to make people laugh. Compassionate, passionate and sensuous. Loves art galleries, museums, travelling, swimming, walks, and musicals. **AD#1385**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Loves movies, theatre, dining, dancing, has great circle of friends, enjoys sports, hockey, scrabble, backgammon, majong, cards, great sense of humour, good soul, looking for the same in a male: funny, charming, good sense of humour, who's willing to give more than 2 minutes. **AD#1396**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere. **AD#1230**

CALL ME
Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others. **AD#1030**

DYNAMIC
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative,seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys. **AD#1253**

LOVING & CARING
Single Jewish female, 63 yrs, sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, enjoys a wide variety of interests, seeks male Jewish, 65-70 yrs, spontaneous, honest and romantic, for a long term relationship. **AD#1033**

LONG TERM LOVE
Single female, classy, smart, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, kind, seeks Jewish male, 65-70 yrs, active, thoughtful, loving, romantic, ready for a committed relationship. **AD#1441**

LOVER & BEST FRIEND
Single female, warm, caring, intelligent, passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, skiing, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight, successful and ready for romance. **AD#1131**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5'5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dads, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys. **AD#1017**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, seeks male, 65-75 yrs, active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship. **AD#1138**

HUMOUR & HONESTY
Single female, 56 yrs, non smoker, enjoys sports, dining out, long walks, movies, rides in the country, medium weight, 5' 4", divorced short brown hair, two grown children, strong sense of integrity, great sense of humour, searching for a single white male 60-65 yrs, with a great sense of humour and honesty. **Honesty** is very important. I'd like you to give me a call. **AD#1209**

FABULOUS FIFTIES
Single female, mid fifties, professional, enjoys music, sports, long walks, travel, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, caring, compassionate, seeks male, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1090**

♂ men seeking women

CALL ME
Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends. Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family. **AD#1222**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single male, 5' 10", 180 lbs, salt & pepper hair, loving, kind, enjoys kids of all ages, likes movies, dancing, outdoor activities, bbq'ing, family life, watching TV in front of the fireplace, seeking female with similar qualities and interests for a relationship. **AD#1149**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 30 yrs, never married, handsome, loving, passionate, enjoys ports, camping, outdoor activities, dining and dancing, movies, seeks female, 22-36 yrs with similar qualities and interests for long term loving relationship. **AD#1424**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

UNIQUE GOODS
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A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1960-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1096**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

It's absolutely FREE to place your personal message!

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single female, 55 yrs, outgoing, loving, fit, sincere, good sense of humour, enjoys the theatre, movies, long walks, seeks male with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1221**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single Jewish female, sincere, smart, romantic, passionate, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, theatre, seeks male, Jewish 65-80 yrs, thoughtful, loving, with a wide variety of interests. **AD#1392**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 6 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests. **AD#1026**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

SEEKS A FUN PERSON
Single, romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who likes travel, movies, quiet times and great conversation, seeks someone with a great disposition who is fun to be with and can make him laugh. **AD#1645**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1643**

LONG WALKS
Single Jewish male, in his mid 40's, is an attractive, intelligent, ambitious, professional gentleman. He seeks an attractive Jewish female, 32-44 yrs old for casual dating leading to long term relationship, someone who enjoys dining, movies, good music, dancing, nearby travel and romantic long walks. **AD#1254**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys. **AD#1179**

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Israeli sports aerobics team dominates meet

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In the world of competitive gymnastics, sports aerobics is the new kid on the block, the poor cousin trying to get noticed in the shadow cast by the more popular and better-known events like artistic gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and even acrobatics.

Sports aerobics is no less demanding, artistic and athletic than the other gymnastics disciplines, say its devotees. And it is making inroads into the public consciousness and among young athletes who are taking to the sport in growing numbers – at least in Israel.

Recently, Israel's national sports aerobics team was in Ontario for the Canadian Sports Aerobics Championships, hosted by the Brantford Gymnastics Academy at the Brantford and District Civic Centre. Despite the absence of one of their better performers, the four-athlete Israeli team dominated the competition.

The team's three girls – Alina Alekseenko, Ania Fedko and Karina Kaplun – finished first in the trio competition. In addition, Fedko and Kaplun were first and second respectively in individual novice routines for 11 to 14-year-olds, while Alekseenko finished first in an individual event for junior women (ages 14 to 17) and the team's sole male competitor, Yehuda Huber, came second in the men's senior event.

Nastia Lagovsky, perhaps the team's best athlete, was unable to attend the competition.

Hagit Diskin, manager of the Israeli National Sports Aerobics team, was pleased at the results, though she acknowledged the level of competition wasn't quite what they had expected.

Only Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia sent athletes and Israel was the only international team at the event. Romania, Belarus and France, the dominant world powers, stayed away even though the Brantford tournament was a world championship qualifier for the Canadians.

As Diskin explains it, sports aerobics is one of seven disciplines under the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) umbrella. The others are artistic gymnastics (men and women), which includes the familiar rings, pommel horse, floor exercises and parallel bars events; rhythmic gymnastics; acrobatics (including pyramids and tumbling); trampoline; and general gymnastics. The latter involves group performances in events such as cheerleading, Diskin said.

FIG defines sports aerobics as the ability to perform complex and high intensity movement patterns to music. The musical aspect originated in traditional aerobic dance.

Participants perform a routine lasting less than two minutes and the routine must demonstrate continuous movement, flexibility, strength and utilization of basic moves.

"The competitor must also demonstrate combinations of aerobic steps and sequences, including the seven basic aerobic steps: knee lift, kick, jacks, lunge, march, jog and skip," FIG's Web site says.

In one of the Israeli team's more jaw-dropping moves, the trio performs one-handed push-ups while doing the splits – with both legs in the air and parallel to the floor!

Holly Abraham, technical director of Gymnastics Ontario, said the Israelis' performances were excellent. For Canadian athletes, trying their hands at a relatively new sport, "one of the great things having them here was so everyone could see the variations and variety and interesting combinations they put together."

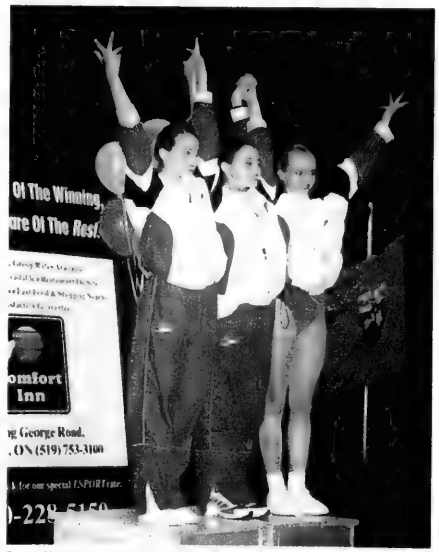
The Israelis exposed Canadian athletes to a high-level demonstration of the sport, she added.

Diskin said the Israeli team was looking for a tune-up in advance of the world championships, which will be held in Lithuania in July. The Israelis could have attended a world qualifier in France, but given safety issues, Canada was chosen instead.

Israeli sports authorities are telling the country's athletes to keep a low profile when abroad, to not wear team jackets, to avoid speaking Hebrew in public and to be especially careful, Diskin said.

A side benefit of the Canadian trip was to bring the Israelis for a visit to the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, where they demonstrated their sport and taught some choreography to the high school's gymnastics team.

In Brantford, prior to the Toronto leg of their trip, the Israelis were the class of the field. Given that the sport has been practised in Israel for only three years, Diskin is happy with the progress the team is making. At a competition in Holland last March, Alekseenko, 16, finished first and Lagovsky fourth. Huber finished seventh.



Israel's golden girls finished first in the trio event at the Canadian sports aerobics championships. From left: Karina Kaplun, Ania Fedko and Alina Alekseenko.

Huber was much better in Brantford, continuing the improvement he's shown since taking up the sport a year ago.

A physical education student at the Wingate Institute in Netanya, Huber was into track and field, gymnastics and folk dance before trying his hand at sports aerobics. Diskin, who lectures at Wingate, suggested he give the sport a try and once he did, he was hooked.

"You need to dance in this sport. It's completely different than anything I ever did. It's very intensive. It combines elements of gymnastics, jumps and falls," Huber said.

Huber said one of his favourite moves is a straddle jump and full turn, and he can land a 720 degree (double turn) in the air.

Sports aerobics is enjoying moderate popularity in Israel as it tries to make inroads in a country where the number 1 and 2 sports are soccer and basketball. More young people are taking to "fun sports" like acrobatics and sports aerobics, Huber said.

Israel's sports aerobics team, top row, from left: Alina Alekseenko, Ania Fedko, Karina Kaplun, Yehuda Huber. Bottom row, from left, Hagit Diskin and coach Marina Alekseenko.

Another sport gaining popularity is capuera, an activity that originated in Brazil and combines gymnastics moves with dancing and kicks. "It demands acrobatic skills," Huber said.

People are enrolling in sports aerobics to give them the basic skills to enable them to continue in capuera, he said.

As for Israel's prospects at the sports aerobics world championships, Diskin said the team has a legitimate shot at a medal, particularly from Legovsky, who is an elite athlete.

Lagovsky immigrated from Russia a few years ago after finishing first in the Russian Junior Championships. She still spends much of her time in Russia, training with top coaches and athletes, Diskin said.

For more information, Diskin can be reached at diskin@macam.ac.il.

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Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***The Illuminated Soul***, by Aryeh Lev Stollman, Riverhead Books, $35.99, HC.

Another magnificent book by the gifted author of *The Far Euphrates*. According to Bernard Schlink, this is "a beautiful book about the endurance of the past, the fragility of the present and the healing power of quiet love."

• ***The War at Home***, by Nora Eisenberg, Leapfrog Press, $24.95, SC.

Set in the Bronx in the late '40s and early '50s, this is a moving, semi-autobiographical novel about a brother and sister trying to survive in a completely dysfunctional family.

• ***The Complete Works of Isaac Babel***, edited by Nathalie Babel, W.W. Norton & Co., $65, HC.

The publication of this wonderful, unique collection fulfils a lifelong ambition of Nathalie Babel, daughter of the Russian-Jewish literary giant. It includes familiar stories as well as other works translated for the first time by award-winning translator Peter Constantine. Introduction by Cynthia Ozik. (Sold in a protective cover.)

• ***The Holy Worm of Praise***, by Philip Schultz, Harcourt, Inc., $38, HC.

A must read for poetry enthusiasts. According to Norman Mailer, Schultz is "a hell of a poet, one of the very best of his generation, full of slashing language, good rhythms, surprises and the power to leave you meditating in the cave of his poems."

NON-FICTION

• ***Morocco: Jews and Art in a Muslim Land***, edited by Vivian B. Mann, Merrell Publishers, $84.95, HC.

One of the most beautiful and interesting gift books I have ever seen. Includes a wealth of fascinating information about the history and culture of Moroccan Jewry, with gorgeous photographs and works of art.

• ***Brownsville, Brooklyn: Blacks, Jews, and the Changing Face of the Ghetto***, by Wendell Pritchett, University of Chicago Press, $58.95, HC.

This sociological analysis of the rise and decline of an inner-city neighbourhood demonstrates the successes and failures of various ethnic and cultural groups in their struggle for improvement, equality and modernity.

• ***A Time for Truth 2001: 100+ Responses to Common Misconceptions About the Middle East***, by Elliot M. Kramer, Self-Published, $13.99, SC.

The perfect book for anyone interested in understanding the reality of the Middle East. Praised by Gil Troy for "making it clear that there have been far too many lies perpetuated over the last year, and the time has come to tell the truth."

YOUTH

• ***Stickler and Me***, by Morley Torgov, Raincoast Books, $9.95, SC.

A wonderful story for young adults (and older!) about the adventures of a 13-year-old boy in the summer of 1962. By the Leacock Award-winning author of *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick*.

The public is welcome to come and hear Torgov read from his latest work at Israel's, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., Sunday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Ages 9 to adult

• ***Hana's Suitcase***, by Karen Levine, Second Story Press, $12.95, SC.

This remarkable, true story allows the young reader to understand the impact of the Holocaust on families and individuals, and to realize that each person has the capability of making a difference. Beautifully written.

Ages 3-8

• ***The Animals and the Ark***, by Karla Kuskin, Atheneum Books, $25.95, HC.

"When Noah builds the ark, he never anticipates that the animals might get a bit restless after 40 days and 40 nights."

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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3 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup white sugar
12 oz. wide egg noodles, cooked and drained
1 25 oz. jar applesauce
crushed cornflakes
additional margarine, cinnamon

Add sugar, cinnamon, and vanilla to eggs. Mix well. Add noodles and stir until coated. Spread half of noodles in greased 9" square pan. Pour applesauce evenly over noodles. Top with rest of noodles. Sprinkle top with cornflake crumbs, dot with margarine, dust with cinnamon. Bake at 350°F for 30-45 minutes.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I'm in Grade 12 and my prom is quickly approaching. I don't have a boyfriend and so far nobody has asked me to be their date. I really want to go to the prom, but can I really go without a date?

Uncertain

Dear Uncertain,

If you want to attend the prom, then there is no reason why you should not. Firstly there is no rule that says you can only go to the prom if you have a date. Sometimes it's a lot more fun going solo; you feel free to be with whomever you want, and you don't have to feel tied down to one person the whole night.

Another option is to organize a group of girlfriends that you can go with. I'm sure that you are not the only one without a date. Why not ask all of your friends who are also "dateless" to go together in one big group.

Lastly, if it is very important to you to have a date, why not ask someone to go to prom with you? We are living in a time of equality. In 2002, there is no reason why a Grade 12 girl should feel uncomfortable about being forward. I suggest asking a guy friend you feel close to and at ease with. If you ask someone you can have fun with, you are assured of having a good night.

Prom night is not about "boyfriends and girlfriends." It's about sharing that one last night with the special friends who have contributed to your high school experience. You should be with them, whether or not you have a date.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

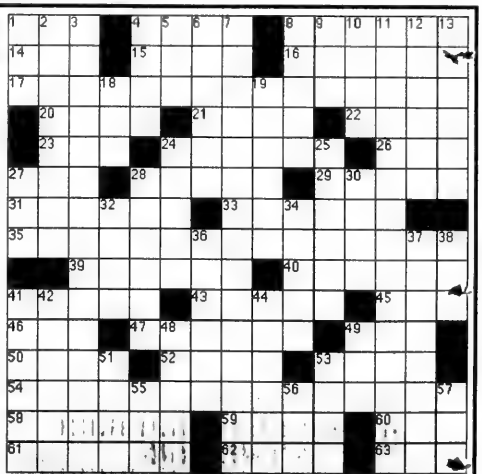
The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 39.)

Bikurim = Shavuot
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Botanist Gray
4. Dinghy or ketch
8. One of New York's five
14. R and R site
15. Hedwig's angry one
16. With cunning or hauteur
17. A prime doing in the field
20. Shekel
21. Mouths, anatomically
22. ____ err is human, then to forgive is divine (variant of the original line)
23. Publication ending
24. Final product disposition
26. Moray
27. Miserables
28. Actions
29. Animal venting
31. He ____ (ready for a venture)
33. Noun plural, in the plural
35. Three kitchen items?
39. "Give mommy a __ __!"
40. A sweep is often thus covered.
41. A Rachel Carson rallying cry
43. Across prefix
45. Quote term, for point of origin
46. Collection of sayings
47. Way to climb
49. Counting meas.
50. Straw unit
52. Peak
53. North American Indian
54. Marty Glickman, who celebrated this holiday, was a star _____
58. Michael Jackson line
59. Tov, in English
60. He observed an 1812 battle
61. Tooth-edged
62. Comic strip character Kett
63. Roeh, in English

Down
1. Stogie residue
2. Most out of it
3. Calf-idol fashioner's sacrificial bench?
4. Tres ___
5. Cricket sides
6. First part
7. Succot, following this feast, is the annual _____
8. Rabbis and other wise teachers
9. Credit reporting company
10. Greek hero, with heel of name gone
11. Shavuot translation
12. Click beetle
13. You pay it to enter Manhattan
18. Compete
19. Like, mal de mer
24. Shorthand for computer applications
25. Actors lacking THP?
27. Fleur-de ending
28. Food fishes
30. Famed Mob nemesis
32. Mt. Sinai's climate
34. Rotates
36. Australian wilds, robbed of a bee?
37. Confed. leader
38. "__ Z", a short run in the alphabet
41. Nattering types ^ one wit's account
42. How consultants work
44. "They _____ what they seem".
48. Discretion, in Dijon
49. Le Dernier ___
51. ___ Ale, Ethiopian volcano
53. Catalog of fed. domestic assistance
55. Riverine islet
56. Com preceder
57. Color changer



Israel Emergency Report

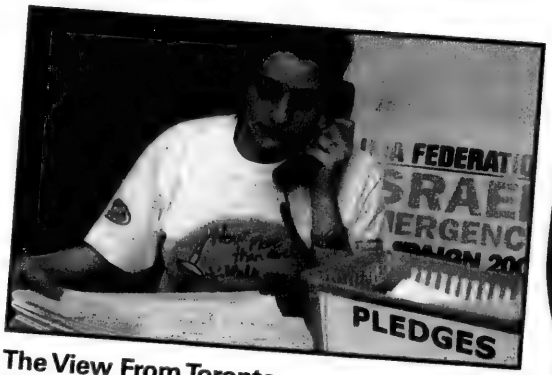
The View From Jerusalem

Twenty months of terror have exacted a terrible toll on Israel. The cost of caring for terror survivors is enormous. But Israeli government funds for social services are dwindling because the cost of defense and security is even higher.

The most powerful testimony about Israel's emergency comes from those who are living through it. Among them is 30 year old Moti Mizrahi, whose story was brought back to us from a recent mission to Israel by **UJA Federation** donor Mark Waldman.

On March 9, Moti stopped off for a drink, as he usually did, at Jerusalem's Moment Café. A few minutes later, a massive suicide bombing blast threw him to the ground, with his arm severed and his skull fractured. Doctors managed to re-attach his arm, but Moti lay unconscious for three days and has already undergone two operations. Afflicted by perpetual pain, Moti, remarkably, remains optimistic about the future.

In Israel today, there are more than 3,000 men, women and children just like Moti. They need our support. Now. More than ever.



The View From Toronto

Aliza Glatter, ***CHAT student,***
Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 Telethon Volunteer

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The Canadian Jewish news

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The smile on his face suggests that this IDF soldier seems not to mind having to carry his colleague downhill in the field during his basic training. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Graham visits Mideast

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham is scheduled to be in the Middle East this week, and to arrive in Israel this Saturday night for meetings with top officials.

Graham was to have left on a week-long trip to the region this past Tuesday. He's slated to visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

An Israeli government spokesperson told *The CJN* that Graham was scheduled to arrive in Israel May 25. A meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is scheduled for May 26 and one with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres the next day.

Steve Hibbert, Canada's diplomatic envoy to the Palestinian Authority, was unable to confirm to *The CJN* whether Graham would meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. But it's widely believed the two will hold a face-to-face meeting.

Graham will be in the Palestinian territories only for a few hours on May 26. He's then scheduled to return to Israel, and depart the next day.

Graham was to have travelled to the region in March, but postponed the trip because of the current turmoil.

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) was to meet with Graham prior to his departure for a briefing. The CIC will doubtless watch this trip closely, as Graham has come in for some criticism for remarks he has made about Israel and the current conflict, as well as for praise for what is perceived as Canada's more pro-Israel stance at the United Nations.

Israel's ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon, will accompany Graham on the Israeli leg of the journey.

Canadian a key adviser to Sharon

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

This past Passover, Shalom Lipner fulfilled a holiday mitzvah by hosting several out-of-town guests at his home in Jerusalem. For many of the visiting dignitaries, it was their first opportunity to experience first-hand the ancient Jewish family ritual that is part of the spring festival.

It also provided Lipner, an assistant foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the opportunity to cement relationships with his guests, who happened to be in town on an important business trip.

Shalom Lipner

It wasn't the first time Lipner had met U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni. As a senior civil servant in the foreign policy establishment, he had been at the airport to greet Zinni when the general first stepped on Israeli soil.

Since then, the two have developed a rapport and a comfort level that might have something to do with their common North American origins. Though he holds a senior position in the Israeli foreign policy-making bureaucracy, Lipner, 36, is a native of Toronto, an alumni of a local Jewish high school (Or Chaim) and someone keenly aware of the American mindset.

Continued on page 26

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Naso
Candlelighting: 8:26
Havdallah: 9:31

IDF intercepts another arms ship — please see page 25

Anti-Semitism alive in France: Samuels

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There was a time in France when the expression of anti-Semitic attitudes was distasteful and not spoken of in polite society.

A sort of "Holocaust teflon" existed that stifled overt manifestations of Jew-hatred and kept Jews relatively free from attack. There were lapses, of course, such as the comment by then-French Prime Minister Raymond Barré that, unfortunately, four innocent French passersby were killed in the 1982 terrorist bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue.

But there was nothing at the time to compare to the situation today, when anti-Semitic expression "has become a matter of opinion" and when Jews are being warned to take precautions if they intend to walk in the streets of France (or Germany) while displaying outward manifestations of their religion, said Shimon Samuels, the Paris-based director for international liaison for the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

Samuels believes European Jews are facing a new reality. "The floodgates have burst" and areas of discourse that were once out of bounds have now entered the public realm, he said.

As mostly Muslim thugs attack synagogues and individual Jews, they do so "with the applause of the charming anti-Semitic class, the cocktail anti-Semites. It goes from cocktail chatter to cocktail Molotov," said Samuels, who recently visited Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, where he spoke about the situation facing French Jews.

Shimon Samuels

While France and the rest of the world focus on the challenge of far-right French presidential candidate Jean-Marie LePen – whom Samuels characterizes as a fascist brawler and a longtime anti-Semite – the political establishment in France must take responsibility for allowing the situation to deteriorate to the point where attacks on Jews have proliferated. More than 400 anti-Semitic incidents have been recorded in recent months, Samuels said.

One possible reason for the government's inertia may have been illustrated in a recent letter penned by Pascal Boniface, a socialist intellectual and top foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

In the letter, Boniface noted that Muslim voters far outnumber Jewish ones. This created "a certain contempt" for the Jewish electorate, Samuels said.

(The "Letter to an Israeli Friend" also warned French Jews that they would be "the loser" if they continued to back the Israeli government.)

When President Jacques Chirac launched his re-election campaign in Garges-les-Gonesse, a Paris suburb, just after a Jewish school bus was attacked and an eight-year-old girl shot, he sent invitations to all the local communities except one – the Jewish community, Samuels said.

What's more, not only did he not mention the attack in his remarks, during the event "he walked over to a man in a keffiyah and kissed him on the head," Samuels added.

The image left in France was that he was "bending over backwards for the Arab vote."

French politicians who have attended commemorations for Jewish victims of anti-Semitism have turned the events on their head.

"When they come to console the Jews, they turn it into an attack on [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon," Samuels said.

A recent rally in Paris to oppose anti-Semitic attacks and stand in solidarity with Israel, attended by 200,000 people, was sparsely attended by French political leaders. Chirac and Jospin were both conspicuous by their absence, Samuels said.

In addition to political insensitivity, French law enforcement officials have been downplaying the incidents of anti-Semitism, Samuels contended. In December 2001, the minister of the interior released an annual report of hate crimes that indicated incidents of anti-Semitism were down from the year before – despite a surge of attacks targeting Jews. "It was really a joke," Samuels said.

"There has been a particular problem of denial," he continued. Pointing to the school bus attack, Samuels said "police wrote it out as a broken window" incident.

More recently police have made some arrests, but Samuels said authorities have a "revolving door" policy in which suspects are soon released. The result has been an atmosphere in which attacks on Jews can occur undeterred.

"I think the Socialist government is reaping what they sowed."

Samuels said his contacts in the Muslim community tell him they too are concerned about the importation of radical imams from Algeria, funded by Saudi Arabia and Iran, who preach fundamentalist versions of the religion.

The fundamentalists appeal to alienated young people who live in wretched conditions, often near Jewish working class neighbourhoods.

"These frustrated youngsters are being told in prayer halls and jihadist Qu'uranic schools to go bomb a synagogue," Samuels said.

The political establishment has "always been scared of demonstrations and they're scared of Muslim violence, of it spilling into the French sector."

Instead of confronting it, they appear to be appeasing it, he added.

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Going against the grain with home schooling

SHIRA HONIG
CJN Staff

Special Report

TORONTO — When Joyce Solomon first became aware of the homeschooling movement a decade ago, she was skeptical of the idea for her own children.

"[Homeschooling] is really going against the grain of what is looked upon as normalized Jewish education," says the Toronto mother.

In fact, she says, it took a lot of convincing; homeschoolers are a tiny minority within this city's Jewish community. But the more she read about it, the more it appealed to her. After having homeschooled each of her three children for several years – Aviva, 18, currently in Israel; Yehuda, 14, in Grade 9; and Chaya Malka, 11, in Grade 6 (both currently at Jewish day schools) – she stands by her decision.

"I see institutionalized education as setting up to fail because it cannot meet individual needs from day to day," she says.

"A teacher can only spread herself or himself so thin," even with assistance, she says.

Moreover, she says, there's no continuity in school. Usually, there's a different teacher each year.

Leia Saltzman

"A teacher may work well for one student but not for another" and so "you don't see over time the same growth that you would in a more positive circumstance."

Instead, kids burn out quickly. Their natural inquisitiveness decreases as they learn what the system says they should learn and how they should learn it, she says, adding that individual ideas are not encouraged.

Sarah Feuerstein, who is active in Toronto's homeschooling community and runs the Toronto homeschoolers e-mail list, adds that in school, children "become used to the idea that learning is something that is done to them." And once that idea has set in, she says, it's very hard to get rid of.

On the other hand, she says, kids who are homeschooled – particularly those at home from the beginning – experience learning as exploration.

This is particularly true because "homeschoolers do not have to follow the official provincial guidelines," says Feuerstein, who homeschooled her younger son, Benjamin, now 16, because he was having trouble socially in school.

Although this may sound scary to the "well intentioned, concerned critics" who fear that kids will end up without any education, the opposite is true, she says.

"Most people are not aware [of] how much time kids in a regular school sit around waiting while the teacher explains things to some other kids, checks everybody else's work, not to speak of time spent on disciplining, administrative note-taking, etc.

"Most families manage to teach their kids more than [what] the required guidelines call for, simply because they have so much more time for education than in a school setting." (Visit www.edu.gov.on.ca for all Ontario curriculum requirements.)

But Shula Strassfeld, who homeschooled her daughter Leia Saltzman, now 15, from grades 6 to 8, says although she misses the homeschooling experience, she knows Leia is not guaranteed an Ontario Secondary School Diploma unless she fulfills the requirements at a recognized high

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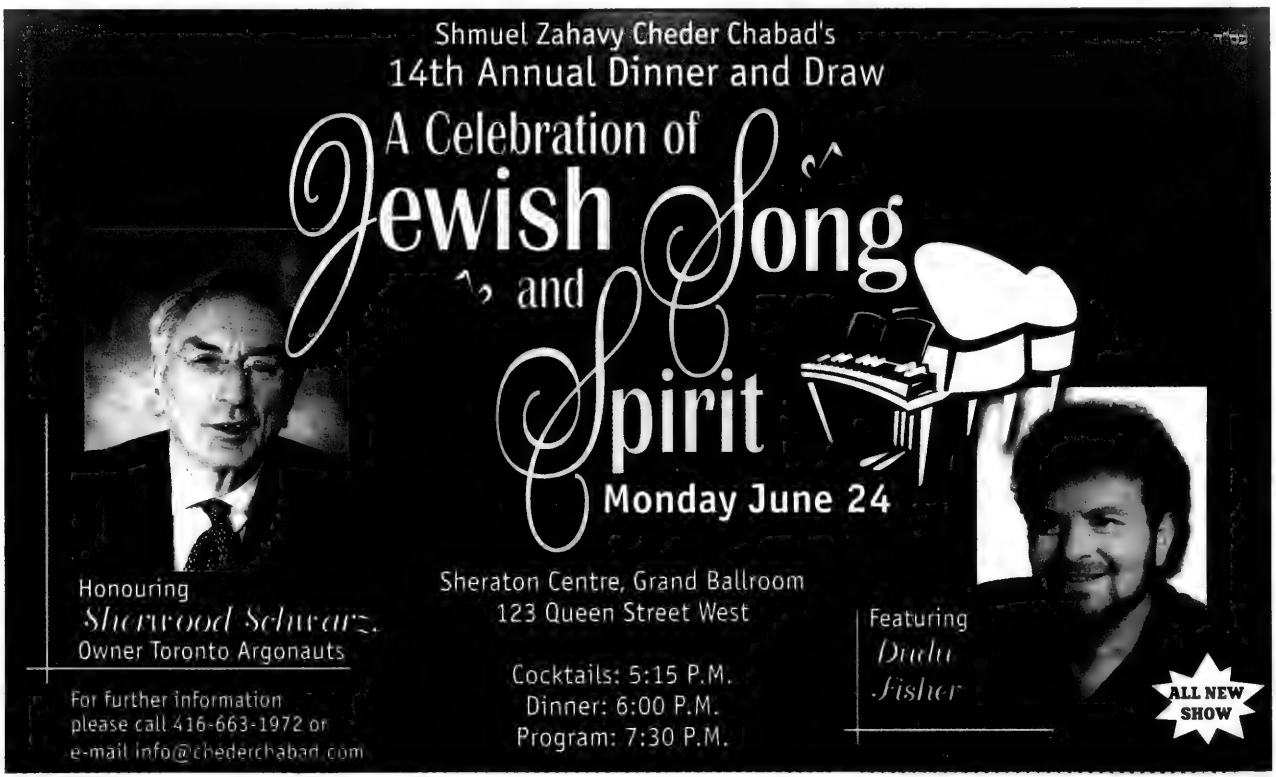

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Greater Toronto Area

An itinerary of history

While in Israel recently, I had the very good fortune of travelling with a tour guide named Amir Orly.

Born in the early 1950s, a fourth generation Israeli, Orly has those indispensible qualities that only the best teachers possess: driving intellectual curiosity, commanding knowledge, love of sharing his knowledge and a manner of sharing that instills in his students the yearning for more sharing.

It was the day after Yom Ha'atzmaut and we were headed away from the Negev northward towards Tel Aviv. History rather than geography would be the focus of our touring that day.

We had four stops on our itinerary.

• *Independence Hall.* Formerly the home of the first mayor of Tel Aviv, Meir Dizengoff, this boxy, rectangular building, set back a handful of metres from the curb on busy Rothschild Street, was the National Gallery of Tel Aviv when David Ben-Gurion gathered many of the leaders of the Yishuv there in the late afternoon of Shabbat eve May 14, 1948.

Fully aware of the hour of the day, as the sun was setting in the western sky, and of the hour in history as an altogether different sun was rising on a profoundly new dawn, Ben-Gurion, sounding fierce but calm, read the elegant Hebrew inscription on the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel in that building.

The room in which the Declaration was read has been preserved in all its detail, from the stern, proud portrait of Theodore Herzl that hangs on the wall behind the dais to the rows of wooden chairs neatly aligned in front of it.

In a fraction of an instant of a reverie, one hears the Old Man's voice and sees the room just as it was 54 years ago. The reverie is punctured by the call to proceed to the next stop of the tour; we leave the hall and step again into the bright Mediterranean light of bustling Rothschild Street.

We travel only a few minutes until our next stop, also on Rothschild Street.

• *The Haganah Museum.* Formerly the home of Eliahu Golomb, the founder and first leader of the Haganah, the elegant three-storey home served as the central headquarters of the Haganah.

Recently renovated, it is now an eye-opening museum in which a myriad of multi-media exhibits recount the history of the Yishuv from the earliest days of the last century to Israel's War of Independence.

The exhibits feature original artifacts, documents, display models, narratives and videos, all of which combine to create a profoundly moving experience.

From the Haganah Museum we travel one or two kilometres on the edge of the shore towards Jaffa.

• *The Etzel Museum.* The museum rises like a rectangular black glass bunker from a base of masonry, stone and arches. It integrates the modern and the traditional in a replica of the state itself.

Etzel is an acronym of three Hebrew letters: aleph, tzadi and lamed (IZL), the first letters of three Hebrew words, Irgun Tzva'i Leumi, the National Military Organization. The organization was also known in Hebrew simply as The Irgun, one of the Jewish underground fighting forces active in Mandatory Palestine from 1931-1948, that retaliated against Arab terrorism and British anti-Jewish, immigration and policing policies.

The museum exhibit is devoted to the IZL combat from Nov. 29, 1947 (the date of the partition vote in the United Nations) until the dissolution of the IZL as an independent fighting force and its integration into the Israel Defence Forces on June 1, 1948. Like the other two museums, the Etzel Museum was fascinating and even inspiring. But nothing could prepare me for the fourth stop on our tour.

• *The Ayalon Institute.* The word "institute" in the name of this place is used in an ironic, tongue-in-cheek sense.

On the edge of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, the place, now also a museum, was formerly a mini-community, reception and training centre for new immigrants to Mandatory Palestine on their way to established or new kibbutzim in the Yishuv. It was called the Hill of the Kibbutzim and comprised living quarters, a dining hall, a chicken coop, a cow barn, a vegetable garden, a bakery and a laundromat. Or so it seemed outwardly to most of the people who lived there and especially to the British Mandatory police who patrolled there constantly.

Secretly, the place was the largest, secret factory for making bullets of the clandestine pre-state Israel Military Industry.

But what must be seen to be truly believed is how and where the factory operated. It was underground, some four metres below the ground and stretching over 250 square metres.

The laundromat and the bakery were the camouflaged entry points into the factory. One stairwell was underneath the heavy, spinning laundry machine in the laundromat. The other stairwell was underneath the 10-ton kiln in the bakery.

A walk through the factory, the "institute," immediately causes the visitor to marvel: the ingenuity of the design, the attention to countless life-and-death details, the secrecy of the operation, the bravery of the workers and the overwhelming, total, personal dedication to the cause of helping to bring about the birth of the modern State of Israel.

I travelled that day with my tour guide on an itinerary of living history.

—MBD

The writer was recently in Israel as a guest of the Israel Ministry of Tourism and El Al Israel Airlines.

SeeJN

MORALE BOOSTER:

Students at Kehila Jewish Day School in Hamilton helped to boost morale in Israel. The school saw a message on the Internet from yeshiva students in Jerusalem who were requesting cards and letters of support from around the world. The yeshiva plans to send the cards on to schools, as well as post them at bus stops and stores. Kehila students wrote personal messages on cards they printed and decorated themselves.

Anti-Israel drawings hung in Toronto high school

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Teachers and students walking into Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute in Scarborough were met recently with children's drawings depicting shark-like Israeli planes dropping bombs on buildings.

A translation of the Arabic caption underneath the connect-the-dot drawings states: "Our schools, buildings and gardens are being destroyed."

A Star of David on the wing identifies the airplane causing the havoc. Some of the pictures were augmented with drawings of people lying on the ground beside destroyed buildings, as well as additional Arabic writing.

One picture had a handwritten caption above it stating: "Allah is great over Israel Allah is great."

According to a source that requested anonymity, many students at the high school, located at Lawrence Avenue and Kennedy Road, celebrated the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center as a victory for Arab causes.

The school's principal, Trina Wood, said she is aware of the pictures but refused to comment.

"This goes beyond me," she said in a phone interview, adding that there is an Arabic-language school that meets on school premises on Saturdays and that it has a permit from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to do so.

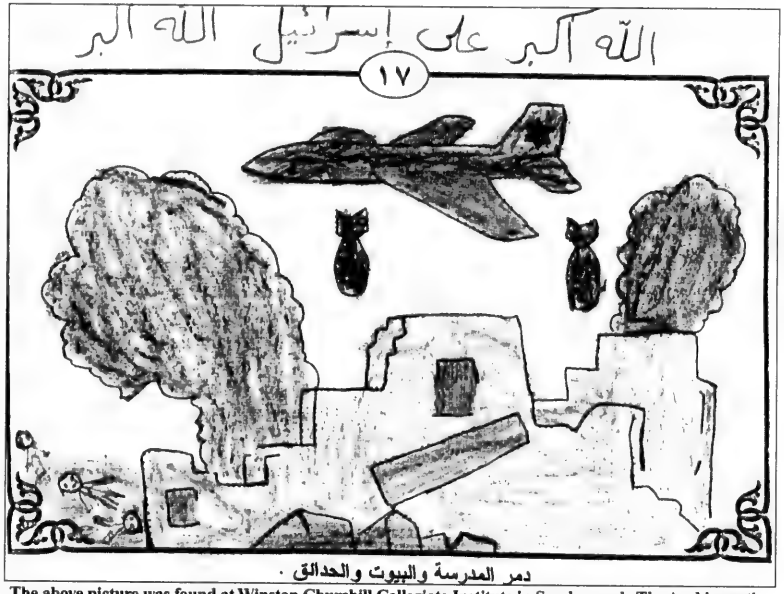
However, a TDSB spokesperson said she is unaware of any Arabic-language program with a permit for that school.

Another TDSB spokesperson said permits would only be issued by the board after the programs were approved by the particular school's principal and caretaker.

Whether the Arab-language program is public or private, the drawings represent the worst kind of political propaganda and shouldn't be part of any school curriculum, said Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

School trustee Scott Harrison said any permitted program would have to fall within basic TDSB guidelines.

Trustee Gerri Gershon and TDSB spokesperson Jennifer McIntyre said they are investigating the matter.



The above picture was found at Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute in Scarborough. The Arabic caption underneath reads "Our schools, buildings and gardens are being destroyed," while the handwritten phrase above states "Allah is great over Israel Allah is great."

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Speech contest winners envision a new Zionism

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Three of the winners of a local Zionist speech contest are set to attend the 34th Zionist Congress, to be held in Jerusalem June 17 to 20.

The contest was organized by the New Zionist Initiative, YYZ branch, a grassroots group formed by about 20 Toronto participants in a World Zionist Organization leadership conference held about 1½ years ago.

Robert Gasner, one of the group's founders, said that following the conference, group members decided to become activists "in order to help give new content and energy to Diaspora Zionism."

The group's first effort was a Zionist debate, titled Heavyweight Boxing for the Jewish Mind, held last November.

"The aim of the debate was to elevate Diaspora Zionist activity from sentimentalism and platitudes to the kind of struggling-with-issues that once characterized Diaspora Zionism," said Benjamin Rubin, one of the debate organizers, who also tied for second place in the recent speech contest.

"In the determination of Israel as a Jewish democratic state, North American Jews seamlessly combine allegiance to both the democratic and Jewish tradition. We felt, what better way to show our Jewish and democratic values than in a civilized debate… over contentious Jewish issues?" said Rubin.

The group organized the speech contest, he said, because current events in Israel are making the need for a restatement of a Zionist vision and agenda more acute than ever.

The participants were asked to say what they think the Zionist vision should be, in light of where we are in Jewish history.

"We were pleased with the seriousness and the high quality of the responses. Writing and presenting a 1,000-word paper is a real effort," said Rubin.

The first place winner, Jeff Chorlton, won airfare to Israel, five days accommodation and a chance to participate in the Zionist Congress.

Second place winners, Rubin, and Barbara Benoliel, won half their airfare to Israel, five days accommodation and participation in the congress.

Chorlton's speech envisioned Israel in 2007 and imagined a future peace treaty that vastly improves life in the Jewish State.

"We have finally begun to realize our place among nations while achieving the security and well being that previously eluded us and which used to be our mirage when we used to look to the relative serenity of the western world," he said in the speech, adding that, despite improvements in the wake of the imaginary treaty, much work needs to be done.

"Zionism has evolved from the dream of creating a Jewish homeland to setting a moral and economic example for the rest of the world.

"Now that we have achieved peace with our neighbours, we can help to spread this peace to peoples and nations who seek, but have not yet been able to find such peace in their homelands."

From left, Jason Adelman, third place winner; Jeff Chorlton, first place winner; Benjamin Rubin, one of two second place winners.

Zionism means not only aspiring to great heights in our homeland, Chorlton said, but recognizing our role as the leadership, protection and solace for the Jewish Diaspora.

Rubin wrote about Zionism Phase II, which he said calls for a return to the original Zionist creative impulse.

"Zionism Phase II calls for new Zionist leadership; for political reform of the Israel-Diaspora relationship; for building an inclusive model of Jewish civilization; for pioneering new forms of creative collective effort; for generating a vision of a model society; and for reaching out to other civilizations.

"Israel's goal is not only survival. The true goal of Zionism was a renaissance of Jewish civilization…"

The new Zionism, Benoliel said in her speech, "is the old Zionism; revisited, expanded, inclusive. It requires the same faith, the same goals and the same commitment of our grandfathers and grandmothers...

"The new Zionism requires the same courage and the same leap of faith to go beyond the current conflict and see visions of the future, and most importantly, to include the Palestinians in the dream."

Benoliel's new Zionism would feed everyone, attend to everyone's needs, regardless of place, politics or position.

"When we offer the Palestinians a piece of Zionism as a joint commitment to a quality of life for all the inhabitants of the region, we live a Zionism that truly honours differences and offers hope. If we invest in improving the lives of everyone, we will benefit," said Benoliel.

The winning speeches can be viewed at www.newhouseofisrael.org/zvc.htm.

Bob Proctor
International Income Acceleration Consultant

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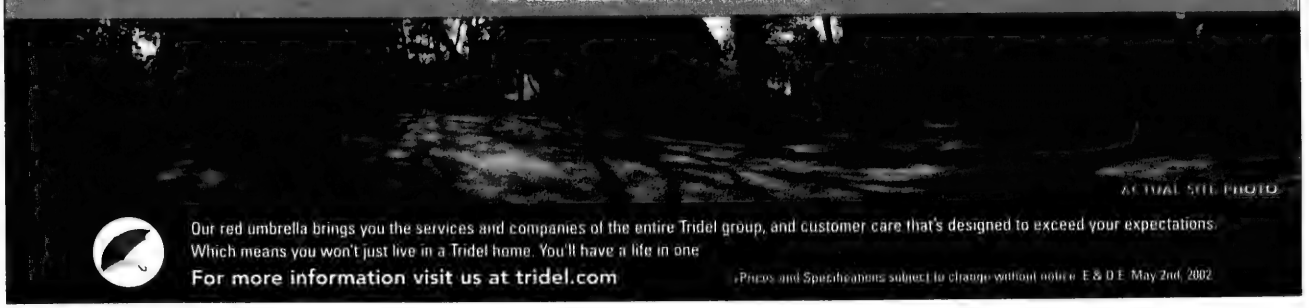

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Dry Bones
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IT'S BECAUSE OF THEIR POSITION.
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The debt we owe our young collegians

The academic year has now drawn to a close on university and college campuses across the country. Exams are over. Essays and other writing assignments have been handed in. As students await their results or prepare for their graduation, we, the older generation, must acknowledge the enormous debt we owe them, the younger generation on campus.

Students face a constant barrage of intellectual, peer and other social challenges on campus. After all, the years at university are the stage in their lives when challenge and confrontation are the whetstone of a honing mind and a maturing soul.

This year, however, especially after the Durban conference last September, our students have also had to face challenges and confrontations of a more unsettling sort: the barrage of anti-Israel, even anti-Semitic, propaganda and advocacy among fellow students and even among some faculty. That barrage, when unceasing, when vocal, when constantly in-your-face, as it was on some campuses, can be intimidating for even the most securely identifying Jewish student.

To be sure, none of the campuses in Canada was as menacing for Jewish students as the most notorious campuses in Europe or in the United States. But for the first time since the early 1980s, an inhospitable, anti-Israel atmosphere hovered over many activities on Canadian university campuses. It takes a great measure of individual resolve and a deep reservoir of personal courage to persevere on behalf of Israel despite the feeling of intimidation. If this is true for the campuses in our larger cities, how much more so for the campuses in smaller communities where the number of Jewish students is so much less?

But, as *The CJN* reported from time to time during the school year, Israel's advocates on campus – our students – defended the Jewish state wherever and whenever they could. They were not defeated by the intimidation, nor did they wilt in the occasionally suffocating, noxious atmosphere of egregious anti-Israel polemic. On the contrary. On campuses across the country, our students organized, planned and implemented a variety of creative, pro-Israel programming to counter the hostile propaganda and to engage the minds, if not the hearts, of fellow students who simply do not have the information or the knowledge concerning Israel's cause.

Thus it is indeed more than a debt we owe to our students. It is also a promise that we, their parents and the organized communities to which we belong, will strive to ensure that they never feel alone on their respective campuses in "fighting the fight."

The funding agencies of the various Jewish communities across the country must dedicate sufficient resources to enable Jewish students on campus to maintain, expand, or, where lacking, to begin programming aimed at educating the uneducated, at defending Israel and at strengthening the inter-campus networks of Jewish student activists.

They are our children; to them, we owe a great deal; from them we learn a great deal.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Readers admire Sheikh Palazzi

Janice Arnold's article on Sheikh Abdul Hadi Palazzi (*CJN*, May 9) was great. Sheikh Palazzi is really brave. I'm sure many radicals want his head. His critics say, "Using synagogues to give [him] public voice during these tense times is simply irresponsible." But isn't a "public voice" what keeps democracy alive? Isn't this "public voice" what motivates many Arabs to live in Israel, Canada and elsewhere? Is there any immigration to those Arab countries that don't have a "public voice?" I believe that most Muslims in the countries without a "public voice" don't really believe in suicide bombers. If they did, we would see a lot more similar incidents. In these countries, people are afraid of not towing the "party line" – they have no "public voice" to say they don't buy this radical message.

Frank G. Zavisca
Shreveport, La

* * *

The article about Sheikh Palazzi gave me some real food for thought. I have not studied the Qu'ran, so I cannot comment on his interpretation of Islam, but I do agree with his position on the current intifadah, and I appreciated his comments on the freedoms enjoyed by Israeli Arabs. The fact that Israeli Arabs enjoy status as citizens speaks volumes about the contrasts between Israel and neighbouring Arab states.

Dave McQuillan
Vancouver, B.C.

* * *

Two problems with *The CJN*

I have two problems with your paper: Sheldon Kirshner's analysis and your adoption of *Ha'aretz* as a source of news from Israel.

M. Yizhar
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Support the *National Post*

We must recognize the significant contribution the *National Post* has made in its definitive, objective and truthful editorial commentary. One cannot overlook the manner in which Israeli news is being presented to the Canadian public. One, of course, must recommend that the community continue to support *The Canadian Jewish News* by advertising in the paper, but I am concerned that we are not supporting the *National Post* in that regard. A newspaper cannot exist without advertising revenue and I implore our community to support the *Post* with their advertising dollars.

I have no financial interest in the *National Post*; however, I know that its publisher is a man of great integrity who strongly supports Israel and all facets of the Jewish community.

We must keep the breath of fresh air provided by the *Post* viable. I implore the community to support it.

B.V. Levinter
Toronto

* * *

Jerusalem's visitor centre

I recently returned from Israel, where I visited a very impressive, colourful visitors' centre in Jerusalem.

In the late 1990s, in anticipation of the millenium, construction of a visitors' centre began at the site of the southern wall excavations, adjacent to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The centre's purpose was to host the many thousands of people, both from Israel and abroad, who were expected to come and visit the excavation. In 2000, millions of tourists came to visit Israel; by September of that year, a record number of tourists had arrived.

Unfortunately, the centre was not completed in time for the millenium in January 2000. Instead, it opened some 10 months later, in October of the same year. By then, the intifadah had broken out. The violence that ensued and the negative media headlines and TV broadcasts around the world were enough to keep tourists away from Israel. They would have been as enthralled by the beauty of the magnificent centre as I was.

My tour guide and I walked down on ramps that included glass sections through which you could see aerial views of Jerusalem. Beneath us, there were also many impressive scale models of the city, as well as video displays.

I was fortunate to experience it, but it was upsetting to see how the centre stood empty. Only a small handful of people arrive on an average day. I hope and pray that it will some day welcome the millions of tourists who will once again come to Jerusalem.

Lily Kutner
Toronto

* * *

Actions of Israel like those of the U.S.

With all the pro-Palestinian propaganda I've read in the media, I feel it's about time I stood up for the pro-Israel cause.

But first things first. I don't like all this killing – whether it's by Israelis or Palestinians – any more than anyone else. It's regrettable many innocent people have died.

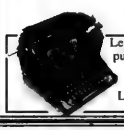
However, the only reason Israel went into the West Bank was to protect its own citizens. Any democratic country needs to do that. With the number of suicide bombings that have happened, Israel had to do something. It couldn't sit back and allow these injustices to continue.

While people have condemned Israel for what happened in the West Bank, there isn't the same condemnation for the suicide bombings by the Palestinians. The Palestinians believe that by blowing themselves up while killing Israelis, they become martyrs. But they're wrong. They become murderers.

What Israel has done is no different than what the United States is doing in Afghanistan – both are fighting terrorism. So, either you are for both Israel and the United States or you are against them. You can't be for one and against the other. They are both fighting for a common goal.

Hopefully, people can now understand the position Israel is in and, hopefully, terrorism and other injustices can be brought to an end.

Avi Fichtenbaum
Cote St. Luc, Que.



Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Hope in the reserves

By HASKELL NUSSBAUM

It's three o'clock in the morning and we're stuck in the mud. Normal people are generally asleep this long past the witching hour, but tonight we are not ordinary people but reservists on emergency call-up with the Israel Defence Forces.

We're in the middle of a live-ammunition exercise and our predicament catches me with a few hundred rounds of machine-gun ammunition still unfired. My machine-gun, however, is mounted on top of the armoured personnel carrier (APC) we are riding, which is now resting at a very unnatural angle, with nearly its entire left side swallowed by mud.

Beside me in the APC, an officer is shouting at the driver to go forward, backward, sideways, but it's clear to me that we are going nowhere. We've fallen into a pit, and in the deep recesses of my mind, I hear a female friend crack a joke about men not wanting to ask for directions. Being stuck in the mud can easily be a metaphor for the mechanics of our call-up and for our reserve unit in general, but in fact it is the opposite.

Call it an anti-metaphor. For when I look at our unit, I see a group of civilians shucking off their street clothes and morphing into an effective fighting force at cheetah-like speed.

But underneath the grease-stained uniforms, the civilians remain. The officer shouting at the driver is a student studying agriculture in Rehovot. The driver, in real life, is a cabbie who knows he will be teased mercilessly for ending up on his side.

It's impossible for me to see the men around me without seeing their chosen lives poking through the green of their uniforms. One of our snipers is a high school teacher who wonders about the quality of the substitute the school will find. Another is a jeweller with a shop that will suffer from his absence.

Our unit has at least five lawyers or law students, a few mechanical engineers, an accountant and some entrepreneurs. The soft-spoken fighter sporting a long beard is a rabbi, who carries with him a tiny paperback version of the Mishnah, to poke his head into whenever there's a break in the training.

And the majority of the unit is married, with wives and children waiting anxiously. The cell phones we all carry are umbilical cords to our loved ones.

One of the ironies of this emergency call-up is that not one of us wants to be here, yet morale is extremely high. Of the nearly 600 soldiers called up with us, all but 15 showed up within 24 hours. A few of the missing ambled in over the next few days.

Reservists, called up for Operation Defensive Shield, being briefed in the field.

A Reserve soldier on his armoured personnel carrier. [Israel photos]

We are not here for sport. We are stationed so close to Lebanon that every time the Hezbollah pound the Israeli bases on Har Dov, we can not only hear the mortars landing but we can see the smoke rising. We all hope that the tension will continue to ease, and indeed that it will ebb away.

In almost every stint of reserve duty, there comes a moment that touches me emotionally. This time, the moment came so powerfully that it brought tears to my eyes. It was during the Memorial Day ceremony for Israel's fallen soldiers. As hundreds of soldiers, reservists all, stood at attention, five soldiers read personal poems and stories of soldiers who had fallen in battle.

Immediately afterwards, without microphones or professional singers, the entire group sang *Hatikvah* together.

The ceremony touched me because I knew that there was not one soldier there, including me, who was not thinking the same thought: that fallen soldier could be me, and as soon as next week. When the commanding officer said a few words about the privilege he felt to be serving with so men many willing to make sacrifices for their country, the words resonated. They bounced off our uniforms and filled the night air with their truth.

It was, I think, the first time that I truly absorbed the words of our national anthem. To be free in our country. A freedom that others before us have paid for in a currency that cannot be repaid.

When we first arrived at our base, I questioned a friend about our abilities to fight, about our capabilities as reservists. I wondered openly whether we were not, in fact, heading for a quagmire not unlike the one that ensnared our APC.

My friend reminded me that all of Israel's wars were fought and won by reservists just like us. After a week in the field, I realized he was right. Though we hope that war will be avoided, we are "ready, willing and able."

In the end, even our trapped APC was towed out of its mud cage within an hour. Efficiently and safely. An apt metaphor, after all.

Haskell Nussbaum is a lawyer who was raised in Toronto and presently lives in Jerusalem.

Is it good for the Jews?

When I was growing up in Germany, in the early part of the 20th century, anti-Semitism was rife, the political and social situation in the country was totally unstable and each day seemed to present a new challenge for us.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

One day I asked my father: "How do you know what's good or bad? Everything seems to change all the time."

My dad gave me an answer that has stayed with me all my life: He said: "I always ask myself, 'Is it good for the Jews?'"

To this day, his answer looms in the back of my mind when certain policies and situations need to be assessed. To be sure, this kind of view seems very narrow, but on second view, it has a broader aspect.

Let me put it into larger terms and say that you can assess the health of a society by the way it treats its minorities. If it is stable, it will treat them well. If it is unstable, likely it will not. Therefore, since Jews have always been the quintessential example of a minority, the way we are treated does throw a telltale light on the situation of the country in which we live.

The question, "Is it good for the Jews?" therefore makes sense in the broad spectrum of social and political assessment. A society that treats its minorities properly, with respect and a sense of fairness, is most likely in good moral, social and political shape.

Again, you may look at this kind of assessment as very narrow, but on closer view it may yet have its value. After all, you greet each day from your own point of view and with your own sense of good or bad. If you feel sick, you will feel that it's not a good day, even though everyone may tell you that it is; but if you can face it with equanimity and confidence, it is an altogether different matter.

You will remember that my youth was spent in a country where anti-Semitism was all around me, and therefore my dad's assessment of the day-by-day situation was rarely positive. Like most other people, I have not forgotten the lessons of my youth, and subconsciously the judgment of my dad still whispers its cogent message into my ear.

When we treat the weakest elements in society well, give them respect and an opportunity to live decently, we are doing what we ought to do and our society deserves a positive mark. But if we do not, history will judge us as having failed and missed our opportunity for doing good.

Close to home

"I am more and more afraid to go places because of the terrorists. What I'm most afraid of is that the Palestinians are going to win the war and then we will need to go away from Israel and we won't have any other place to live."

So says a nine-year-old Israeli boy in Jerusalem when asked about how he sees the conflict with the Palestinians. His name is Etye and he happens to be my son. Like all Israelis past the age of five or six, Etye feels threatened by the terrorist war launched by the Palestinians against Israel. Since it erupted in September 2000, no one has escaped its devastating impact, not even children.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

The other day, I sat down with my three kids and asked each one separately about their concerns. They spoke in a way only children can, in voices that reflect the fears of young Israelis.

"It's become really scary here," my oldest daughter Aviv told me. She is 14 years old and a student at Jerusalem's Ziv Junior High. "I am afraid of being in public places. I feel I have to always keep my eyes open. I never used to look at so many people in public like I do now. If I am in a crowded place, I look to see if there is a strange person, anyone suspicious, especially if it is an Arab, and I worry what might happen."

As she speaks, the war's sobering effect on her life hits home. For the past 20 months, at the insistence of my wife and me, Aviv has had to forsake countless outings to public places that we feared might be targets for Palestinian terrorists. At times, it is as if we have our kids under house arrest. For their friends, it is a similar story.

Aviv looks at me and continues matter-of-factly. "When I'm in certain places in the city with lots of people, I always think there could be a terrorist planning an explosion. Something could happen to me and if I don't die, I will be badly wounded and handicapped forever. That's why I try not go out very much anymore."

In normal times, one of the great wonders about raising children in Israel is the freedom and security kids have here. They can play outside, go places and even ride buses with little parental supervision due to the low level of street crime. Not any more.

Since the hostilities erupted, the terrorist onslaught has shaken the country to its core. It has affected the way people live. The obscene atrocities and heart-wrenching tragedies have been traumatic for adults, let alone children.

If only we could spare our children exposure to such acts of evil and savagery, at least until they were older. No such luck in news-saturated Israel, where major stories receive blanket coverage in the media and fuel heated discussions in any gathering of two adults or more.

"The situation today is very depressing," says Shani, my 12-year-old middle daughter, a Grade 6 student at Ramat Sharett School. "With so many Jews being killed and so many people hating us, it reminds me a bit of the Shoah. I am scared it's going to become even more dangerous."

Shani describes her fears with a certain innocence, without realizing the full implication of her words. "Now when I hear of a new terrorist attack, I am worried that if it continues to get worse it will really become another Shoah. Even though there are a lot of Jews, there are even more Arabs and they can do a Shoah. I'm really scared we'll be forced into a ghetto and we won't have food and a lot of people will die. Actually, we do have a bit of the Shoah already. Arafat is the new Hitler."

To children in Israel, the terror that captures the headlines around the world, is neither an abstraction nor a statistic. It is a sombre part of their young lives and we are helpless to fully shelter them from it.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

The dangerous allure of NGOs

The term "non-governmental organization" (NGO) usually evokes images of altruism and compassion, particularly among people who believe that states, and the politicians who run them, are flawed and their actions need to be tempered. NGOs are supposed to speak up for the weak and down trodden and promote the rights of individuals and minorities.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

In this spirit, thousands of NGOs have sprung up, concentrating on environmental issues, human rights, humanitarian relief and campaigns against dangerous weapons such as landmines and small arms. These groups are well funded and use their generous budgets to promote themselves and their causes. The largest and richest NGOs, such as Greenpeace, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, have become well-known brand names, and the major figures in these groups are more powerful than many government officials.

At the same time, in many cases, these organizations have themselves added to injustice and duplicity, particularly in the Middle East. Like the United Nations, many prominent NGOs have become captured by the pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel lobby. NGOs played a major role in last year's infamous Durban anti-racism conference that was supposed to fight racism but ended up contributing to hatred of Israel and anti-Semitism. Similarly, the myths of the "Jenin massacre" were propelled by NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, and their biased and unverified reports were picked up and repeated by the media.

To make matters worse, much of the funding for these "non-governmental" organizations comes from governments. Allocations to NGOs allow politicians and officials to promote their private agendas through the back door. The practice is widespread in Europe, Canada and Australia as a means of increasing visibility and impact in the UN and international organizations, as well as Third World countries. For example, the governments of Norway and the European Union have attempted to influence Israeli politics by providing millions of dollars to the Israeli left and individuals such as Yossi Beilin and Uri Savir. Many of the rallies and newspaper ads supporting radical Israeli politicians and policies are paid for by NGOs funded by Norway and the European Union.

While the Canadian government has become more careful about supporting Palestinian victimization myths, scrutiny of NGOs working in this area lags behind. Canada has funded the International Commission to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a group affiliated with Human Rights Watch, whose reports and activities are also used by Palestinians and their supporters to engage in anti-Israeli propaganda, instead of co-operation to reduce the dangers of landmines.

Ottawa also funds the International Crisis Group (ICG), which has been active in the Balkans and has now taken on the Middle East. The work of the ICG could be done as well or better by universities and think-tanks, and as such, government funding for the ICG is hard to justify. In addition, its Middle East project is being led by Robert Malley, who served as a low-level official in the Clinton administration, and since then, has promoted his career by pushing a version of the negotiations between former prime minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat from Camp David to Taba that absolves Arafat and the Palestinians of any responsibility for their breakdown. This revisionist history has been rejected by all the U.S. government officials involved, including former president Bill Clinton and Dennis Ross, and by Barak and the Israelis, but is, of course, embraced by the Palestinians and Arabs.

While the ICG report on the Middle East has some interesting ideas, it is tainted by the inclusion of Malley's private agenda and the myth of "agreements" and "frameworks" based on the failed and now irrelevant Camp David and Taba talks. Although the report may be based on false premises, it is not illegitimate. However, such blatantly partisan agendas and distorted versions of history should not receive funding from Canada or any other government.

While these are relatively minor examples, they serve to illustrate the hidden political and ideological agendas of the NGOs. The halo worn by these groups has begun to grow thin, and their activities around the world are coming under greater scrutiny. The role of NGOs needs urgent reexamination, particularly in the highly propagandized realm of Middle East politics.

The Kirshner File

Goldwyn and Berlin defined American culture

Popular American culture was formed on the anvil of numerous influences. But if I had to pick two individuals whose input was disproportionate, Samuel Goldwyn – the independent Hollywood producer – and Irving Berlin – the legendary composer – would be on top of my list.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Goldwyn and Berlin, both immigrants from the Russian empire, were purveyors of the storied American dream.

Through the medium of movies and songs, they helped shape the values of a heterogeneous society.

It may seem ironic that two Jewish boys whose first language was not even English, and who were born in the Pale of Settlement, would be exemplars of mainstream American mores.

Yet, on second thought, their respective lives were in keeping with the polyglot, secular nature of America.

What hammered home these notions were two television documentaries, *Goldwyn* and *Irving Berlin*, broadcast recently on the PBS and A&E networks.

Goldwyn, whose original name was Shmuel Gelbfisz, was the son of a chassidic Jew whose father bought and sold second-hand furniture. When he was only 16, he left Poland, leaving behind his widowed mother in Warsaw. His intention was to immigrate to America, the so-called *goldenne medine*.

The route would take him to New York City via England and Canada. Being indigent, he walked most of the way. In London, where he remained for about two years, his relatives urged him to play down his Jewish background, a notion he took under consideration.

In 1898, he sailed to Halifax, and a year later, in a snowstorm, he literally walked to the United States. That kind of courage and determination would keep him in good stead.

Goldwyn began as a sweeper in an upstate New York glove factory. Upwardly mobile, he was soon a $3-a-week glovemaker and thence vice-president of sales.

He went into the fledgling movie business after seeing a western film in Manhattan. His partners were Jesse Lasky, his brother-in-law, and Louis B. Mayer, a former junk dealer. With an investment of $45,000, they produced *Squaw Man*, the first Hollywood feature. The year was in 1913. The director was Cecil B. De Mille.

As a result of a merger, the company became known as Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. But Goldwyn was never part of it, having fallen out with Lasky and Mayer.

With $250,000 in borrowed funds, he established Samuel Goldwyn Inc. The movies were distributed by United Artists, founded by Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford. Not by chance, Goldwyn's first movie was a comedy about bickering partners.

His first talkie, *Bulldog Drummond*, earned more at the box office than all his silent films. He was on his way.

Goldwyn, a ruthless businessman and a dictatorial boss, had immense respect for talent and valued excellence. Indeed, "The Goldwyn touch" would be synonymous with unsurpassed production qualities. And yet, as a person, he was widely considered uncultured and uncouth. His malapropisms, such as "Include me out," are famous in the industry.

All in all, he churned out 80 films, among which were *Wuthering Heights* (his favourite), *The Little Foxes* (with Betty Davis), *The Pride of the Yankees*, *The Best Years of Our Lives* (which won the Academy Award for best picture) and *Guys and Dolls*. His last movie, *Porgy and Bess*, won three Oscars in 1959 but was a financial flop.

Scott Berg, Goldwyn's biographer, claims that Goldwyn, who died in 1974, played down his Jewishness. Goldwyn's wife, Frances Howard, was a Catholic, and their son, Samuel Jr., was raised as a Christian.

Despite this, Goldwyn does not appear to have been a classical self-hating Jew. He hired Eddie Cantor in *Whoopee*, a 1930 musical Hollywood moguls had rejected because of their reluctance to highlight a Jewish actor in a starring role.

During the 1930s, when the Boston financier Joseph Kennedy, the father of John F. Kennedy, urged Goldwyn to remove Jewish actors from his films, he refused. Later, in the 1940s, Goldwyn took a chance on the Jewish comedian Danny Kaye, who, due to his nose, photographed badly. Striking a compromise, Goldwyn asked Kaye to dye his hair blond.

***

Irving Berlin, whose father Moses Beilin was a cantor, could play the piano in only one key – F sharp – and never learned to read music. Yet Berlin, who died in 1989 at the age 101, was probably the greatest composer in American history.

Samuel Goldwyn

He published some 800 songs, 282 of which were in the top 10 and 35 of which were No. 1 hits. Among his enduring classics are *God Bless America*, *White Christmas* and *Easter Parade*.

"He has no place in American music," one critic wrote. "He is American music."

Irving Berlin with Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire

Berlin, the subject of a fine biography by Edward Jablonski, published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside recently under the title of *Irving Berlin: American Troubador*, sold newspapers and was a busker and singing waiter in New York City's Lower East Side before he broke into the music business.

Writing his first song – *Marie From Sunny Italy* – in 1907, Berlin never looked back. Just three years later, he whipped off *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, which swept the nation.

He was only 23.

Devastated by his first wife's death, he fell into a funk. From his grief, the hugely successful song, *When I Lost You*, emerged.

In 1918, he wrote *Oh, I Hate to Get Up in the Morning*, which became a standard. In the same year, he composed *God Bless America*, which he had left in a drawer for 20 years. The United States' second national anthem, *God Bless America* was an immediate hit. Kate Smith sang it shortly after Germany's invasion of Czechoslovakia. Anti-Semites were less than thrilled by the fact that a Jewish composer had written it.

In 1919, after *A Pretty Girl is like a Melody* was released, he incorporated himself. It was a wise move, giving him rights to all his songs. So when Berlin lost his savings in the 1929 crash, he did not lose a single night's sleep. His songs tided him over.

Three of his finest songs were inspired by personal tragedy and joy. He wrote *All Alone* after his girlfriend and love-of-his-life, Ellin MacKay, a Long Island socialite, was banished to Europe by her anti-Semitic father, a wealthy Catholic businessman. And he composed *Always* after he married her, and *Blue Skies* after their first child was born.

Berlin was in the habit of filing away songs he deemed inferior, and two of them, *Say It Ain't So* and *How Deep is the Ocean*, like *God Bless America*, were enormous hits.

In common with many of his fellow composers, Berlin wrote for the movies. His initial foray into film was a bust, but in 1935, he hit the jackpot with *Top Hat*, which yielded no less than 12 songs, including *Cheek to Cheek* and *Isn't This a Lovely Day (to be Caught in the Rain)?* In 1942, he wrote the sonorous *White Christmas* for the movie *Holiday Inn*.

Berlin's Broadway songs, from *I Got the Sun in the Morning* to *There's No Business Like Show Business*, are also the stuff of magic and legend. Like Goldwyn, Berlin knew how to tap into the American psyche.

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Ella Gera, Executive Director of the Israel Women's Network
Rina Bar-Tal, Chair of the Israel Women's Network

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 29th, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Barbara Frum Library, 3rd Floor
20 Covington Road, North York (just north of Lawrence Plaza)

The Israel Women's Network, a grantee of the New Israel Fund is an organization of Israeli women working to advance the status of women in Israel.
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For more information contact Mary Anne Handler: **416-781-4322**

Learning styles vary among home schools

Continued from page 3

school. (Though universities receive government funding for homeschooled students, some require an OSSD from their applicants. Contact each institution for more information.)

Leia, who studies ballet seven days a week, is currently attending Avondale, an alternative high school in Toronto, and is taking two courses online with the Virtual School (a Toronto District School Board program). Strassfeld took Leia out of Jewish day school and began homeschooling her so her daughter could attend dance classes and rehearsals, Strassfeld says. They started it as a one-year trial experiment but, "once we started, we never wanted to go back.

"We have such an established system of Jewish schools and such a commitment to the concept of formal Jewish education that it is a radical move to homeschool," says Strassfeld, who has a master's degree in dance education and works at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. But "there's only so much [schools] can bend and weave for individuals."

Each homeschooling setup is different – learning styles vary from a strict adherence to the provincial curriculum to "unschooling," a term generally described as an open learning process focused on a child's interests.

Some Jewish families incorporate Limudei Kodesh studies while others do not, either because other learning is considered more important or because, as Strassfeld says, there is no such curriculum available to homeschoolers.

Strassfeld used a curriculum with English, literature, social studies and history. Leia also read a lot of books, had a tutor for math, science, Chumash and Hebrew, and learned Judaic studies with her father, Rabbi Steven Saltzman, for a short time.

Leia says she prefers homeschooling to traditional schooling. "[The information] stays with you more when you learn things in an interesting way and you learn it properly as opposed to having someone read to you from a textbook or write notes on a board," she says.

Chaya Malka Solomon, on the other hand, is not sure whether she likes learning at home or at school better.

"It's a hard decision," Chaya Malka, 11, says. While she cites several advantages to learning at home, she adds that a downside was that she didn't know many other kids.

Critics of homeschooling might think Chaya Malka's experience proves the notion that kids who aren't in school aren't properly socialized, but "[that's] the biggest myth that there is," says Solomon.

True socialization occurs when people who are not neccesarily the same age and who may have different or similar interests get together because of a common interest and discuss what they choose and for how long without guidance, she says.

Though her kids went through a period of adjustment when they moved from home to school, says Solomon, they soon excelled academically and socially. What was more of a problem for her family was the lack of support.

Students face many challenges

"I did not find, when we were homeschooling, that there was much support Jewishly… There were many challenges and at times it felt very lonely."

But in the end, she says, the compromises were worth it. "I'm not lambasting any one particular school. I'm not looking to say that institutionalized education – for those who choose it – isn't their option… But I feel just as strongly that homeschooling should be a viable choice as well in terms of options for Jewish education in this city.

"We could choose who we wanted as role models for our children…If [my children] learned one thing…it's that there are choices that you can make, and not all the choices fit the system."

If Solomon found homeschooling in the Jewish community lonely, Daryl Vernon – who began homeschooling 20 years ago and is still homeschooling today – found it even more so.

Vernon started "when there was no support" and the "school boards were adversarial," he says. When he pulled his oldest son, Eric, out from a Jewish day school, the family was living on a farm in Kleinberg. Today, they live in the city and all four children have been homeschooled for at least several years each. Eric, 22, is currently studying on a full scholarship at a university in England; Rachel, 18, and Micah, 15, are in public school; and Zachary, 10, has never been to school.

Homeschooling brings "immense rewards," he says, adding that schools as we know them have only been in existence for a few generations. "Children will bloom by themselves. They're being potted and they don't need to be."

Naomi Hecht, who has homeschooled her four children off and on since they were at junior-high age, says her children also bloomed when they stopped going to school.

"They couldn't comprehend the meanness of the other kids," Hecht says. "I remember how excited they had been when they started out. I wanted them to keep that enthusiasm."

Now, three of Hecht's children – Chai, 18; Tikva, 17; and Razi, 13 (Dodi-Lee, 20, is in college in New York City) – study with her husband and each other at his office each morning and work on their Independent Learning Centre (ILC) courses each afternoon. Hecht, a writer, works nearby so she can be available if they need her during the day or if they just want to talk.

Though Hecht and each of these other parents began teaching their children at home for different reasons – whether because they were having trouble academically, needed a more challenging curriculum, had learning disabilities, were involved in activities that require a flexible schedule or were simply not thriving in the school environment – they all agree that homeschooling addresses a child's uniqueness in a way that schools do not and that that distinction makes all the difference.

Life is "wide open," Vernon says. "Every child is different and every year in a child's life is different. Every child has a gift. You just have to listen to it, you have to be there for it."

"Everyone has something of value that no one else has," Hecht adds. "If you don't tell your kids that, they won't see the poetry in the world."

ANNOUNCEMENT

On behalf of the Executive Board of Roselawn/Lambton Cemetery Association I wish to advise that the following organizations are no longer members. Should you have any questions kindly call these organizations:

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Greater Toronto Area

Philanthropist Leslie Dan (right) seen with his wife, Anna Dan, and Wayne Hindmarsh, dean of the faculty of pharmacy at the U of T, at a recent reception announcing the renaming of the faculty building in Dan's honour.

Dan donates $15 million to U of T faculty

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Hungarian-born entrepreneur, philanthropist and founder of one of Canada's largest manufacturers of generic drugs, Leslie Dan was honoured recently with the renaming of the pharmacy faculty at the University of Toronto.

The Leslie L. Dan Faculty of Pharmacy will be housed in the Leslie L. Dan Pharmacy Building, which is to be completed in 2005. The new building will increase the number of graduate pharmacy students from 120 to 240.

World-renowned British architect Sir Norman Foster has been selected to design the new building. Construction will take place on a 15,000-square-metre site at the northwest quadrant of the College Street-Queen's Park Crescent intersection – the site now occupied by greenhouses built in 1931.

In expressing appreciation for a "munificent" gift of $15 million, University of Toronto president Robert J. Birgeneau said, "This is an exceptional gesture of kindness that will forever link your name with the largest faculty of its kind in the nation, and ultimately benefit the entire Canadian pharmaceutical industry.

"It is gifts like yours that help the University of Toronto maintain its standing as the best institution of higher education in the country."

Dan told *The CJN* there is a "dire shortage" of pharmacists in the country as more and more pharmacies are opening and remaining open for longer hours.

"The large chains and the Ontario College of Pharmacy, the licensing body of the government, are pressing the faculty of pharmacy to increase the number of graduates as the pharmacies are grossly understaffed.

"I am concerned that people will not be properly served because of the shortage of pharmacists," said Dan.

When asked about his choice of the pharmacy faculty for this donation, Dan said, "The U of T gave me a pharmacy profession and if I am successful, it is only fair and proper that I should contribute to the growth of the university, specifically the faculty of pharmacy."

Prof. Wayne Hindmarsh, dean of the faculty of pharmacy, says he regards Dan as an inspirational example for the faculty's students. "He's one of our graduates who has been a real credit to the pharmacy profession," he said.

Dan, who spent World War II hiding in Budapest, came to Canada in 1947 as a young war refugee with little knowledge of English and only a few dollars in his pocket.

He attended Harbord Collegiate and worked as a lumberjack and a waiter to put himself through university, earning a bachelor's degree from U of T's faculty of pharmacy in 1954 and an MBA at the university in 1959.

In 1965, Dan founded Novopharm Limited, a producer of high-quality moderately priced pharmaceuticals.

Two years ago, Dan sold Novopharm to Teva Pharmaceutical Company, an Israeli firm that operates worldwide. He remains chair of the Canadian operation, as well as of Novopharm's two Hungarian subsidiaries, Human and Humanpharma Hungary. He is also on the board of Teva Israel.

Dan heads a family-owned company founded in 1990, Veventia Biotech (formerly Novopharm Biotech) – a company dedicated to finding more effective medications to fight cancer.

"We are very optimistic that we shall be successful with our research," he said.

Dan has received numerous awards and honours. In 1995, he was honoured at the 47th annual Negev Dinner and in 1997, U of T granted him an honorary doctorate of science. In 1996, he received the orders of Canada and Ontario.

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Lecturer to look at a literal study of the Torah

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Lecturer and educator Arna Poupko Fisher will speak at Baycrest Terrace, May 27, 8 pm., in a program sponsored by the Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women.

Mekorot, now completing its third year, offers a program of Jewish learning with the goal of making the full range of traditional Jewish texts accessible to its students.

It offers its almost 160 students three year-long, text based, weekly courses covering Bible, prophets, midrash and Talmud, as well as five mini-courses dealing with holidays, Jewish philosophy and Jewish legal authority.

Poupko Fisher, who spoke at Mekorot's inaugural event three years ago, will speak on The Bible as Literature: The Beauty of the Simple Text.

She spoke to *The CJN* from her home in Cincinnati, Ohio, where, starting in the fall, she will be an adjunct professor in the University of Cincinnati's Jewish studies department.

She is also a faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Foundation, a program that educates Jewish communal leaders in the history, thought, traditions and contemporary challenges of the Jewish people, as well as the Wexner Graduate Fellows program, and has taught at both the University of Toronto and McGill University.

Poupko Fisher said that in her lecture, she will look at ways one can read Torah "in order to glean greater appreciation of the beauty and Godly precision of the text.

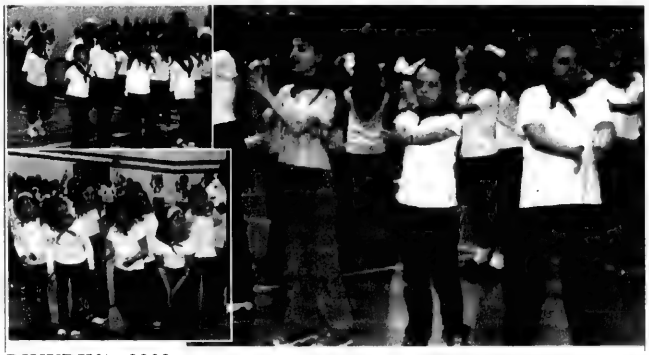
"Through a careful consideration of the plain, literal reading of the Torah, one can identify repetitive metaphors and motifs which teach and communicate exceptionally profound ideals," she said.

In reading the Torah, "we tend to emphasize midrashic interpretations while somewhat ignoring the literary simplicity of the narrative," Poupko Fisher said.

"For example, why does the Torah choose to tell particular events in the way in which it does? Why do we find repetitive language or motifs?"

In this way, she said, a literary read of the text is not in any way religiously threatening. "In fact, it can become a foundation for a deeper belief in the divine origin of the text."

For information, call the Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women at 416-398-1510.



RIKUDIYA 2002: This theme of this year's Rikudiya, directed by Teme Kernerman, was Tikvah L'Shalom (Hope for Peace). About 200 students from 12 schools participated in the program, held at York University. The schools were: Associated Hebrew Day School, Kamin campus; Associated Hebrew Day School, Danilack/Posluns campus; Beit Sefer Solel; Bialik Hebrew Day School; Darchei Noam Religious School; Holy Blossom Hebrew School; Leo Baeck Hebrew Day School; She'arim Hebrew Day School; Toronto Heschel School; United Synagogue Day School Bathurst campus; United Synagogue Day School, Bayview campus; and United Synagogue Day School, Richmond Hill campus. The guest performances were by the Chai Dancers and the Nirkoda Israeli Dancers Alumni.

[Photos courtesy UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education]

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Kellie Jordyn was born March 12. Thrilled parents are Cary & Cindy Pomeranz. Love, Bubbie Henna & Zayde Irving Pomeranz.

Mazel tov to Alexa Gold on her second birthday. With lots of love, Mommy Carlee, Daddy Jason and your entire family.

Bonnye & Marty Gollan and Simone & Larry Herman are delighted to announce the engagement of their children Kara Lynn & Ashley David.

Mazel tov to Ruth & David Solomon on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Happy first birthday Kyle Jonah Rotenberg. Love, your Mom, Dad, Bubbie, Zaidie, Saba & Safta, and all your uncles and aunties.

Sydney & Jesse welcome their new sister Billie Madison. Thrilled parents are Maxine & Josh Schulman. Love, Bubbie Henna & Zayde Irving Pomeranz.

Ruth & Mark Sheinfeld and Bonnie & Michael Boltman are delighted to announce the engagement of their children Lisa & Robert.

Happy first birthday Ryan Andrew Feldman! Mommy & Daddy (Shawna & Scott) are so very proud of you. We love you very much!

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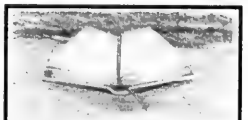
Jewish Life

Giving Shlomo Shmulevitz his due

By RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN

Recently, we witnessed the bestowal of two of the best-known awards, the Oscars for film and the Pulitzer Prizes for literature and journalism. Of course, one of the benefits of receiving awards is the sense of recognition that accompanies them. Receiving such an award is an acknowledgement of excellence and achievement.



Rabbinic Reflections

Recognition is also a factor in the festival that we celebrated last week, Shavuot. Sadly, of all the festivals in the Jewish calendar, Shavuot is one of the least celebrated and recognized. Perhaps the lack of a concrete symbol akin to the sukkah and the matzah accounts for this, as the festival's main theme, the giving of the Torah and God's revelation to Moses upon Mount Sinai, is certainly significant and worthy of recognition.

It's in this spirit that I wish to relate the story of a Yiddish song and its composition. The song is titled *A Brivele der Mamen*, and it touched a very tender place in the the hearts of many young Jews who had left their homes and families in Europe for a better life in America and became an immediate hit among the Jewish immigrant population. The song was also sung on the Yiddish stage and eventually became the theme song of a Yiddish movie.

It was composed by a man named Shlomo Shmulevitz in 1912. It became very popular and was sung by mothers in both Europe and America. Everybody made money on the song, except Shmulevitz. When the movie *A Brivele der Mamen* was brought to the United States from Poland, where it was filmed, Shmulevitz's name was not mentioned.

Outraged, Shmulevitz sent a bitter letter to the Yiddish press, titled "A Protest." Shmulevitz claimed that many people knew the truth, yet no voices were raised in protest. He wrote that even the press, including the editors of the three New York Yiddish newspapers, knew of this situation, but remained silent. The papers ran advertisements for the film, which said another man had written the song. The movie was publicized in New York with large posters and the song's composer was identified as one A. Elstein in both the posters and in the press. This was, Shmulevitz wrote, a public injustice and embarrassment for him.

He claimed that this was the second time he had been robbed of this song. The publisher paid him $25 for it and then made thousands of dollars on it but gave neither acknowledgment nor royalties to Shmulevitz. He wrote that he was not a well man and had a weak heart. He lived alone, among strangers, in a very small room and spent his days peddling his two books of musical compositions. Shmulevitz died without redress and without recognition.

What is so sad is that Shmulevitz's protest was justified; many people knew he had composed the song, but for some reason, a conspiracy appears to have existed and none of those who knew acknowledged its true composer. I wish to rectify this situation. May this article and the words of the song he wrote serve to honour Shmulevitz and may we accord recognition to a man who never received it during his lifetime.

Here are some of his words:

My child, my comfort, you are going across distant seas.

Arrive in good health and write each week to ease your mother's worries.

Write a letter soon, my child.

Your mother will read your letter and be comforted.

Ease her pain, her bitter heart, refresh her spirit.

Rabbi Friedman is a hospital chaplain affiliated with chaplaincy services of the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors in Montreal.

Seeing beneath the surface

By ELLIOT MALAMET

The Talmud (Baba Bathra; 73B) tells a story of Rabba bar Bar Hanna, who relates that "once he and his companions were travelling on board a ship and saw a fish whose back was covered with sand out of which grew grass. Thinking this fish was dry land, they went up on it and cooked on its back. When, however, its back was heated it turned over and had it not been for a passing ship they would have been drowned."

There are many ways to interpret this story, but what seems glaring is the portrait of a world which seems stable but is not, seems to be one thing and turns out to be radically different. We believe, especially in modernity, in the solidity of the material world, in what we can touch and see and evaluate scientifically, in the houses we build and the cars we drive. But all is temporary, and a life can turn around in a flash. Dry land overturns and we are left hanging on for dear life, if not, as the parable suggests, for the lifeboat of Torah that is nearby.

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But the implication of the Gemarah is not just a negative one. The overturning of our physical world is also a sign of the emergence of a spiritual world, a truth that we often try to deny or simply pay little heed. But sometimes in crisis, this other world ruptures the fabric of our own daily lives and presents itself as having been the basis of our being all along.

This can be described by a term from German theatre – *doppelbodigkeit* – literally "having a double floor." The ordinary world, previously perceived as massive, is now seen as tenuously put together, like a stage set made of cardboard, full of holes, easily collapsed into unreality. One now understands that this other reality has been there all along – on "another floor," so to speak. In other words, the experience of *doppelbodigkeit* throws a new light on the familiar facts of ordinary experience. Our forefather Jacob has this *doppelbodigkeit* encounter when he dreams of angels going up and down a ladder, and notes upon awakening that "surely God was in this place and I did not know."

It is quite possible that the current unfolding of events – in Israel and around the world – is an opportunity to see beneath the surface of our lives and think more deeply than we usually care to about the meaning and destiny of our existence.

The Vilna Gaon states that the punishment for wasted words in the afterlife is called "the cup of the slingshot." The soul that tossed words about unthinkingly in this world is flung from one place to another in the next world. Before it can arrive at its destination, it is jerked in the opposite direction. Hence there is the experience of constantly travelling and never getting anywhere, a life which moved through the world but wasted its creative energies. May our current troubles propel us in the right direction, and allow the Jewish people to rededicate ourselves to our mission as a moral light and an ethical force.

Jewish Life

Uniting pleasure with truth

***This Horizon and Beyond: Poems Selected and New*, Nancy-Gay Rotstein, McClelland & Stewart, 2001, $19.99.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Not too long ago, when a novelist or dramatist wrote with a flame of the highest inspiration, his or her work was said to be "touched by poetry." It was widely believed that no literary genre was closer to the divine then poetry. For Robert Browning, poetry means putting the infinite within the finite, and Matthew Arnold spoke for many when he explained that poetry is simply the most beautiful, impressive and widely affective way of saying things.

Unhappily, however much poetry was exalted in the past, the sad truth is that contemporary poetry – outside a small and enthusiastic circle – is scarcely read. This is sad, because not all modern poetry is difficult or obscure. Much of it still speaks to us if we take the trouble to pause and listen. Today, as in the past, poetry is still the art of putting words and ideas together to unite pleasure with truth.

Nancy-Gay Rotstein is a Toronto poet whose work has been internationally recognized and acclaimed. Her new book contains selections from her three previous books, as well as poems never before published.

In his ample foreword to this book Irving Layton is unstinting in his praise. "Rotstein's poems show her awareness of time and eternity and how they condition each other. Rotstein, like all enduring poets, is aware of the transcendental and eternal existing side by side, and how they condition each other to the eternal discomfort and perplexity of human beings."

Nancy-Gay Rotstein

The many poems of Jewish interest are warm and appealing, neither banal nor unfathomable. *Masada* evokes a sense of both yesterday and today in a strange amalgam. "The sun scours/ the ancient rocks/ baking its limestone/ dust./ Birds weave over/ reconstructed ruins/ witnesses to time./ Silence, sweet and still/ screams to be remembered/ as skeletons of bravery/ lie buried under/ burnt stone–/ children with mothers/ men linked in faith./ Now paratroopers/ march over crusty stone/ and take their oath/ to remember."

The Guide brings to life the familiar Israeli polymath who is able to joke "in five languages/ English, Arabic, and Italian./ German when necessary." And who "opens doors./ waits in marble lobbies./ explains history tirelessly./ In his pocket, a Gun/ on his arm, a Number/ in his heart, Steel."

In *The Visitor* the reader is given a rare glimpse of Alfred Dreyfus at a bagel bar. He is a revenant, an unfelt and undemanding presence. "He sat on/ a tri-coloured chair/ a century-traveller/ unseen among/ the Sunday brunchers." History imposes no obligation upon the living as "Unnoted, Dreyfus walks/ through the double-glass door/ and disappears./ Tears pock his/ prison-pallored face./ a ghost upon the/ haunted streets."

This Horizon and Beyond is a luminous exploration of the ambit where history, impressions, memory and imagination pass into one another and through one another. How precious to be able to transform the uncertainty and emptiness of life into human potential and hope.

Jewish weddings & the Net

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You're getting married. Mazel tov!

Although this is an incredible and unique experience for you and your beloved, some of the questions and problems you are facing have been faced by many other couples. Luckily, some of them have shared their experiences on the World Wide Web. Today, a look at some Jewish wedding sites and insights.

If you have a question, there's a good chance it's been asked at Jewish.com. More than 70 questions deal with everything from proposals and engagements to the ketubah and the ceremony. For example, to the question, "Is one allowed to propose marriage during Shabbos?" Rabbi Leibie Sternberg says that Jewish law "specifically permits one to arrange betrothals on Shabbos, with the caveat that no financial matters or obligations be discussed. Making a shidduch is deemed a Heavenly matter, and such are [it is] permitted on Shabbos." **[http://www.jewish.com/askarabbi/Lifecycle_Events/Weddings/]**

I particularly like the initiative displayed by Kyra Schuster and Michael Scheinberg. Kyra and Mike got married in October 1998 (after having met on the Internet!). The couple has put together an informative and informal guide to Jewish weddings that you can read online and download, too. Here's a sample:

Question: Why is the Groom wearing a white robe? Did he forget his tux?

Answer: No he didn't forget his tux. It's what we call a kittel. You see, the wedding day is a personal Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) for the bride and groom. On this holiday, one wears white to symbolize cleanliness and purity. The white clothing is an extension of this purity. Besides, at a black-tie affair, it's the best way to point out the bride and groom... **[http://www.kyra-mike.net/jewish. html]**

Ohr Somayach's Ask the Rabbi feature has addressed several wedding questions over the years. You can find out about the traditions guiding a child who wants to attend the second wedding of a parent, why the bride and groom are lifted up on chairs after the wedding and what to do with the glass broken during the wedding ceremony: "There is no problem with throwing it away in the garbage. Although it was used in a religious ceremony, it itself is not a holy article. I've heard that some have the custom to save the glass and make jewelry from it." **[http://www.ohr.edu/web/index/askw.htm]**

Eliezer Segal is a professor of western religions at the University of Calgary. His Web site is full of thought-provoking articles about Jewish life and history and things they never taught you at Jewish school. His section on Jewish Weddings traces how the chupah has evolved from the Garden of Eden to its use today. Segal examines the ketubah for clues to its ancient values and he explains the tradition of holding Jewish weddings beneath the stars **[http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/Weddings_Index.html]**.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has a Web site that outlines its views on marriage and intermarriage. There are questions and answers about interfaith ceremonies and interracial Jewish marriages. **[http://uahc.org/ask/questions.shtml]**

If you don't know an "aufruf" from a "bedeken," there are several sites that will help you with the terminology, such as as AllThingsJewish **[http://www.allthingsjewish.com/library.asp?Subject ID=84]**. If you are still looking for more information, don't miss Kyra and Mike's links to other Jewish wedding sites **[http://www.kyra-mike.net/links.html]**.

Miriam Weinstein has advice for a difficult problem: what to do when you are divorced and your children are getting married. She quotes Rabbi Myron Geller of Temple Ahavat Achim in Gloucester, Mass.: "The parents need to focus on the fact that the wedding is not the time to deal with their own conflicts. While it lends itself to acting out their continuing struggle, hostility and anger, this is not the proper setting to even scores, settle accounts, justify themselves... Just like we're supposed to honour our parents, doing the proper thing for our children is a mitzvah." **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/1802.html]**

When you are done reading about the hows and whys of Jewish weddings, you may be ready for some articles about what to expect *after* the wedding. The Aish Hatorah Web site has sections dealing with with key issues like intimacy, commitment and trust. **[http://www.aish.com/family/marriage/]**.

So once again, mazel tov, and happy reading!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel, Jews and the left

By JORDY CUMMINGS

Can it be that it was all so simple? In 1948, upon Israel's founding, the international left – including Arab communist and socialist parties, particularly in Egypt – was supportive of Israel. After the *nakba* (Arabic for catastrophe, referring to the founding of Israel), Marxists, even within the Arab world, were prepared to accept Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Guest Voice

The reasoning was that a socialist, labour-based country – Israel – would rub off on the repressive "Islamo-fascist" regimes that dominated the region.

Indeed, it was the British-funded Muslim Brotherhood, ostensibly an Islamic charity, that provided the basis for Arab anti-Semitism, as well as a means to push Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser to the right.

Also, it was the Americans (and particularly former U.S. president Jimmy Carter's National Security Council adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski), in their brilliance, who later decided to create an International Islamic Fundamentalist Brigade – later to be called Al Qaeda – in order to defeat communism in Afghanistan.

Aside from some American corporations, international big business has always relied more strongly on iron-fisted Wahabis – the inventors of what we call fundamentalist Islam, who essentially run Saudi Arabia – than on Eretz Yisrael.

Why is it, then, that the international left seems to be so pro-Palestinian, leading many hitherto left-leaning Jews to abandon their progressive affiliations? Why is it that an innocuous Naderite research group like QPIRG-McGill has been lumped in with "extremists" (as was the case in a recent issue of *The CJN*)? Much of it has to do with a misunderstanding of our position on this issue.

Even the most ardent leftist critics of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's actions do not deny Israel's right to exist within secure borders. It is just that we cannot square Sharon's appointing of transfer-mongers to his government and his stated desire to destroy the Oslo peace process with our support for Israel. Therefore, like Americans who saw it as their patriotic duty to speak the truth while their nation was involved in the horrendous Vietnam War, we see it as our responsibility, as Jews and as internationalists, to speak out against Sharon.

The charge that the left is anti-Semitic is ludicrous, especially given that those in the vanguard of many, if not most progressive social movements, are disproportionately Jewish. Indeed, the group of non-violent activists who recently occupied MP Irwin Cotler's office in Montreal included more than one Israeli, as well as quite a few Palestinians.

Furthermore, as more Palestinians and Arabs become involved in leftist and internationalist politics, it will bring a far preferable mode of political thinking to the Middle East than that of the Wahabis or the Baathists. (The latter are the worst anti-Semites in the region, growing out of what was supposed to be an Arab socialist movement into something heavily influenced by Nazi expatriates in the 1950s. Iraq's Saddam Hussein and the late Syrian leader Hafez Assad are Baathists.)

On the other hand, as many Jews close ranks to support Sharon, there has been a tremendous growth of openly expressed Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism, if not Meir Kahane-derived attitudes, not only toward Palestinians but toward such "self-hating Jews" as Rabbi Michael Lerner, the editor of *Tikkun* magazine, Israeli author Amos Oz and Labour MK Yossi Beillin.

Israel and Palestine are but a small part of the international left's current agenda, which can be simplified in the great catch phrase "Another world is possible." Unlike the media-created label of "anti-globalization," the left aims to globalize social justice, environmentalism, human rights and labour movements to eventually be able to counter the international power of corporations. The nation state has declined in power over the last half-century, while big business acts ever more globally. Anyone confused about the current global corporate agenda can look at victims of the Enron debacle, not only in Houston, but all through India, where it was a regular Enron practice to bribe state officials to build huge dams that are environmentally destructive, while nearly 100 million Indians are without a safe supply of water.

As the world faces a huge resurgence in anti-Semitism, both of the fascist LePenite and the Islamist variety, it is important that members of the Jewish community understand one another – a sort of macro-level shalom bayit.

It is of course also important for us to understand that Jean-Marie LePen in France and other Euro-fascists are as anti-Arab as they are anti-Semitic. We Semites – Muslim, Jewish and Christian – must find ways of working together globally.

My aim in writing this opinion piece is not to propagandize or proselytize. Rather, it is rather to explain to my community why so many of us are involved in internationalism. I expect that the knee-jerk responses to me will be visceral, just as they were to Baruch Spinoza, who was thrown out of the Amsterdam Jewish community for his views. Yet, a compass is far more important when it is inconvenient. I believe that history will vindicate my position, while the same cannot be said for those who blindly support Sharon.

Jordy Cummings is a freelance journalist and activist based in Montreal.

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On Campus

Jewish students honoured at JCS's awards night

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The challenge for Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto is to provide, above all, a sense of pride in being Jewish on campus, said the organization's director at JCS's annual awards night, held recently at York University.

"For students this is a frightening time. They're being challenged to defend Israel and who they are as Jews," said Zac Kaye at the otherwise festive event. "Some students are conversant with the issues, but sadly only a minority."

Among the positive stories recounted were those of Ilana Aisen and Craig Byers, who told of their "engagement," not to each other, but rather in JCS. Aisen has become involved in Israel-related and religious programming, following a life-changing trip to El Salvador with the organization.

Byers, who also went on the trip and who is in the process of converting to Judaism, said he has found community at the University of Toronto's Jewish Student Union.

"Hopefully we'll engage more and more students [who] will become our future leaders," said Larry Sonenberg, JCS president. He is hopeful, he added, that before long the awards night will be held at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Life, the Jewish student centre being built just off the University of Toronto campus.

In his tribute to Michael Brown, immediate past director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies who received this year's Founding Friend of the Campus Award, Kaye said that no one person has fought harder for the needs of the students than Brown has.

York student Seth Winberg said Brown recognized the "value of Jewish students doing Jewish on campus" and credited Brown with influencing his decision to attend York.

Professor Martin Lockshin, Brown's successor as director of the Centre for Jewish Studies, praised Brown's dedication and skill as a teacher and credited him for developing Jewish Studies at York at a time when the field existed only at a handful of public universities and was more likely to be taught by Christian clergymen than Jewish scholars.

Brown was the "guiding spirit" behind York's Jewish teacher education program, which Lockshin called the "jewel in the crown" of the Jewish Studies program. "It fills a real need in the Jewish community, and makes us very cutting edge."

It is also a place where Jews of all denominations and no denomination work together "in what I wish could be a model for the Jewish community," said Lockshin.

Brown, in turn, credited the university administration and his York colleagues for their support of the Jewish studies program.

Still on the agenda, he said, is the creation of an appropriate physical facility for York's 4,000 Jewish students.

Nikki Greenspan, Aaron Kasman and Brian Wolk, presidents of the Jewish student organizations at York, U of T and Ryerson respectively, received Presidents' awards.

Campus awards were presented to:

- Lonny Kates and Victor Volfson, Jewish Students' Association at Ryerson;
- Josh Goodman, Robin Hermolin and Sivan Raz, Jewish Students' Federation at York University;
- Ari Brodski, Jenny Herbert and Becca Siggner, Jewish Students' Union at the University of Toronto.

The following citywide awards were also presented:

- Robin Epstein, The Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto Action Committee for Jewish Continuity Award for Enhancing Jewish Identity and Continuity;
- Roni Hoffman, The Jacobovici Family Award for Arts and Culture;
- Daniel Saul, *The Canadian Jewish News* Award for Communication;
- Adam Cutler, The Gropper Family Award for Outstanding Leadership;
- Leanne Gruszecki, The Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Inc. Award for Special Involvement in Jewish Campus Life;
- Harvey Cayne, The Nechama and Ya'akov Kaner Award for Creative Programming;
- Benji Matta and Daniel Held, The Lapowich Family Award for Israel Advocacy on Campus; and
- Joel Goldberg, The Jewish Campus Services Award for Ongoing Commitment to Jewish Student Life.

For photos of some of the winners, go to www.cjnews.com/campus/campus.htm.

Students get set to 'Rock for Israel'

TORONTO — This year, in addition to the walk for Israel held here on Monday, students will be able to "Rock for Israel" at the Hard Rock Cafe at Skydome.

The student fund-raiser, which will take place May 30 at 9:30 p.m., is a joint initiative of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto, CJC Regional Communities of Ontario and UIA Federations Canada. All proceeds from door admission, a raffle and an on-site tzedakah box will be directed to the Israel Emergency Campaign launched earlier this month.

"We knew there was a desire within the student community to do something to help with the situation [in Israel]," said Jordan Cares, program director, London Jewish Campus Services (LJCS). "Hopefully this will be a blockbuster...and we'll be able to make a difference."

The event was undertaken at the initiative of Jared Isaacson, LJCS director, in co-operation with colleagues in Toronto and a committee of students from several universities.

"A lot of students from the campuses across Ontario end up back in Toronto for the summer," said Isaacson, adding that opportunities for multi-campus projects don't come up that often. "The connection to the Jewish community and to Israel is not just felt eight months a year."

Josh Shuval, immediate past president of the Jewish Students's Union at the University of Western Ontario and a committee member for the upcoming fund-raiser, said organizers are hoping to raise $5,000 to $6,000.

Raffle tickets are $2, or $3 for five. Admission is $10, and students must be 19 or older to be admitted. — F.K.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 27, is deadline for June 6 issue and Monday, June 3, is deadline for June 13. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, May 23

WINE & CHEESE

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, New Leadership Division, Wine and Cheese Reception, Silent Auction, 7 p.m. at the Black and White Exhibit, A Show of Hands Petroff Gallery, 1016 Eglinton Ave. W. Proceeds to pediatric research, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Reserve. 416-485-8000.

ISRAEL TOURIST INDUSTRY

Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue Israel Action Committee features **Dani Barkai** speaking on Israel's Tourist Industry in Crisis: How Can It Be Saved? 8 p.m.

THE MIDDLE EAST

John Godfrey, MP for Don Valley West, speaks on the government's policy on the Middle East, 7:15 p.m. at Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave.

Saturday, May 25

SHABBAT OF LEARNING

Adath Israel Sisterhood and Brotherhood Shabbat of Learning with guest speaker **Anita Mayer**, author, Holocaust survivor. Buffet luncheon follows services (by reservation) 416-635-5340.

Sunday, May 26

CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies conference, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Yiddish Literature, Canadian synagogues, Jews of Canada and more. Evening tribute to the memory of **Ben Kayfetz** and award presentation to **Rabbi Gunther Plaut. Randal Schnoor**, 416-630-4464.

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

The Transnistria Survivors Association dedicates its special panel on the Wall of Remembrance at Earl Bales Park, 11 a.m.

JEWS IN MUSLIM SPAIN

Prof. Eric Lawee speaks on The Jewish "Golden Age" in Muslim Spain: How golden was it and why does it matter? 8 p.m. at Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave.

JEWISH LIBRARIES

The Association of Jewish Libraries-Ontario workshops: Beyond *Maus*: Holocaust Comic Books; Writing Historical Fiction for Children; Damaged Books: Repair or Discard Them? 1-4 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. **Anne** 416-789-3291 ext. 235

JEWS IN ARAB LANDS

Entertainment and Cultural Committee and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood 8 p.m. Experiences of Jews in Arab and Muslim Lands, **Dr. Naim Dallal** (Iraq); **Ramy Dishy** (Lebanon); **Yontof Frasko** (Turkey); **Farokh Hakimi** (Iran); **Tito Massouda** (Egypt); **Samy Ouanounou** (Morocco). Moderator **Mihal Tylman**.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel and Intersynagogue Singles present **Dr. Mel Borins** speaking on Going Away Just for the Health of It, at brunch (for singles 35+) at 11:30 a.m. **Nilly** 416-635-5349.

MJDS RUMMAGE SALE

Montessori Jewish Day School rummage sale, 9 a.m. to noon at 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Raffle at noon. Prizes include bed and breakfast weekend, 1-year health club membership and more. 416-784-5071.

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Games Jewish Singles Play, 7:30 p.m., Beth Torah Synagogue, 47 Glenbrook Ave. Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?, Chutzpah, Trivial Pursuit, and more. Group A 21-39,

Continued on page 21

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Tel: 416-736-5823

What's New

Continued from page 20

Group B 40-69. Early Bird Bingo 7:30 p.m. **Mollie** 416-733-3634.

WINGATE BRANCH

Wingate Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, all members meeting, 9:15 a.m. breakfast nosh plus meeting, Zionist Centre. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024.

STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer.** Come listen, come tell. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave., 7:30 p.m. 416-699-8914.

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale and Krispy Kreme Donuts fund-raiser, presented by Jewish Women International, Elan Chapter. Lots of variety and fantastic bargains, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 99 John St., Thornhill.

Monday, May 27

THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women lecture for women and men by **Arna Poupko Fisher**, University of Cincinnati, on The Bible as Literature: The Beauty of the Simple Text, 8 p.m. at Baycrest Terrace, 55 Ameer Ave. 416-398-1510.

LENKINSKI LECTURE

The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation of Canada presents the annual Louis Lenkinski Lecture with **Nate Leipciger**, International Council for Auschwitz. Topic: From Auschwitz to Auschwitz: Changing Attitudes of a Survivor Toward Auschwitz and Poland. 7:30 p.m., Workman's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W.

BOOK REVIEW

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood presents **Ruby Newman** and a review of the *Bee Season* by **Myra Goldberg**, 8 p.m.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

For parents and families of Lesbians and Gays. For more information, **Ruth** 416-763-9111.

Tuesday, May 28

WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL

Morris Winchevsky School, an affiliate of the Board of Jewish Education, open house 7-9 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502.

ADDICTION PROBLEMS

Hope and help for families with addiction problems. **Marla Goldman** from JACS speaks to Aquarius Chapter, Jewish Women International, 8:30 p.m. at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. RSVP **Helen Binns** 416-447-6117.

Wednesday, May 29

ISRAELI WOMEN

New Israel Fund presents Israel Women: the Current Situation and Beyond with **Ella Gera,** executive director, Israel Women's Network and **Rina Bar-Tal**, chair, Israel Women's Network, 7:30 p.m., Barbara Frum Library. **Mary Anne Handler** 416-781-4322.

JEWS OF CHINA

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) features **Ester Benjamin Shifren**, artist/musician/writer speaking on Five Generations in Shanghai: The Jewish Communities of China, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Orientation session for the June 9 group preparing to leave for Israel to help Israel as volunteers on an army supply/maintenance base. 7:30 p.m., 788 Marlee Ave. Canadian Volunteers for Israel 416-781-6089.

ASK THE EXPERTS

The Jewish Family Institute Professional Parenting Panel evening with a pediatrician, 2 dieticians and a well-known educator and author who will answer challenging questions, 8 p.m., Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-785-1107 ext. 204.

PIRKEI AVOT

Viewed from the perspective of poet **Seymour Mayne**, University of Ottawa. 7:30 p.m. Beth Tzedec Congregation.

DIABETES MONITORING

Are you living with diabetes? Everything you need to know about Diabetes monitoring, with pharmacist Richard Lewis, 7:30 p.m., Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

PROSTATE CANCER

Awareness meeting 7:30-9:30 p.m., Civic Garden Centre, Floral Hall Room, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Agenda: **Barbie Casselman,** Eating Right for Life; and **Paul Ritvo,** Psychiatry and Medicine. 416-932-8820.

Thursday, May 30

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem Canada concert, A Celebration of Life, featuring Israeli heroes and Noa Dori, Israel's rising star, 7 p.m., Toronto Centre for the Arts. Tickets 416-805-3025.

IBS SELF-HELP GROUP

Toronto Irritable Bowel Self-help Group meets 7 p.m. at Mount Sinai Hospital 15th floor classroom. **Jeffrey Roberts** 416-932-3311.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

And What Else Is New

CHAVURAH SHABBATON

Canadian/American Chavurah Weekend Shabbaton takes place near Hamilton June 14-16. **Rabbi David Weiss** is chair and **David Bender** is on-site co-ordinator. Workshops organized by **Peter Gold** include **Rabbi Ed Elkin, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Adele Reinhartz, Miriam Minkoff, Susan Whele** and many others. Register early. Call **David Bender** 416-465-4377.

JRCC TORAH STUDY

Jewish Russian Institute of Torah Study, 18 Rockford Rd. For information/registration, **Chana Weisberg**, dean, 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

Monday, May 27, Feminine Spirituality, challenges facing modern women, Mondays 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday 10:30 a.m., **Chana Weisberg**. Monday course followed by Basic Hebrew, 9-10 p.m. Register.

Wednesday, May 29, a Mommy and Me program for mothers and tots discussing the weekly Torah portion, at a rotating series of homes, Wednesdays 10 a.m. Register.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Former NHL star and Hall of Fame hockey player **Darryl Sittler** is playing golf at the NCSY (National Conference of Synagogue Youth) Golf Tournament taking place Monday, June 17, at Pheasant Run Golf Course. The tournament is a fund-raiser for NCSY. Register. 905-761-6279 ext. 33.

JF & CS WORKSHOP

How to Talk With Your "Ex," a workshop for parents who have separated or divorced and want to help their children benefit by finding ways to communicate successfully with the other parent. Thursday, June 6, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313. Register. **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 215

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

Single Parents Under Duress (SPUD) is a group for single parents focusing on building friendships and a support network of people who share at least one thing in common: kids. **Jaci** 905-886-9626.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting Thursday, May 23, at 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Chandon Gel**, client service office, Income Security Program, discusses Information Please OAS, GIC, CPP. **Goldie** 415-635-2860.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). A reminder: Get ready for summer party with live music Sunday, June 2, 7:30 p.m. Regular programs: May 23, bingo; May 30, free evening with stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla,** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Open discussion with **Barbara Zigler**, co-ordinator, Lifelong Learning Institute Tuesday, May 28, 10-11:30 a.m. ext. 134.

Osteoporosis Interest Group Tuesday, May 28, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Sandy Feldstein.** NIA instructor, discusses NIA as a Fitness for the Body, Mind and Spirit. ext.126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. May 28, concert. **Anna** ext.110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital Eat Well, Be Well series presents General Overview of Nutrition for Pregnancy and Breastfeeding, with **Erin Collins,** Monday, May 27, 5-6 p.m.

Summer camps-programs for all ages, toddlers to teens. New this year, camps for pre-teens (10-12-year-olds).

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Through to June 5, BJCC Atrium: The Koffler Centre of the Arts, the BJCC and the Israeli Consulate of Toronto present Our Country, a photo exhibit by Israeli photographer **Alex Levac.** 30 black and white photographs depicting life in Jerusalem. ext. 271.

Through to June 30: Regarding Landscape, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman**, at the Koffler Gallery, Art Gallery of York University and Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. ext. 380. Sundays a shuttle bus travels between the 3 galleries. ext. 268.

Register now for summer 2002 visual art courses at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture. Courses begin July 2. Register ext. 269.

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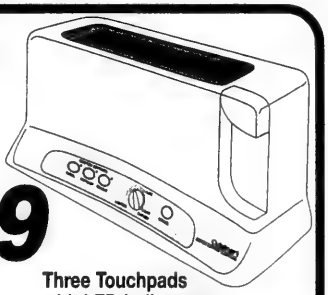

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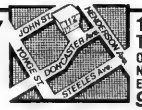

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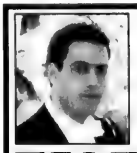

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Sagi Amar, Top Ten Finalist
Ohad Vilk, Top Ten Finalist

And the following students who successfully entered Round Two:

Uriel Elituv, Menachem Gelkop, Stacy Rush, Davida Shiff, Miryam Spiegel, Nadavya Stollon

GRADE 5 & 6 DIVISION

Jacob Shiff, Top Ten Finalist

And the following students who successfully entered Round Two:

Micha Gelkop, Yonatan Pellow, Anna Pomson, Sigalit Weicman

Thanks to Rabbi Yitzchak Amar for guiding our students.

We are also proud of our graduates:

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

Hillel Nadler, First Place (tied), Canada
Raphael Rush, Finalist, Canada
Daniel Gutenberg, Finalist, Canada

WORLD WIDE CHIDON HATANACH, ISRAEL

Yaakov Frydman-Kohl, Third Place (tied), Int'l
Moshe Halpern, Third Place (tied), Int'l
Rebecca Winter, Top Ten Finalist, Int'l

Yashar Koach to all of our students who participated in the Chidon HaTanach this year.

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SINGLES EVENTS

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

***GAMES Jewish Singles Play! Sunday, May 26, 7:30 pm,** Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. ***Millionaire Game**, etc. $5. **119 couples have already met!** Mollie, 416-733-3634.

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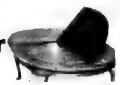

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Coast to Coast

Lazarecks to be feted at Winnipeg Negev Dinner

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Karyn and Mel Lazareck, this year's Jewish National Fund Negev gala honorees, generally shy away from the spotlight.

"We feel very flattered but undeserving. There are a lot of people in this community who have worked longer and harder than us," says Mel.

They agreed to be honorees this year, he said, because of the desperate situation in Israel, and because funds raised from the gala, to be held June 18, will go toward a project dear to their hearts, a new integrated JNF summer camping program for children with special needs in Israel.

Lazareck, who recently retired from the scrap metal business, is chairing this year's Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal campaign, a role he has assumed three times in the past.

Karyn has also co-chaired the campaign with longtime friend Barbara Kives.

The Lazarecks have been Max Shore Young Leadership Award winners and are active in other Jewish community organizations, including a program that integrates children with special needs into the Jewish community.

They have three sons, Sam, Adam, and Jordan, 21, who has been diagnosed with pervasive development disorder.

"When Jordan was younger, I was busy running around looking at different therapies," says Karyn.

"While I was confident that I was on the right track, a friend pointed out to me that there were other families out there with similar problems who could use some help and support."

Her response was to call a meeting, and this led to the Winnipeg Jewish community's first conference on special needs individuals, which she chaired.

"We really tapped a nerve," she says.

Karyn and Mel Lazareck

"People came out of the woodwork. We were expecting maybe 40 people and ended up with 200. We were astounded at the range of issues that were raised and the degree of alienation many felt about the Jewish community."

The Lazarecks are now part of a special needs Jewish parent support group that meets regularly and cuts across denominational lines

As well, special needs children are welcomed and accommodated in the synagogues, schools and Jewish summer camps.

"A lot of people in the community call Karyn for advice and information," Mel says.

In the fall, Jordan is attending a program in New Haven, Conn., where he will learn life skills in a college setting.

"Adam and Sam are going to university. It is natural that Jordan should be, too. Education is very important in our family."

Mel has just returned from a solidarity mission to Israel, where he visited the site of the integrated camp, the first of its kind in Israel.

"It's a beautiful setting. It's located on top of a hill overlooking a magnificent forest. The kids will love it."

Tom Gilman, JNF president for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, says they hope to sell out the 1,200 seat concert hall for the Negev gala.

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN: Seen at the UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy Installation are, from left, Barbara Bregman, 2003 vice-chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy; Hinda Silber, 2003 chair; and Leslie Binstock Offman, outgoing chair. Last year, Women's Campaign raised over $5.5 million for UJA.

ש'שאר ג'ינג'ן

גידי קורן וחברים

Koren from Left to Right:

The review of school textbooks produced by the Palestinian Authority reveals that these children are exposed systematically to the ideas of terror and to becoming martyrs. Their school maps show Palestine from the river to the sea, with no Israel in sight, a sure way to produce a nation of terrorists. The Europeans will learn this at their own pace.

מי חוסם את השלום?

חשבונו קבלתי את הנוסח הבא ב- אי מייל, והוא מצלצל מאוד משכנע. זה הולך ככה:

איך אפשר לעצור את האלימות במזרח התיכון? האם יש פתרון למשבר הישראלי- פלשתינאי?

כמובן שיש, הוא נקרא "שתי מדינות לשני עמים"- מדינה פלשתינאית בגדה ובעזה לצד מדינת ישראל.

ארה"ב אמרה "כן", אידופה אמרה "כן", ישראל אמרה "כן", וכך גם האו"ם ומדינות ערב.

מדוע זה לא קרה? כי ערפאת אמר "לא".

בשנת אלפיים הוצעה מדינה פלשתינאית שתכלול 97% משטח הגדה והרצועה ועוד שלושה אחוז משטחים בישראל, פלוס שליטה בירושלים המזרחית. ערפאת אמר "לא" והתחיל את האינתיפאדה ושנתיים של טרור. מדוע? האם זה בגלל ויכוח על שלושה אחוזי שטח?

אפילו היום 73% ישראלים תומכים במדינה פלשתינאית לצד ישראל בתנאי שהטרור יופסק.

לעומת זה, 69% פלשתינאים תומכים בפיגועי התאבדות.

הסיבה האמיתית לאי השגת שלום היא רצונם של המנהיגים הפלשתינאים במדינה במקום ישראל ולא לצד ישראל.

הנה חלק זעיר מן העובדות:

" ועידת אוסלו היתה סוס טרויאני: המטרה האסטרטגית היא שחרור פלשתין מהירדן לים" (פיסל חוסייני, שר בממשלת ערפאת בראיון ב- 24 ביוני 2001).

עשרות סמלים, מפות ועיטורים פלשתינאים מראים את "פלשתין חשלמה" ללא זכר למדינת ישראל.

ואולי תחשוב וחחושף יותר מכך: מה מלמדים הפלשתינים בבתי הספר? הינה מעט ממה שכתוב בספרי לימוד רשמיים של הרשות:

"דע בני, שאדמה טהורה ספוגה בדם של שאהידים."

"אברהם היה מוסלמי, ולא השתייך ליהודים המושמדים".

"זכור, התוצאה הסופית תהיה ניצחון המוסלמים על היהודים".

ושוב, במפות ספרי הלימוד פלשתין תמיד מצויירת על כל שטח ישראל.

וחסיכום:

הטרור אינו ספונטאני. הוא תוצאה של תכנון מדוקדק, חינוך ילדים שמתחיל בבית הספר, לפני שהם מסוגלים להעביר בקורת ולהגיע לדיעות עצמאיות. זו הדרך הבטוחה להפוך מדינה שלמה, עם שָׁלֵם לטרוריסטים.

יד על הלב

עם יד על הלב, הנוסח שמופיע למעלה- יש בו כמה פינות לא מדוייקות:

ישראל לא הסכימה רשמית למדינה פלשתינאית. היה זה אחוד ברק שהעלה את ההצעה בקמפ דיוויד בנסיון אחרון למנוע את הנפילה לתהום. בעשותו זאת הימר ברק שאם הנושא יגיע למשאל עם- הוא יזכה ברוב. ערפאת כמובן לא הסכים ממילא וכך הפך התרגיל להתאבדות פוליטית של ברק. אבל יד על הלב: כשהיה ברק בקמפ דיוויד זעקו אנשי הימין, ובראשם שרון, שאין לברק מנדט ללגיע לסיכום על מדינה פלשתינאית. שרון ללא ספק התבטא אינספור פעמים נגד מדינה כזו, ועד כה לא אמר דברים ברורים בעניין. שרון מאמין, ואני מאמין שיהא צודק- שאנשי ערפאת, אם ניתן היה בידם, היו רוצים לחסל את ישראל, ועל כן הוא סבור שאין לאפשר להם להקים מדינה. אני, וכמותי רבים אחרים מאמינים שיש להקים מדינה פלשתינאית, כי מדינה כזו תהיה ערובה בטוחה יותר לישראל, מאחר ויהיה לפלשתינאים מה להפסיד אם ימשיכו באלימות ובטרור.

אישית אני מאמין שהסכיזה חד צדדית שלנו על הסכמתינו למדינה כזו בתנאי שתילחם ותתנגד לטרור,-תביא לשינוי חיובי. אבל לשם כך צריך מנהיגים שמאמינים בזה. אבל שישאר בינתיים.

Judging the Jewish State

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

One of the perennial questions faced by supporters of Israel, which has become even more pertinent after Operation Defensive Shield, is why the Jewish State is judged by a much higher standard than is applied to any other country. Almost any other sovereign state would have been less restrained if confronted by the violence and terrorism Israel has experienced, especially after sincere efforts to negotiate a settlement with an adversary.

Over the past couple of weeks, a number of Canadian journalists have addressed this question and done so superbly. Rosie DiManno's May 8 column, "Holding Israel to an unattainable standard," in the *Toronto Star* and John Downing's column, "Hatred fans the flames of terrorism," *Toronto Sun*, May 8, are just two prominent examples. Those in the Jewish community who feel beleaguered by the international community's isolation and condemnation of Israel (especially European reaction to the Arab propaganda about a "massacre" at Jenin) should take comfort from the decency shown by journalists such as DiManno and Downing, among many others, who have stood up against the chorus of one-sided, hypocritical excoriation of Israel.

The Jews, as a quintessentially self-critical people with a well-deserved reputation for being at the forefront of the struggle for human rights, should not have any difficulty with well-founded, proportionate criticism of Israel. However, when that criticism is vastly unfair, even obsessive, one must challenge the source.

For those critics who are not motivated by any anti-Jewish bias, including most of the North American media, there is still the question of fairness and proportionality. Why does the slaughter of 34 Russians, including 12 schoolchildren, in a terrorist attack on May 9, merit merely a passing reference in much of the media, while major attention is focused on only the potential for Israeli retribution in Gaza for a suicide bombing in Rishon Lezion that killed 16 people?

Why, for that matter, do Israel's actions in Operation Defensive Shield get compared with Russia's operations in Chechnya? "Nothing the Israelis have done lately in the West Bank is any worse than what our noble allies the Russians have been doing for years in separatist Chechnya, where the scorched-earth policy continues unchecked and barely reported, despite confessed atrocities by the Russians themselves," wrote John MacArthur, the publisher of *Harper's* magazine, in the *Globe and Mail* (May 13).

Oddly, MacArthur may have thought he was being fair to Israel in his comparison. In fact, nothing Israel has done comes remotely near the wanton barbarity of Russia's aggression against the Chechens.

The truly interesting point to be drawn from MacArthur's article is the gross disparity between the hyper-reaction to anything Israel does, compared to the "barely reported" events involving other groups such as the Kurds or the Algerians, 100,000 of whom were slaughtered in the last decade by extremist Islamist factions in the face of appalling apathy.

As the *New Republic* once mordantly observed about the world's studied indifference to the Kurds, their fate is not to have had the Jews as their enemy.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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6:15 p.m. Mincha—7:00 p.m. Dinner
Adults $25 / Children $12 8:30 p.m. Public Lecture by Rabbi Feldman

Saturday, June 8 • Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda
8:45 a.m. Rebbitzin Ruth Kelman Memorial Shabbat Services
Sermon delivered by Rabbi Feldman
Study lunch following —with Guest Speakers —Rabbi David Feldman
& Professor Marc Shapiro, Department of Theology & Religion, University of Scranton
Adults $12 / Children $9

Saturday, June 8 • Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
7:30 p.m. Study Session with Rabbi Feldman —8:30 p.m. Mincha

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Coast to Coast

Hamilton Negev Dinner to honour Harts

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — This year, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) celebrates 100 years of land development, forest planting, water conservation and educational programming.

To mark the anniversary, the Negev Dinner in Hamilton is honouring Drs. Sharon and Lawrence Hart at a fund-raising dinner on June 9. Middle East expert and negotiator U.S. Ambassador Dennis Ross will be the guest speaker.

The Harts have devoted their time to a number of Jewish community organizations – local, national and international – since they moved to Hamilton in 1987.

Sharon, who grew up in Montreal, is currently national vice-president of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) of Canada and also serves as national chair of JNF's centennial committee. She recently represented Canada at JNF's world conference in Jerusalem. In recognition of her commitment, she was awarded the prestigious Bernard Bloomfield Medal for Meritorious Service in 1998.

Lawrence, who was born and raised in South Africa, is an associate professor of medicine at McMaster University and director of the rheumatic disease unit at Chedoke Division, Hamilton Health Sciences.

Drs. Sharon and Lawrence Hart

Currently the chair of the public affairs committee of the Hamilton Jewish Federation, Lawrence was recently elected national president of Maccabi Canada. He recently stepped down from a three-year term as national president of B'nai Brith Canada, and has also served on the executives of the Canada-Israel Committee and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region. He is currently on the board of directors of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), where the couple has chosen to educate their three daughters: Lara, Ilana and Yael.

A diplomat and a scholar, Ross spent more than 12 years shaping U.S. policy in the Middle East. He served as special Middle East coordinator under former U.S. president Bill Clinton, who awarded him the Presidential Medal for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service. Ross was also an ambassador for former U.S. President George Bush and he has worked closely with secretaries of state James Baker, Warren Christopher and Madeleine Albright.

Ross used his skills to broker the Oslo II agreement between Israel and the Palestinians in 1995. He also helped facilitate the 1997 Hebron accord, the Israeli-Jordan peace treaty in 1994 and has worked to try to bring Israel and Syria together.

Tickets for the dinner are still available at $360 per couple. Call the Hamilton JNF office at 905-527-5516.

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THE WARD 2 BY-ELECTION VOTING DAY IS THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002

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- a resident of Ward 2 in the City of Vaughan; or
- the owner or tenant of property in Ward 2 in the City of Vaughan or the spouse or same-sex partner of such person; and

on Voting Day (June 13, 2002) you are:

- a Canadian Citizen; and
- at least 18 years of age; and
- not prohibited from voting by law

Remember, for further information, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

First published May 9, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Edmonton rally for Israel draws 300

By TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

EDMONTON — A newly formed Alberta organization demonstrated its support for Israel at a Mother's Day rally at the provincial legislature here.

About 300 people, including about 100 Christians, held signs saying "Edmonton Stands with Israel" and "Israel, You'll Never Walk Alone," said Amnon Noy, chair of the Alberta Association for Solidarity for Israel.

The association is a group of concerned Albertans from a number of ethnic backgrounds that aims to promote a better understanding of Israel during the current crisis.

In a speech to the May 13 rally, Meir Romem, consul-general of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada, said Israel needs the support of the Diaspora, Noy said.

Noy also addressed the crowd, saying the rally is a demonstration of Albertans' commitment to peace, security and hope for the future.

"We are not fighting the Palestinian people and we continue to respect their aspirations to independence," said Noy, who arrived in Canada from Israel two years ago. "If the Palestinian leadership is ready to choose peace and progress, they will find that no people want peace or are prepared to sacrifice more for it than the people of Israel."

He emphasized that people can show their solidarity by visiting the Jewish state.

About 300 people came out to show their support for Israel at a rally in Edmonton.

"Now is the time to visit Israel. Now is the time to restore the security and the economy of Israel through the unity of our people," Noy said.

During the hour-long rally, three Edmonton girls read poetry, and a representative from the Jewish community also spoke.

Noy said his month-old group hopes to make connections with the Jewish community in Calgary and said there are plans for more events to help educate Albertans about Israel, but no dates have been set.

"We thought we had to do something to support Israel at this time. We always said we don't want any wars," said Noy.

For more information on the Alberta Association for Solidarity with Israel, visit its Web site at www.alberta4israel.com.

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Report: Israel sinks Gaza-bound arms ship, crew

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The arms-laden ship apparently bound for the Gaza Strip, which was recently sunk by the Israeli Navy, was carrying a crew of 20 armed men and a cache that included Katyusha rockets and anti-tank missiles, according to a report in the weekly British-based defence magazine, *Foreign Report*.

According to the report, details of which were published last Thursday in the daily newspaper *Yediot Achronot*, Israel's original plan was to seize the boat and publicly display its contents. But after Israel Defence Forces (IDF) intelligence reported that the boat was heavily guarded by 20 armed men who were primed for a possible attempt to intercept the ship, the decision was taken to sink the boat rather than capture it. This was reportedly done with the use of a missile.

According to the report, IDF intelligence did not succeed in uncovering who was behind the arms ship, but was certain it was headed for the Palestinian Authority (PA).

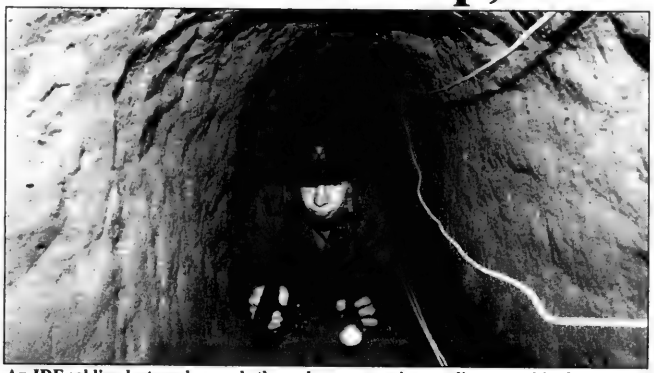
The plan was for the boat to reach the Gaza coast where the crew would throw the weapons overboard in waterproof containers, and where Palestinians disguised as fisherman were to pick them up.

The sinking of the ship was first reported in Sunday's edition of the *New York Post*. Uri Dan, a longtime close associate of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reported in the *Post* that the IDF had sunk a weapons ship off the coast of Gaza. The IDF refused to comment.

Palestinian efforts at weapons smuggling via the sea were stymied after the Karine-A weapons ship affair, but military sources say there has been a recent upsurge of Palestinian efforts at such smuggling, especially after the capture of large stockpiles of arms during Operation Defensive Shield last month.

Last May, the IDF captured a small weapons-smuggling boat, called the Santorini, which was financed by Iran. Prior to that, the PA apparently managed to bring in a number of smaller vessels carrying weapons.

According to Israeli security sources, Hezbollah and Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, are the main players in the effort to smuggle arms into the PA via the Mediterranean. At the same time, various Palestinian security services and other terror groups try smuggling via land, with the main route along the Egyptian border with Rafah, though there are also efforts, often with the help of Israeli underworld groups, to smuggle arms through Jordan and across the Egyptian border in the southern Negev.



An IDF soldier, last week, crawls through a weapons' smuggling tunnel in Gaza. [RNS Reuters photo]

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital

FUNDRAISER

Since its creation in 1975 Laniado Hospital in Netanya has been recognized as one of the leading medical institutions in Israel today, offering a wide range of high-quality medical care to all those in need. Recently, Netanya has seen more than its fair share of terror attacks, and Laniado has become a key facility in the Israel Government's Emergency Medicine Strategy. At the same time, Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital is focusing its fundraising efforts towards the ongoing campaign to complete the construction of the new Children's Hospital being built in memory of the 1.5 million innocent children who were killed during the Holocaust. A major fundraising tribute dinner is being planned for 2003. For this we are recruiting a full time fundraiser to work with Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, Ontario Region.

You will help build short, medium and long-term fundraising strategies. Specific key areas for you will include individual / committee development and achievement of financial targets.

Working alone or in a small team, you will manage the design and delivery of strategic thinking through to implementation. You will need to develop effective relationships with senior lay leaders and will play a part in converting their ideas into results. Your career will be filled with achievements in sales and fundraising in which you personally have played a key role. Whilst experience in an allied charity or business is essential, you must have individual credibility along with strong interpersonal skills to complete the picture.

Our highly competitive salary is indicative of the results that will be expected of you. Creativity, innovation and the ability to work under pressure are essential and good computer skills would be advantageous.

For an application kit, please send your CV by email to: Mr. Chaim Fachler, International Director of Public Relations and Fundraising at Laniado Hospital (cfachler@laniado.org.il).

Closing date for applications: Tuesday, June 4th, 2002. Interviews will be conducted in Toronto during the last week in June.

Check our website: www.laniado.org.il

Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University

Wishes

PRIME MINISTER ARIEL SHARON

Mazel Tov
on receiving an Honourary Doctorate
from Bar-Ilan University

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for his lifelong commitment to the State of Israel.

Dov Altman
National Executive Director

Mira Koschitzky
National President

Bar-Ilan University אוניברסיטת בר-אילן
Making The World A Degree Brighter

Toronto native gives key advice to Sharon

Continued from page 1

One of only two assistant foreign policy advisors to the prime minister (a third foreign policy advisor ranks above him and his colleague), he has often been asked to accompany American visitors in Israel.

In a telephone interview from Jerusalem, Lipner recalled how he and Zinni visited Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem the day after a terrorist suicide bomber wreaked havoc on young people out for some Saturday night fun.

With the site still showing the signs of devastation, Lipner said, "I picked up some of the bolts the guy was packing and showed it to [Zinni]. I think he was extremely overcome that these guys went ahead [with an attack] on a Saturday night on kids out for a good time."

Developing relationships and personalizing foreign policy issues has its advantages, Lipner said. George W. Bush's famed helicopter ride a few years ago over Israel, the West Bank and to the Golan Heights, hosted by then-Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon when Bush was governor of Texas, is a prime example of the effect personal ties can have on diplomacy, Lipner said.

"The ability to hands-on experience things with people and show what it's like to live here and to show people we are the only genuine democracy in the Middle East" does have "an incredible effect" on visitors, he said.

Still, beyond cultivating personal relationships, Lipner's job has a geopolitical aspect in its focus on power, policy and diplomacy.

During the recent Israeli military operation in the West Bank, Lipner was heavily involved in talks with British and American interlocutors over the disposition of the terrorists living under Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's protection in his Ramallah compound. Eventually the terrorists were moved to a detention centre in Jericho under the control of British and American jailers.

He was also part of the Israeli team working to find a solution to the standoff at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, in which 13 terrorists were removed to Cyprus and 26 others were transported to the Gaza Strip. During the standoff, he held talks with leaders of three major churches with a stake in the Christian holy site.

Lipner believes the Christian clergy were generally sympathetic to the Israeli position. "They recognized Israel had kept its commitment not to enter or violate the sanctity of the church and that the Palestinian terrorists in the church were those who violated the status quo," he stated.

Not all of his assignments are so eventful. Although 12- to 14-hour workdays are not uncommon, a recent typical day included a meeting with the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce, discussions with the prime minister's chief of staff and talks with the director of policy planning from the French foreign ministry.

With his Canadian background, Lipner believes he has "an intuitive perspective" on the North American political scene. "My role involves ongoing contacts and co-ordination with [the U.S.] administration, Congress, opinion leaders, media, think tanks, Jewish groups, whose activities and perspectives all impact on our policy formulation process," he said.

Regarding his former homeland, he said the Israeli prime minister's office "certainly views Canada as a friend, and we hope the full gamut of relations will continue to flourish and become stronger. We would like if Canada in international fora was more unequivocally behind Israel."

Lipner has served in the Foreign Ministry under six prime ministers representing both the Labour and Likud parties: Yitzchak Shamir, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Benjamin Netanyahu, Ehud Barak and Sharon.

> *'An intuitive perspective on North America'*

Each brings unique talents to the position and different nuances to the way they address issues, Lipner said. Employing a diplomatic side-step, Lipner declined to compare his bosses' ways of doing business and the extent to which they relied on the advice of experts.

"Most prime ministers are secure enough and understand the need to hear the views of other people," he offered. "I think in general they respond well to that. Ultimately, they make the decisions."

As regards the current prime minister's reputation as a bulldozer determined to get his own way, Lipner disagreed, saying he is "certainly amenable" to the advice of others. "I think there is a certain flexibility from all those years of being in politics... I think we've seen it."

Sharon, he pointed out, agreed to repeated unilateral ceasefires that were violated by the Palestinians, he agreed to the Tenet and Mitchell plans and he responded positively to the Saudi peace proposals, which, Lipner noted, were never presented directly to Israel.

"I think people have a tendency not to pay attention to what happens on the ground," he said.

More than 50 per cent of Israeli casualties from terrorist attacks are attributable to members of Arafat's own organizations. "That tiger has not changed its stripes," he said.

Lipner rejected suggestions by political pundits that Sharon has closed the door to a political settlement with the Palestinians by not offering a state as part of an end game strategy.

"The prime minister has said time and again he's ready to make painful compromises," Lipner said, adding that Israel needs "someone to sit with on the other side."

Although he now sits close to Israel's seat of power, when he first travelled to Israel 15 years ago, Lipner was merely trying to expand his education. With a degree in international affairs from the University of Toronto under his belt (he served as an intern with the Canada-Israel Committee prior to moving to Israel), Lipner studied the same subject at Hebrew University. He later earned an MBA from Boston University.

While in school in Israel, he learned of an opening as an editor/translator at a government press office. He took the job and never looked back.

Lipner worked his way through the foreign policy bureaucracy, serving as director of communications in the government press office (another name for the prime minister's office), as advisor to Rabbi Michael Melchior on issues pertaining to the world Jewish community and in his current role as assistant foreign policy advisor to Sharon.

Lipner doesn't get back to Toronto much these days, only once every couple of years, or when he's en route to or from Washington, D.C., where he sometimes travels to meet U.S. Congressmen, Jewish leaders and U.S. State Department officials.

But he loves what he's doing in Israel. "I think what brought me here is that I wanted to take part in the history of the Jewish people. What an incredible privilege to be able to help write it. I felt this is where the future is, and to help it unfold has been a great privilege."

Netanya bombers captured or dead

BY AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Israel Defence Forces and the Shin Bet security service have arrested or killed almost all the members of the Hamas terrorist cell from Tulkarm that was responsible for the suicide bombing during a seder at the Park Hotel in Netanya on March 28.

The Passover attack left 29 people dead and some 150 injured. Investigations revealed the same cell was behind a suicide bombing in Netanya's market in March 2001 that killed 3 people and injured 55. The cell is also believed to be responsible for a third attack in Netanya this past March that killed five people and injured 74.

The cell's leader, Abbas Sa'id, was arrested along with several other members of the group during a four-day incursion into Tulkarm in early May. Sa'id went into hiding after the assassinations of a senior member of the cell, Fuaz Badran, in July2001, and of Amar Hadari, a bomb-maker, a month later.

After the assassination of Badran and Hadari, the Shin Bet arrested several individuals connected with the cell in Tulkarm and obtained intelligence that two bombers from the cell, Abed Ouda and Nidal Kalk, were planning additional attacks. Their names were given to the Palestinian Authority (PA), which did nothing to stop them. Ouda carried out the Park Hotel attack and Kalk was arrested in Operation Defensive Shield.

In January, the Shin Bet received information that Hamas operatives in Nablus had transferred a bomb to the Tulkarm cell. In March, Shin Bet put together a partial picture of the planned attack, but details were lacking.

On the day of the Park Hotel bombing, Shin Bet received information on the planned time of the bombing, but not the location, and police failed to apprehend the bomber.

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May 13

• The Matza restaurant in Haifa officially reopened after a suicide bombing there killed 15 people and wounded dozens about six weeks ago.

May 14

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the Knesset he had two pre-conditions for resuming peace negotiations with the Palestinians: a halt to terror and the instituting of reforms to the Palestinian Authority.

• The Jewish Agency for Israel opened a think tank called The Policy Planning Institute for the Jewish People. The institute "will examine the challenges, threats, needs and opportunities" confronting Jews worldwide.

May 15

• Speaking to a meeting of the Labour Party's central committee, party Chairman Benjamin Ben-Eliezer put forward his vision for a final agreement with the Palestinians. The plan includes an independent Palestinian state, a divided Jerusalem, an exchange of land and a special force for the Old City of Jerusalem.

• In an address to the Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat called for speedy elections and other reforms of the Palestinian Authority, but he suggested no date for those elections nor details for reforms.

May 16

• The consumer price index rose by 1.5 per cent in April, far exceeding even the most pessimistic predictions. As a result, inflation for the first four months of the year stood at 3.9 per cent, or 0.9 percentage points above the government's target for the entire year.

May 17

• Shavuot.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

A study in contrasts among Palestinian leaders

By ED MORGAN

Comment

After a Passover season when the United Nation's (UN) Mary Robinson and the NDP's Svend Robinson left Israelis feeling like Robinson Crusoe, lost and alone in a sea of hostility, one might think that intellectual debate would come to a standstill. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

A group of Canadian lawyers recently had an intense look at the system of justice and human rights advocacy in Israel. The group, in addition to myself, included former premier Bob Rae, criminal lawyer John Rosen, civil litigators Neil Finkelstein, Marvin Kurz and Stanley Fisher, refugee lawyer and academic Sharryn Aiken and Ontario government lawyers Vanessa Yolles and Felicia Zeidman.

We covered the legal terrain from the Israeli Supreme Court and the state prosecutor's office to defence counsel and human rights organizations. We went to academic meetings in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, as well as political meetings with several cabinet members and the opposition Meretz party. On the international law front, we visited with Israel's one member of the UN Human Rights Commission, and with the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) senior legal officer specializing in the laws of war.

Sari Nusseibeh

Of all the insights to be gained by meeting people involved firsthand with Israeli law and democracy, perhaps the most unique moments were those spent with Palestinian notables. We met with Sari Nusseibeh in his office at the main campus of Al-Quds University in east Jerusalem, and with Hannan Ashrawi at her home in Ramallah within a block of the compound housing Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat's headquarters. The contrast between the two meetings was striking.

Our visit to Ramallah came at a time of tension in the town. Although the fighting had already ended in Jenin and other points of heavy engagement, the Church of the Nativity siege was still ongoing in Bethlehem, as was the siege of Arafat's compound in Ramallah. The killers of tourism minister Rahavam Ze'evi, having been convicted by a mockery of justice in Arafat's own office, were still inside the PA headquarters.

Hannan Ashrawi

Thanks to some helpful logistical support from the Canadian government, we were chauffeured to Ramallah in a steel-plated, landmine-proof vehicle with diplomatic plates. The two-inch thick windows and RCMP-trained driver made us feel more secure, while the small maple leaf flapping from the antenna got us quickly through the several security checks. Although the Canadian Embassy staff was braced for delay, the only confrontation we encountered in crossing the Green Line was over our car going the wrong way down a one-way lane at the main Kalandia checkpoint. In Canada, the Mounties may always get their man, but this time our Mountie driver was gotten by the *mishmar hagvul* (Israeli border police).

Ramallah itself was not quite the picturesque place it had been when I was last there in 1979, but it was also not quite the ruined war zone one might expect from a daily overdose of CNN. We made our way on roads that were substantially the worse for the wear of recent battles, trying to find the best way into the IDF-controlled area surrounding the compound. In the rest of the city, uniformed Palestinian officers were directing the chaotic traffic, signaling that the infrastructure necessary for daily law and order seems to have survived the latest fighting. The Canadian Criminal Code refers to our police as "peace officers;" it's a phrase one hopes the Palestinian police will take to heart.

In one bizarre moment at a dusty intersection, we saw a small television crew setting up its equipment around a very bored-looking man bearing a striking resemblance to Geraldo Rivera. Upon closer inspection, it turned out to be Geraldo himself, apparently hoping for more action than was available that day. A group of visiting Canadians didn't do the trick for him, so we made our way to Ashrawi's spacious villa. There the television-style show began in earnest.

Ashrawi is a well-dressed, well-spoken person whose presentation is almost ideal for beaming into millions of viewers' homes. Her political analysis was, for want of a better phrase, the PA's party line. Using an American idiom that seemed made for TV, she at one point explained that she meant nothing personal by the phrase, but, "it's the occupation, stupid."

Ten minutes later, however, she had forgotten about the West Bank and its occupation, and was on to the Palestinian right of return to Jaffa and Haifa. Israel and the territories seemed inseparable in her mind. When asked whether this wasn't contrary to any possibility of a two-state solution, her response was that it was not for her to defend Zionism. We were left with the impression of an uncompromising adversary in elegant clothing.

The next afternoon, we had a very different experience at Nusseibeh's office at Al-Quds University. In the first place, in contrast to the rubble-strewn roads of Ramallah, the university is on a tree-lined street off the main roads in east Jerusalem. Although the situation in the region is still described by Palestinians as an intifadah, there was no visible evidence of an ongoing popular uprising. There is, of course, the constant threat of terrorism, but stone-throwing and street demonstrations seem to be a thing of the past, and travel through east Jerusalem is pleasant, even in a vehicle with Israeli plates.

Upon entering the university president's office suite, it was immediately apparent that the dishevelled and tweed-clad Nusseibeh was a study in contrast to the fashionable Ashrawi. The session itself was a freewheeling roundtable among the deans and chairs of several of the university's faculties. To our delight and surprise, our hosts engaged us in an open discussion of the current social, political, security, economic and cultural situation in which Palestinians and Israelis find themselves.

It was novel for us to hear Nusseibeh and his colleagues exhibit an understanding of Israeli politics and public opinion, and it was startling to hear them speak with knowledge and sensitivity about Jewish history, the Holocaust and the Zionist movement. We also heard their version of a Palestinian nationalism that does not need to spill over the Green Line, and learned of their continuous debates with Israelis and among themselves about their political future. In short, it was a scholarly session mercifully free of the polemics we found in Ramallah.

Of course, none of the Palestinian academics we met is likely to join the Likud, but they were equally unimpressed with the current political leadership of the PA. The commitment to coexistence was palpable, while the Al-Quds University law dean was emphatic that his greatest challenge is to inculcate in his students a commitment to the proper rule of law within Palestinian society itself. In the words of the sages Lennon and McCartney: *lu yehi* (let it be).

Ed Morgan is a law professor at the University of Toronto and is chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Rabbi Abraham Soffer, Director of Education of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, is retiring after 17 years of distinguished service. The Board of Directors invites applications for the position of

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

TOUR FOCUSES ON WARTIME RESCUE OF DANISH JEWS

Peter Gravgaard of Plantagenet Tours in Bournemouth, England, is conducting two Saving the Danish Jews Tours this summer in Denmark. The tours deal with the escape of the Danish Jewish population of almost 8,000 from Denmark to Sweden, in boats, over the waters of the Kattegat and Oresund in October 1943.

The first tour is scheduled for July 27 to Aug. 7. The second tour is Sept. 19 to 30. Each is 12 days long and costs $2,975 US. 011-44-1202-521-895 or peter@plantagenet-tours.freeserve.co.uk. Web site www.plantagenet-tours.freeserve.co.uk

* * *

Corn for Cranes: Some 13,000 cranes that winter in Israel's Hula Valley used to feast on the area's peanut crops until Israel's Nature and Parks Protection Authority came up with a better idea. The authority arranged for farmers to set aside an area in which to feed the cranes with three tons of corn kernels a day. Not only was peanut crop damage dramatically decreased, but the feeding cranes have become a significant tourist attraction. The cranes fly to Europe in late February and return to Israel in October.

* * *

Turner Anniversary in Sussex: The 150th anniversary of British painter J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) is the occasion for a summer exhibition in West Sussex, coinciding with the restoration of a 17th-century mansion, Petworth House. Nearly 100 Turner oil paintings, sketches, watercolours and gouaches, including many on loan from the Tate Gallery, are on view at Petworth from July 6 to Sept. 29. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

* * *

Jewish Studies in China: *Kulanu*, the Maryland-based newsletter about lost and dispersed remnants of the Jewish people, reports that a Jewish studies centre has opened in China. The James Friend Center for Judaic Studies is part of the Nanjing University-Johns Hopkins University Institute for International Research. For details, contact The Sino-Judaic Institute, 232 Lexington Dr., Menlo Park, Calif. 94025.

* * *

Jewish Travel Notes

• Israel is one of the richest and busiest locations in the world for scholarly archeological digs, of which more than 30 are ready to go this spring and summer. Many seek out participants. For details visit the Web site goisrael.com or phone 1-88-77-ISRAEL.

• An exhibit on Traders to Tartary, From Saxony to the Caspian Sea is on view at Yeshiva University Museum through August. Located in the Centre for Jewish History, 15 West 16th St., Manhattan. 212-294-8330.

• A photography exhibit called Survival in Sarajevo: Jews, Bosnia and the Lessons of the Past, by Edward Serotta, is on view at the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, through July 14. 310-440-4500 or www.skirball.org.

• Construction has begun in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, for a Jewish Children's Museum, to teach children of all races and ethnicities about Jewish history, heritage and culture. 718-467-0600 or www.jcmonline.org

• The show, New York, Capital of Photography, features more than 100 photographs of New York by 60 famous photographers chronicling the changing face of the city. Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave. New York. Until Sept. 2. 212-423-3271.

* * *

Free Travel Literature

• Tourism Ireland has published a 64-page, full colour vacation planner containing comprehensive travel information on all regions of Ireland. For a free copy of the *Ireland Travel Magazine & Vacation Planner 2002*, phone 800-223-6470 or visit 2 Bloor St. W., Suite 1501, Toronto, during office hours. A *Regional Guide to Northern Ireland* is also available from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board at the same address and phone number.

• *SAVE* is the *San Antonio Vacation Experience*, a 28-page coupon book for hotels, visitor attractions, car rental agencies and other partners. 800-447-3372 or www.sanantoniovisit.com.

• *California 2002 Visitor's Guide and Travel Planner* is as thick and colourful as a Condé Nast magazine and has a circulation of more than half a million. www.visitcalifornia.com.

• The British Tourist Authority offers a CD-ROM movie on visiting Britain. Web site www.visitbritain.com/ca or e-mail britinfo@bta.org.uk.

Jordan Merkur plans to get theatre out of the red

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — As the new artistic director of the Red Barn Theatre in Jackson's Point, Jordan Merkur is dedicating the first play he directs there to the memory of his father, the late David Merkur, a theatre buff.

The play, *Over the River* and *Through the Woods*, is about meddling grandparents. A comedy involving an Italian young man who thinks he is to be married, it runs June 18 to July 6.

The Red Barn season opens first with veteran comedian David Broadfoot giving three performances, June 6, 7 and 8.

"I'm very excited about my new job," said Merkur, 40, the artistic director of Eclectic Theatre, who is better known as a director of drama and has won several Dora awards and nominations. But he is no stranger to comedy – the entire Red Barn season will be of that genre – because he also directed *Chutzpah a Go Go*.

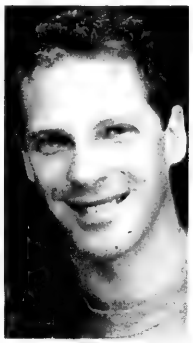
His job as artistic director will be to get the Red Barn, the oldest professional summer theatre in Canada, out of the red ink. He plans to do this by shortening the season by two weeks, avoiding the 25-member casts that were required for some past musical productions, including *Annie*, *Oklahoma* and *My Fair Lady*, and putting on comedies and musicals that need smaller casts.

Indeed, Merkur has already cast all the plays for the season, with a total of 17 actors.

"I'm bringing well-known Canadian actors and playwrights to Jackson's Point for the first time," he said.

Other plays to be performed include *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a series of sketches and songs about gender relationships (July 18 to Aug. 3); and *Foursome*, a comedy about golf by Norman Foster (Aug. 7 to 24).

"I am particularly interested in *Sophie Tucker, The Last of the Red Hot Mamas*, played by Valerie Boyle, because Sophie was a great fund-raiser for Jewish causes," Merkur said. "It will appeal to the people who remember Sophie Tucker. Valerie, who is not Jewish, has learned a lot of Yiddish lines for this play, and her rendition of *My Yiddisha Moma* is great. [Tucker's] accompanist in real life, for 47 years, was Teddy Shapiro, and Teddy will be played by Randy Vancourt, who was in *Chutzpah a Go Go*."



Jordan Merkur

It runs Aug. 28 to Sept. 14, ending the season.

Merkur's grandfather, Abraham, owned a cottage at Jackson's Point and was a supporter of the Red Barn, taking Jordan as a boy to the shows. His mother, Myra, still owns a cottage at Gamebridge Beach near Beaverton.

Red Barn features bargain Tuesdays, with all tickets selling at $19, the same price as for matinees and previews.

To help fill the seats, Merkur is counting on bus tours that come to the picnic area for the day and include a play at Red Barn. For those coming in their own cars, there is plenty of free parking. He thinks there will be more customers from outside than from the Lake Simcoe area itself.

For more information, call 1-888-733-2276.

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Arts & Travel

Klezmer band to take fans on a wonderful journey

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band is moving forward with an evening-length program they believe "will take people on a wonderful journey," says bandleader David Buchbinder, 42.

The concert, Shekhine: Spirit in the Natural World, is at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W., May 25 at 8 p.m., with special guests, award-winning saxophonist and flutist Jane Bunnett and actor Alex Poch-Goldin.

The concert marks their first Toronto gig in over a year.

"It will be made up of different tunes and songs, but tied together by an overall concept," Buchbinder says. "The idea for the concert rose out of the poems of [Yiddish poet] Abraham Sutzkever. His poetry is beautiful and totally reflects the idea of spirituality and an almost religious experience found in nature and the natural world, which is something not always expressed in Judaism, although it is found in early Chassidism."

In addition to Buchbinder, who plays trumpet and flugelhorn, the band, which will soon celebrate 15 years together, includes Daniel Barnes on drums, Marilyn Lerner on piano, R.W. (Bob) Stevenson on clarinet and bass clarinet, Andrew Downing on acoustic and electric bass and vocalist Dave Wall.

Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band

The concert will present almost entirely new music, mostly written by the band members. Other influences come from poems by Walt Whitman, Leonard Cohen, *The Song of Songs* and more.

"Instead of a normal concert, where the band goes from one song to another, our songs will blend into poems and blend into instrumental tunes that will then blend into a combination of all of them," Buchbinder says.

Continued on page 30

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BOOK FOCUSES ON TWO MONTREAL ORPHANAGES

Former Montrealer **Judy Gordon** has written a book about two little-known institutions, the Montreal Hebrew Orphans Home and the Montefiore Hebrew Orphans Home. The book, *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters: A Story of Two Jewish Orphanages in Montreal, 1909-1942*, should be well over 225 pages when published in August, Gordon reports, and will sell for $19.95.

Dozens of former orphanage residents, including the author's husband **Myer Gordon**, still meet for annual reunions in Montreal; the next one is slated for Aug. 24. Judy Gordon sends out a quarterly newsletter to more than 100 people, but she is hoping to reach many others, including archives and libraries, who may wish to order advance copies of the book to help cover the publication cost. She also wishes to raise tzedakah for present-day orphans.

To inquire, phone 416-221-3161, e-mail mjnodrog@aol.com, or visit Gordon's table at the conference of the Association of Canadian Jewish Studies at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Synagogue on May 26.

* * *

YIVO Award to Polish Priest: The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has awarded the 2001 Jan Karski and Pola Nirenska Prize, worth $5,000 US, to **Father Stanislaw Musial**, a Jesuit priest and essayist from Krakow, Poland. According to YIVO, Musial, born in 1938, is "a leading voice in the Polish-Jewish dialogue of the last two decades" who has written often "against anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Polish society in general, and within the Catholic Church in particular."

Musial's articles have appeared in a popular Polish Catholic weekly, and his articles on Jewish history have appeared in the journals *Midrash* and *Polin*.

* * *

New Book on Agnon: **Sharon Green**, a teacher of modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature at the University of Toronto, has written a study of the Hebrew writer **Shmuel Yosef Agnon** and his classic work, *A Simple Story*. Titled *Not a Simple Story: Love and Politics in a Modern Hebrew Novel*, it was published recently by Lexington Books.

According to the publisher, Green's scholarly critique offers students "a unique opportunity to penetrate the literary enigma Agnon has represented for almost a century."

* * *

Names in the News

• **Jordan Max**, a freelance humourist in Thornhill, Ont., recently quilled a satirical piece called *What's A Terrorist to Do?* about finding new homes in Europe for the Church of the Nativity 13. The story was posted on the Web site of the Israeli news service, Arutz Sheva.

• The CBC held a private reception and presentation last week to celebrate the life of "our friend and colleague," **Frank Shuster**.

• Toronto City Council and **Mayor Mel Lastman** are honouring the late writer **Matt Cohen** by naming a tiny urban park in his honour on May 23. Matt Cohen Park is located at the southeast corner of Bloor and Spadina. Cohen is also the subject of a literary tribute, *Uncommon Ground: A Celebration of Matt Cohen*, to be published in June by Knopf Canada.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• A Gift of Friendship Tribute Exhibit features art work of Canadian Jewish and Chinese artists celebrating Shanghai as a Jewish refuge. **Chinese Lion Dance** and **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**. Gala reception, May 29, 7 to 10 p.m. $25. 5183 Sheppard Ave. E. ORT Toronto, 416-787-0339.

• *Riverdance*, a celebration of Irish music, song and dance, returns to Toronto's Hummingbird Centre. $85-$49. May 22 to June 2. 416-872-2262.

• *Some Enchanted Evening* is at the Fairview Library Theatre for two additional dates – Wednesday, May 29, at 2 p.m. and Sunday, June 2, at 7 p.m. 416-469-8450.

• May 31 is the deadline for submissions to the Jewish Image Awards in Film and Television, which take place Sept. 24 in the L.A. National Foundation for Jewish Culture. 323-935-5120 or www.jewishculture.org.

• Mirvish Productions presents an interpreted performance for the hearing-impaired of Disney's *The Lion King*. June 8, 2 p.m. Judi Pressman, 416-593-0351, ext. 567.

• The York Theatre production of *Red Hot Mama*, a musical tribute to **Sophie Tucker** with Sharon McNight, is at the Theatre at St. Peter's, 619 Lexington Ave., New York. $45. Until June 9. 212-935-5820.

•Comedian **Adam Pal** will be headlining at his home club, Comedywood, at 800 Steeles Ave. W. (905-761-0543) May 22-25. Pal has entertained from Nevada to New York and Israel and the Middle East. He's appeared on CTV, CFMT and on Rogers Cable.

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Musician merges rock 'n' roll with Jewish prayers

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Daniel Greenwood believes the message is just as important as the medium.

His CD *Onah Hashem* is a collection of songs that combine lyrics from Jewish prayers with melodies teenagers might recognize from today's FM radio stations.

"The songs represents a combination of various type of music," Greenwood said in an interview, adding that "there is techno, hip-hop, blues, rock... bits and pieces of everything."

When composing the music, Greenwood, who taught himself guitar when he was 12 years old, felt it was important to provide today's youth with music with a positive moral message they could relate to.

"I wouldn't be happy if my kids were listening to an FM radio station because the lyrics they would hear would be alien to their *frum* lifestyle," Greenwood noted.

In addition, he said, most *frum* parents wouldn't want their kids looking up to rock stars for direction because, quite frankly, their moral direction is in *drerd* [in the ground]."

After several years playing at Shabbatons, Greenwood realized that many teenagers were searching for music that would be more in tune with their feelings, so he developed rhythms that would appeal to kids from 10 years old onwards.

"*Onah Hashem* is music for positive purposes and tries to make Torah and mitzvot fun and enjoyable," Greenwood said. A note on the jacket warns listeners "not to play on Shabbos and Yom Tov."

Daniel Greenwood tries to make Torah and mitzvot fun and enjoyable.

Songs include *Tov Hashem Lakoil*, *Hashem Melech* and *Tov Lehoidos Lashem*, and the melodies incorporate plenty of bass, drum and guitar.

Onah Hashem is available at Negev and Israel Bookstores. His songs can also be heard on his Web site at www.mp3.com/jewishmusic.

Klezmer band creates new music

Continued from page 29

The poems will be read by Poch-Goldin.

"We wanted to bring another element into the music and Jane is a great choice because she has done something similar to what we've done. We've taken traditional Klezmer music and built our own sound while being true to the roots. She's done the same with Afro-Cuban music. Jane will be playing tunes we have written, and we will be playing some of her music that she feels fits with the band," Buchbinder adds.

"What we are doing is creating new music. When people think of Klezmer, they think of traditional Jewish dance music. We create our own compositions based in the traditions. We do play traditional tunes at weddings. We are happy to be included among some great Klezmer bands. Since the Klezmer revival about 20 years ago, the music has expanded past the point of being only traditional music. Its popularity hit a peak and has now settled into just existing, which I think is a healthy place to be. There are more and more people doing fascinating experiments with the music, as a vehicle for their own artistic expression."

Buchbinder, born in St. Louis, Mo., and raised since the age of nine in Toronto, says the band's fan base has always been across all lines – and not all Yiddish speakers. The band has performed where there are no Jews – both in North America and in Europe. The band has recorded 4 CDs, the latest titled *Tsirkus*.

Toronto fans know Buchbinder as founder and now artistic director emeritus of the Ashkenaz: A Festival of New Yiddish Culture, held every other year at Toronto's Harbourfront. Buchbinder has composed music for television, film and dance, and performs with a jazz collective and with Medina, an Arab-Yiddish fusion quartet.

"I think the most important thing we can do is to look for the connections between our two peoples and the places we can come together and stand for peace in action. For me, it is imagining in the present what a peaceful future would be like," Buchbinder says of the Arab-Yiddish musical partnership.

For tickets to The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band's Shekhine: Spirit in the Natural World, call the box office at 416-504-7529.

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Treat Alzheimer's patients with respect, experts say

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Patients dealing with Alzheimer's disease or any other type of dementia should be treated with respect and be allowed to make life-altering decisions in the early stages of their illness, experts recently told a Jewish medical ethics conference.

Dr. Nathan Herrmann, head of geriatrics at Sunnybrook Hospital and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, said that to remain ethical there are certain steps medical professionals should take to properly inform and educate patients of their condition.

The first thing a medical professional should do when assessing a client who has Alzheimer's disease or any other type of dementia is to ensure the diagnosis is 100 per cent accurate and not confuse other mental conditions with severe terminal illnesses like Alzheimer's, Herrmann said.

Once a proper diagnosis is made, it is imperative to inform patients of their condition and advise them on steps they can take to get their lives in order while they're still cognitive. At the same time, the medical professional must make a safety assessment to determine whether a patient is at risk of suicide, aggressive behaviour, depression, prone to falling or capable of driving a vehicle, Herrmann said.

"Patients must be made to feel that they're not alone in their struggles," he said. "As soon as they're diagnosed with Alzheimer's they receive contact information for the local chapter of the Alzheimer's society and information for support groups. They will also receive contacts for legal purposes, like assigning power of attorney to a loved one or re-writing their will while they're still cognitive."

Informing the patients that they have such a severe mental illness such as Alzheimer's can be a traumatic experience for doctors as well as patients, Herrmann said. "It's very difficult to tell someone they have a severe illness that will leave them with severely deteriorated mental capabilities."

Therefore, he said, doctors must be prepared for all possible reactions from patients and be prepared to calmly and coherently explain to patients what they have, what will happen to them and what they can do to deal with it.

Dr. Avraham Steinberg, a pediatric neurologist from Jerusalem, said it's all in how a person is told, as well whether a patient has the right amount of support and backup after the diagnosis.

He added that in the secular world, truth is imperative and doctors are obligated to tell patients everything they know about their medical condition. But he said truth is not necessarily an absolute value. "There are instances where it's best not to tell the patient everything," he said. "But of course, we are all obligated to judge whether it's best to withhold this truth."

Steinberg also said doctors must prohibit patients from driving if they deem a patient to be incapable of it. "Since it not only endangers the patients but others, then there is a greater obligation to stop this person from driving for the good of the society."

Patients must also be told of medicinal options and possibilities for future advancements and cures.

Herrmann said there are three drugs now available that slow down Alzheimer patients' cognitive decline, but there could be a vaccine against it in the near future and there could even be a cure in a decade's time.

"There's a lot of confidence in the medical community that there will be a cure in the future," he said. "We must project that to the patients and let them know that it's still worth living."

Shelter helps kids of abused mothers

MONTREAL — Auberge Shalom... Pour Femmes, which for more than a decade has provided Montreal's only kosher shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence, has launched a new treatment program for children who witness spousal abuse in their families.

This past winter, Auberge Shalom, a project of the National Council of Jewish Women, ran the program over 15 weeks, in conjunction with Batshaw Youth and Family Centres and CLSC Notre-Dame-de-Grâce/Montreal West.

Seven kids aged six to eight participated in the pilot project.

"The facilitators provided an environment in which the children felt respected, where their opinions were valued and where they felt they were safe to share their personal experiences in a group," said Diane Sasson, executive-director of Auberge Shalom.

The program was an opportunity for them to interact with other kids who have gone through the same thing and thereby break the isolation often felt by children in this situation, she said.

Time to get pumped for the Becel Ride for Heart

TORONTO — More than 13,000 cyclists and in-line skaters will be ready to roll at the 15th Becel Ride for Heart, June 2, 7:15 a.m.

From the new start line on the Gardiner Expressway at the west gates of Exhibition Place, cyclists will begin their ride along the world's biggest bike path, in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

When it began in 1987, the event attracted 160 cyclists. It has now become Canada's largest charitable cycling event, with 15,000 participants nationally.

Over the past 15 years, the foundation has raised over $10 million for heart and stroke research through the Ride for Heart.

Cyclists have a choice of a 25 km or 50 km route along the Gardiner and the Don Valley Parkway; and in-line skaters can complete a 2.5, 10 or 20 km route on the Gardiner, west of Exhibition Place.

Six Toronto-area bicycle retailers are providing registration sites up until the day of the event: Cyclepath, Curbside Bike and In-Line Skate Centre, Wheel Excitement, Gears Bike Shop, Bikes on Wheels, and Sporting Life. In addition, Canadian Tire is offering registration sites at participating stores in the GTA.

Register by mail at P.O. Box 3706, Stn. Industrial Park, Markham, Ont. L3R 6G9; fax 905-479-3604; phone (416-486-RIDE--7433); or online www.rideforheart.toronto.com.

Registrations and pledge drop-offs can be submitted at four Heart and Stroke Foundation check-in centres in the GTA on May 31 and June 1.

Call the Rideline at 416-486-RIDE or visit the Web site at www.rideforheart.toronto.com for the addresses of check-in centres.

Event-day registrations take place between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. for cyclists, and between 6:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. for in-line skaters, at the Better Living Centre Building, Exhibition Place.

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Summer Fashion

BEAUTY SHOP

BY CAROL WISE

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS:

SpaMedica (66 Avenue Rd., Toronto) is the home of Canada's most advanced leg vein management program. It offers a full-service comprehensive leg vein diagnosis that includes all leg vein problems.

This is clearly unique and unlike most other vein treatments, which are often Band-Aid remedies. All leg vein consult patients are provided with a non-invasive, high-tech colour Doppler ultrasound analysis of their deep leg vein integrity. Leaky large veins and varicose veins can now be treated without stripping surgery. The cosmetic leg vein concerns are removed with an outpatient laser treatment that allows patients to return to activities immediately. So girls, isn't it fabulous! This could be your first summer without your hot and sticky hose!

The Beresford Clinic is probably one of the most complete anti-aging programs I have visited. Their group of practitioners, including a medical doctor, cosmetic surgeon, naturopath, psychotherapist and spiritual healer, is second to none. This unique collaboration provides results for feeling terrific and looking gorgeous – no matter what your age.

At the Training Zone in Toronto, there is a man named Augy Marmelo. He is, with out a doubt, the guru of fitness and has a series of workouts that require minimum effort with maximum benefits. His sure-fire techniques offer results similar to those in a magician's satchel. With the ease of a Cheshire cat, he has helped me take my body back about 10 years.

Spring 2002 runways were filled with bold colours. It seems that an '80s revival is here. However, translucent and iridescent colours will be upstaging the dense shades of years ago. Choose your favourite feature and play it up – have fun and be sure to polish your lips and nails with at least one shade of beige.

Christian Dior paint palette.

CAROL'S TIPS

SKIN CARE: Chanel introduces a set of beautiful products known as *Les Activateurs*. This unique cleansing line is included in the already sensational Precision Collection. Check out *Activateur Eclat* – a real radiance boast.

Soothe tired legs and feet with **Lise Watier's** *Eau de Mer*, a special cream that helps relieve tired legs.

Source Therapie from **Biotherm** is a little marvel that will revitalize and perfectly moisturize your skin in just seconds.

Refresh and moisten your face with **Christian Dior's** *Hydra-Sorbet Aquatique* from their new IOD Collection. This luscious cream smells like watermelon and is as light as a sorbet.

Fabulous from **Lancaster** is *Aquamilk Body Lotion*. It's smooth with a yogurt-like texture and absorbs instantly, providing intense hydration and effective nutrition.

Elizabeth Arden's new *Ceramide Defining Eye Brightener* is fantastic. It really helps reduce the appearance of dark circles and fine lines.

Nar's hydrating moisture cream infuses skin with moisture and is packed with anti-oxidants, vitamin C and retinol, as well as fennel extract to help re-texturize skin with an anti-wrinkle effect.

Is a cream ever worth hundreds of dollars? It seems **Estee Lauder's** *Ultimate Lifting Crème* is worth about $325. This amazing potion contains 54 precious ingredients from around the world that produce a cream more elegant than I have seen in awhile. It instantly locks in moisture and restores a luminous radiance – definitely worth it!

FOUNDATION: Photogenic *Ultra Comfort* from **Lancome** works like a magic wand, providing skin with comfort and soothing care in a single stroke – a satiny finish that is excellent for dry skin. **Lancome's** *Flash Bronzer* is an instant tint for your body. Its velvety texture smoothes on effortlessly and absorbs quickly to give skin an immediate golden glow.

MAC's *Studio Tech* is a marvelous cream-to-powder foundation. It is literally weightless and provides excellent coverage.

Elizabeth Arden's *Flawless Finish Skin Balancing Makeup* is a beautiful, lightweight, semi-matte liquid that provides medium coverage and adjusts to meet the needs of combination skin.

Help set your makeup with a *Fix+* from **MAC** – a refreshing spritz to add moisture and sheen.

Lancome Flash Bronzer gives you an insant tint.

EYES: Dior's *Mascara Aquadior* is not only waterproof, but contains beeswax to soften and strengthen while in the sea and sun. For the most luscious lashes, try *Diorshow*, but don't wait as it is a limited edition. For great fun try **Dior's** *Pastel Graffiti* – your own artist collection of cream/gloss colours for eyes and lips.

Nar welcomes four new hot shades for some sizzling summer nights – check out glistening silver.

Continued on page 33

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Summer Fashion

Continued from page 32

CHEEKS: Lancome reveals *Blush Focus*, a cream-to-powder, oil-free, long-lasting blush. It melts deliciously on the cheeks and forms a silky finish.

Elizabeth Arden's *Bronzing Powder Duo* is great to dust all over your face – an instant tan without the sun.

Nar's *Multiple* is a great product that can be worn on your eyes, lips or cheeks – don't miss the feminine shade Maui, created especially for spring.

LIPS/NAILS: Christian Dior's *Glossy Sirop* creates the perfect pout. Wear it alone or as a "top coat."

Check out **Cargo's** *Val d'Or* golden cranberry shade and top it with **Cargo's** luxurious gloss.

Pure Color Nail Lacquer from **Estee Lauder** resists chipping; and its oval-shaped brush colours the nail with one swift stroke.

Dior *Addict Nail Color* is also one coat, quick dry and total colour in just seconds.

Revlon's *Lip Glide* gives lips super colour and high shine in one playful twist-n-glide package.

Plump up your lips with **Caryl Baker's (Visage)** *Naked Kiss* lip gloss and lipstick. It has a vitamin B derivative that temporarily increases blood circulation causing the lip to swell slightly. When you first apply it, there is a tingling effect that lasts just minutes and the results last for couple of hours – such fun! It's complete with an excellent mirror and a pop-up tube for easy application on the go.

Givenchy pour Homme; Father's Day Set

Lancomes' lipstick

HAIR: Long hair is back, but with soft bouncy curls in delicate, refined pastel tones, says **Terry Ritcey** of **Terry Ritcey Salon** in Toronto (122A Yorkville Ave.). He also tells us that this summer brings the return of the ever-popular "bob" putting the focus onto the face by bringing the hair forward and making it sporty and very choppy. Short looks will also give full attention to the face, cropped short at the nape, fringed, shattered or wildly geometric.

Jeff Jager and **Cristina Marra**, the hair colour specialists at Ritcey's salon, suggest summer shades are all about intensity. Cool tones are icy cold, and warm tones are even warmer, like strawberry, apricot blondes. It's all about simplicity with colour. Start with a natural base, then add contrasting colours like gold, pastels and platinum. Very soft and wearable!

Redken's *Swim Cream* really helps protect your hair from sun and chlorine, and it keeps hair silky and free of chlorine damage.

L'Oreal introduces three new Tecni.Art products. A must have is *Airfluid*, a relaxing styling water that helps ward off the frizzies.

Kerastase introduces the spectacular collection *Soleil*, complete with seven products designed to protect hair from damaging effects of the sun, sea, salt and chlorine, as well as repair the damage –

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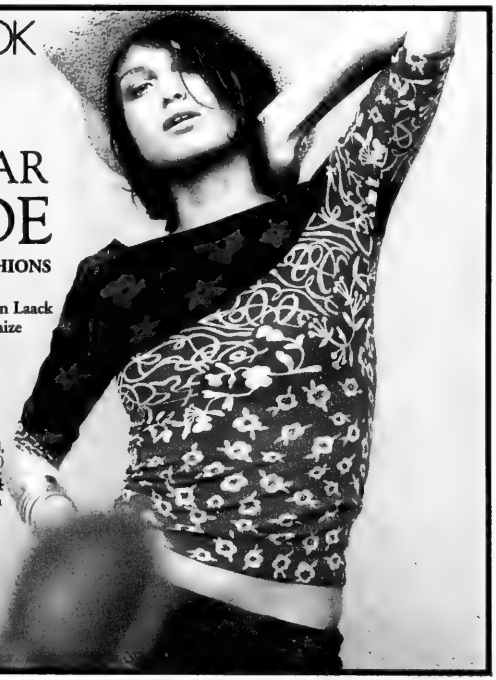

Continued from page 33

FRAGRANCE: *Boss in Motion* from **Hugo Boss** is much like its name. The packaging is fabulous – it's shaped like a ball and encased in smooth metal.

Michal Kors introduces a series of grooming products, all in the designer's exquisite trademark scent, of course.

"So You," presented by **Giorgio Beverly Hills** is no doubt the new Giorgio Girl in all her glamour – rich with an oriental flare – delightfully decadent.

Tommy Hilfiger's *Tommy and Tommy Girl* cologne are quite a pair – refreshing with the pureness of a fresh breeze. Tommy's key lime/strawberry cream pie body hydrators are too much fun, absorb instantly and last all day.

Dior presents the pièce de résistance, *Jadore*, in a glittering body powder puff exquisitely housed in a magical box fit for a diva.

Burberry's *Baby Touch* is an irresistible scent especially for yummy mommies – a delicate fragrance in a rock-a-bye bottle with a daisy on top.

As refreshing as a frozen fruit cocktail, *212 Men on Ice* from **Carolina Herrera** is really fresh with its citrus cocktail of grapefruit and mint. The *Women's 212* version is equally refreshing and almost invites a cool breeze.

Nina Ricci's classic *L'Air du Temps* is available this season in a 30-ml spray and 50-ml body lotion – a gorgeous floral.

L'Eau d'Issey from **Issey Miyake** for men and women are alcohol-free and contain vitamin E. The woman's fragrance is floral, and for your guy, a spicy-woody scent is offered.

Check out **Chanel's** *Coco* bath products. The foaming gel is sensational.

Parfums Givenchy introduces a new fragrance for men. It almost redefines the Givenchy tradition of chivalry – a truly gentlemen's scent.

Tommy Hilfiger cologne

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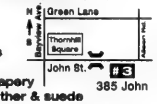

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So, like, what's with teens and brand names?

On Sept. 4, 2001, I strutted into the halls of my high school to start my third year there.

I got decked out in my most eclectically hip outfit: a multi-coloured button down shirt, paired with a dirty denim skirt, a vintage pink belt and my favourite flip-flops.

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

I was expecting to have some stylish competition, but when I entered the halls, all I saw was Abercrombie & Fitch, Triple 5 Soul and more Abercrombie & Fitch.

I was appalled at the sight. I wanted to cry. I contemplated fashion genocide. My school was turning into a cheap sci-fi flick!

(What I failed to mention is that my clothes were from, among other places, the Gap and Artizia, just to drop two trendy names.)

So now I wonder: What is the obsession with brand-name clothing? Why are some brands so much more appealing than others? Are such purchases the product of peer pressure?

"Wearing brand names gives people a sense of status and belonging among peers. These clothes make you feel unique, and at the same time you measure up because everyone is wearing the same thing as you," says Tamar Frank, a Grade 11 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

I asked CHAT Grade 9 student Sarah Bregman if she ever feels pressured into buying brand name clothing. She simply replied, "We buy what we like, and what we know will last."

(Bad news – in the ever-changing world of fashion, the last thing you need is clothing that will last. Honestly, do you really want to be wearing the same sweat pants that you were wearing last year? Of course not! And that's precisely why you rush back to buy more.)

Brand names are everywhere, and they seem to define style.

And among most of my peers, style means mass-produced material. The mere fact a well-known symbol or insignia appears on this material makes it alluring, and because of this, people are willing to pay double the price of what the stuff is worth. And all just to look the same as their friends.

Although not always apparent, there are some teenagers willing to break the mould.

Andrew Liss, a Grade 9 student at CHAT, wears brand names, yet he says they are "like an overplayed song. I'm not really going to buy Triple 5 Soul anymore because everyone is wearing it."

The obsession with brand name clothing is as rampant as girls at a Josh Hartnett movie. If you haven't seen the flick, you will find yourself with a desperate urge to see it now. And even if you have seen it, you will have an unexplainable urge to run back and see it again. Get my drift?

Just one more thing, boys and girls. I confess that I am also something of a brand-name consumer. I am no better than the next teenager, except that I read *Cosmopolitan* and not *Teen People*.

I pride myself on being original, but, I have to admit, I have a Triple 5 Soul wristband.

C'mon, it was only three bucks.

Randi Bergman is a trendsetter in Grade 11 at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Wegman's doggy fashion show at AGO

Works of acclaimed American artist William Wegman are currently on display at the Art Gallery of Ontario until July 28, 2002, in the exhibition William Wegman: Fashion Photographs... and More: Works on Paper and Video, 1970 to 2001.

This witty exhibition includes 50 of Wegman's stunning large-format Polaroid photographs and stars a cast of his beloved Weimaraners: Fay Ray, Chundo, Battina, Crooky and Chip. The works feature colour photographs of the subjects posed in chic hats and racy black stilettos, leopard skin bikinis and dramatic blond wigs.

Renowned for his video and photographic works, Wegman is an artist notable for the remarkable breadth of his audience, which ranges from exacting art-world sophisticates to the general public to the very young.

First known for his cutting-edge conceptual art (with or without dog) in the 1970s, he has developed into a virtuoso of many media, including painting and drawing, photography, film and video. His most recent exhibitions include travelling retrospectives in Japan, Scandinavia and the United States, and a large survey of his drawings in France.

"More than anything else, Wegman proves that he is an artist of great originality," said Maia-Mari Sutnik, associate curator of photography at the AGO. "Exploiting a range of media, he expresses the inflections and nuances of high art and popular culture. In this exhibition, his canine performers imaginatively transform the world of haute couture, showing that serious art can resonate humour as well."

The world of fashion is only a jumping off point for Wegman and results in opportunities to see new things. He draws upon the glamour world to feature his famous Weimaraners stylishly outfitted in designer fashions inspired by Jean Paul Gaultier, Issey Miyake, Anna Sui, among other leading designers, yet always evident in Wegman's work is his sharp eye, his strong sense of form, texture, colour, combined with his understanding of content and narrative.

Highlighting this exhibition is a special installation of his early and recent video works, along with a selection of Wegman's drawings and watercolours, from the 1970s to his current "extended postcards" series.

Wegman has noted that drawing is a positive way to spontaneously search new experiences and possibilities with a minimum of means. The AGO has organized the video and works on paper components.

The exhibition Fashion Photographs was organized by the Birmingham Museum of Art. The exhibition has been curated by David Moos and Mary Dinaburg. A book of the same name, published by Harry N. Abrams, accompanies the exhibition.

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Survey says business casual is wear it's at

News Canada

Think Canadians are "suiting" up for work? Think again. According to the 2002 Dockers Style Survey, only 7 per cent of working men typically wear a suit and tie to work and nearly 60 per cent of them believe they don't need to wear a suit and tie in order to look professional.

Although many people may think the current economical situation is shifting the workplace dress code back to corporate suits and ties, this trend isn't happening. Only 1 per cent of working men say their company has returned to wearing a suit and tie over the last year.

"We asked Canadians and they told us: the business casual trend remains popular in the work environment," said Yvonne Diesing, Dockers Brand Manager.

"Our research shows that almost half of working Canadians are wearing casual or business casual clothing to work at least 4-5 times a week. The return of the suit doesn't seem to be happening as more than two-thirds believe that business casual clothing in the workplace is here to stay. The attitude towards business casual is changing as more people begin to realize that it is a versatile, comfortable and acceptable solution."

And while a healthy salary and benefit package are always key features for job seekers, survey results discovered that a business casual dress environment is another compelling perk for 54 per cent of working Canadians.

With the recent downturn in the economy, many companies are looking to boost the morale of their employees and results reveal that more than half of working respondents believe morale is higher at the office when people get to wear business casual clothing instead of a traditional suit.

Business casual, once synonymous with golf shirts and khaki pants, is now evolving into a much broader range of clothing options. This may be the reason behind the ongoing popularity of business casual as survey results show 43 per cent of working Canadians believe the look of business casual has become dressier in the past year.

"A pair of dress pants and a crisp, clean button-down shirt can be classified as 'dress casual', an expansion of the business casual category," said Diesing. "This choice of dress provides a very professional look, while maintaining the comfort and versatility."

For people constantly on the go, a business casual wardrobe has more versatility than traditional suits, according to 68 per cent of working Canadians. This is a key feature for most when shopping for clothes. With busy jobs and busy lives, people do not have time to stop and change their clothes after a day at the office.

The Dockers Style Survey also shows 66 per cent believe a business casual wardrobe is versatile enough take them from the office into their everyday, non-work activities.

The Dockers 2002 Style Survey results were gathered in March 2002 through a national telephone Omnibus survey conducted by Thompson Lightstone & Company and was based on a representative sample of 1,000 Canadians.

Look Good Feel Better's Workshop on Wheels

News Canada

For thousands of women living with cancer, managing the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment can be as challenging as the treatments themselves. Temporary hair loss (including eye brows and lashes), sensitive and discoloured skin, brittle and cracked nails and facial weight gain are only a few of the realities that will face an estimated 67,200 Canadian women this year.

Since 1992, Look Good Feel Better has helped more than 350,000 Canadian women living with cancer to look good and feel better by teaching cosmetic techniques and hair alternatives to help manage the appearance-related side effects of cancer and its treatment. Free, two-hour workshops are offered at 65 hospitals and cancer-care facilities across Canada.

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the program, which is sponsored by the member companies of the Canadian Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, is traveling across the country with the Workshop on Wheels (WoW), a customized 48-foot trailer replicating a Look Good Feel Better workshop environment. Visiting 20 cities from April until October, the Workshop on Wheels will feature live demonstrations, as program participants and trained volunteers present tips and techniques on makeup, hair alternatives, nail and skin care practices and cosmetic hygiene.

To find out when the Look Good Feel Better Workshop on Wheels will be in a community near you, call toll-free 1-800-914-5665 or visit www.lgfb.ca.

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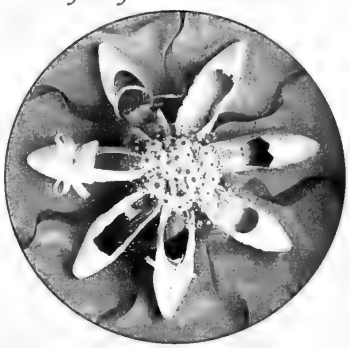

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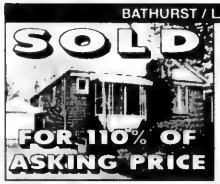

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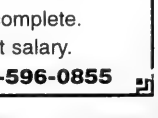

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330 OBITUARIES

POLLOCK, Stephen – on April 25, 2002, late of 33 Newport Square.
DRABINSKY, Phil – on April 24, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St., #903.
FINK, Paul – on April 26, 2002, late of 60 Dewlane Dr.
SILVER, Jack – on April 25, 2002, late of 513 Douglas Ave.
SCHNEIDER, Sarah – on April 26, 2002, late of 3900 Yonge St., Suite 103.
SLAPACK, Rose – on April 27, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
SIEGEL, Lillian – on May 2, 2002, late of 257 Robert Dr.
MORRIS, Harvie – on April 30, 2002, late of 10 Shalmar Blvd., #404.

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330 OBITUARIES

KESTELMAN, Chaim – on May 6, 2002, late of 40 Roman Rd.
FENWICK, Harold – on May 6, 2002.
FLEISCHER, Curt – on May 6, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
ROOT, Minnie Madge – on May 6, 2002.
MEISELS, Dora – on May 7, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KLACZKOWSKI, Israel – on April 22, 2002, late of 65 Barksdale Ave.
GREENGARTEN, Kay – on May 8, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
ISRAEL, Samuel – on May 8, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
BENDAVID, Colette – on May 9, 2002, late of 120 Shelborne Ave.
LACHS, Wolfgang – on May 6, 2002, late of 177 Linus Rd.
ROTSTEIN, Rabbi Yosef Barry – on May 9, 2002, late of 414 Glengrove Ave.
LEVIN, Harry – on May 9, 2002, late of 642 Sheppard Ave. E.
KAMPELMACHER, Wolf – on May 10, 2002.
MARGULIES, Meyer – on May 12, 2002.
KATZMAN, Samuel – on May 12, 2002.
FOLDY, Stephen – on May 12, 2002, late of 100 Raglan Ave.
WHARTON, Sara – on May 11, 2002, late of 351 Christie St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

331 IN MEMORIAM

The family of **Jacob Goldfein** mourn his passing on April 26, 2002. He was a loving husband to the late **Frances Goldfein**. He was a beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He devoted his life to the love of Israel and the pursuit of knowledge and teaching, having taught first at Farband Schools and then at Associated Hebrew Schools for 30 years. He will be sorrowly missed.

332 MONUMENTS

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JEANNETTE PUTTER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26, 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Independent Friendly Workers Circle
Section 10S
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late beloved
MORDECHAI MEZEI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Agudah Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

330 OBITUARIES

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Arts & Travel

Comic book breaks new ground

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Jews arrived in the American colonies before they won their independence from Britain and morphed into the superpower we know as the United States.

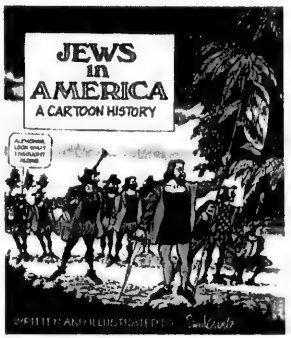
Indeed, the first Jewish settlers reached its shores, via Portugal's colony in Brazil, more than 100 years prior to the 1776 American Revolution.

So the pageantry of American Jewry is one that encompasses the whole story of the United States.

Many books have been written about this topic, but *Jews in America: A Cartoon History* (The Jewish Publication Society), by David Gantz, breaks new ground.

To the best of my knowledge, it is the first to deal comprehensively with the saga of American Jews through the populistic medium of cartoons.

Gantz, the writer and cartoonist, deals with its social, political, religious and economic dimensions.



***Jews in America* examines Jewish history in the United States from a different perspective.**

In addition, he focuses on individuals like Haym Salomon, a financier of the American Revolution; Oscar Straus, the first Jew in the cabinet; Abraham Cahan, the crusading Yiddish newspaper editor, and Henry Kissinger, the first Jewish secretary of state.

Although Jews have done extremely well by America, they have tasted its bitter fruits as well.

Gantz, in taking note of its xenophobic nativist movements and its Judeophobic strains, mentions a litany of anti-Semitic incidents that have stained American democracy.

Among his other themes are Jews and the civil rights movement, the United States and Israel and intermarriage.

Continued on page 40

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARAH COHEN-MAGID ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26, at 12:45 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIDNEY GOLDSMITH ז"ל
late of Shalom Village & formerly of Welland, Ontario
will take place
Sunday, June 2nd at 12:00 noon
Beth Jacob Cemetery
Hamilton, Ontario
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA SEIDEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., 1/2 mile north of Major Mackenzie
(Community Section P)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Jacob (Jack) Rosenberg ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Wierzbneiker Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NINA WAISBROT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 26th, 10:30 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Old Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.
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Arts & Travel

Comic book history of the Jews in America

Continued from page 39

Gantz is a fine illustrator and his explanatory panels are pithy and occasionally humorous.

Jews in America is the kind of book children and adults alike can enjoy and savour.

***

New York: Capital of Photographs (Yale University Press and the Jewish Museum) looks at a vibrant American city by way of 110 duotones and 15 colour photos and text by Max Kozloff, Karen Levitov and Johanna Goldfeld.

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Israeli flag footballers coming to Toronto

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — They play football in Israel. Not the kick it back and forth, back and forth and maybe-get-a-shot-on-goal variety, but the four-down, forward-pass version of American flag football.

Flag football has a long way to go in Israel before it eclipses the popularity of the game North Americans know as soccer, but in only three years, the Jewish State has developed a flag football program that allows it to compete with the elite at the international level.

The Israeli national team will be coming to three-down country for the World Championship of Flag Football, which will be held in Toronto from Aug. 15-19.

Flag football is similar to touch football, except that players wear detachable plastic flags that must be removed by an opponent in lieu of tackling them. In touch football, an opponent must touch the ball-carrier with both hands.

At the flag football World Cup, held in February in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Israel racked up a 1-4 record, finishing sixth out of seven entries, ahead only of winless France.

Israel's one victory was over England, which it stunned 12-0 in its first ever international game of flag football. England rebounded and went on to win the bronze medal, behind Canada's silver and the United States' gold.

"Israel's team is comprised of an exceptional group of highly motivated amateur athletes," says Steve Leibowitz, president and team manager of the Israeli squad. "Players include both American Jewish immigrants and native-born sabras who learned football in Israel."

Players are drawn from the American Touch Football in Israel (ATFI) league, which includes 40 teams and 700 players in the greater Jerusalem area.

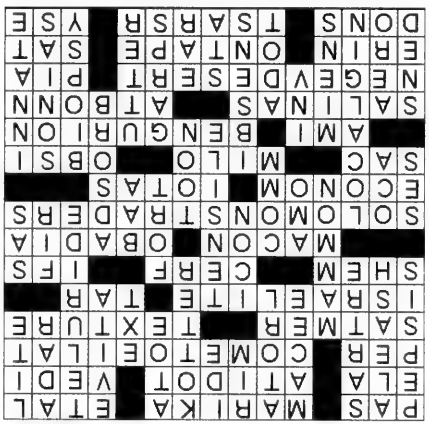
In Fort Lauderdale, the Israeli team was led by quarterback Ron Dermer, a columnist with the *Jerusalem Post*. Dermer's brother is David Dermer, mayor of Miami Beach and the connection was useful in helping the Israeli players develop a relationship with the local Jewish community during their stay in South Florida.

"In addition to playing in the championship, the team looks forward to meeting with groups from the Toronto Jewish community. The team has set aside time for engagements with the Jewish and non-Jewish communities," Leibowitz stated.

For more information, Leibowitz can be reached by fax at: 972-2-579-0910, or by e-mail at: kraftstadium@yahoo.com.

Israeli QB drops back to pass in World Cup flag football action

FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD.



Fifth official's arrest raises tension in soccer circles

By BARUCH KRA
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Yohanan Cibuteru, a senior referee who has officiated in key matches in the Premier League, was arrested by police recently and questioned about his alleged involvement in the match-fixing scandal which is currently engulfing Israeli soccer.

Cibuteru is the fifth soccer official questioned by the police's international serious crime unit, which has been carrying out an under-cover investigation for the past four months.

Police admitted they had struck a deal with one former referee, Moshe Atias, who has agreed to turn state's evidence. Atias, one of the four original men whose arrest was made public last week, was released after one day, but police will keep a close eye on him and will monitor the people who make contact with him.

After the news of the investigation became public, close surveillance was kept on Cibuteru and other suspects who are due to be arrested. The police are timing the arrests to fall at various times. Not all the men involved have yet been hauled in for questioning. One of the police's ploys is to monitor the actions of the men who do not yet know they are suspects.

Cibuteru is the first high-profile name to join the four other arrested men – retired officials Sabi Elnekaveh, Haim Mirovsky and Moshe Atias and Barik Tahsin, who is still active as a linesman in the lower divisions. The police suspect Cibuteru of collusion with Mirovsky in a game during the late 1990s as well as other games during that period, but the detectives are not ruling out foul play during the current season as well.

The police revealed they had arrested the first four officials when they arrived at Petah Tikva Magistrates' Court to have their remand extended. The police investigation came about following a report last November when Niv Raskin of Army Radio said he had uncovered firm evidence that senior officials had been involved in fixing the results of matches. The police claim the officials received hefty sums of money to deliver tailor-made results for illegal betting rings, with sums ranging into millions of dollars.

Tat-Nitzav Moshe Levin, the head of the international serious crimes unit warned that more arrests were imminent.

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A diamond among jagged rocks

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

In the summer of 1973, following my bar mitzvah, my father, of blessed memory, rented a cottage in Wasaga Beach for the family to vacation in.

Every day, he and I would climb into a rowboat, paddle the river and study Talmud in preparation for my first year in yeshiva.

Throughout the summer, we would discuss *daf bet* in Tractate Baba Batra, dealing with the complexity of erecting a wall, and the variance of opinions on responsibility should that wall collapse.

For a 13-year-old kid, my "*Stand by Me*" summer had been a cerebral one, sort of a welcome into the people-of-the-Book club. It was a long, hot summer, but in September, I entered yeshiva knowing *daf bet* by heart, as well as the physics of a wall made from lime.

It has been more than 2½ decades since my last day in yeshiva. I have spent those years on a journey, an expedition down roads of divergent philosophies into the world of secular thought, art and culture.

Through my discovery of my own Walden Pond, I have been able to unravel much of the beauty in the teachings I rejected following my stint in yeshiva. Further, I have come to realize that my rebellion against Judaism and Torah was largely in response to the method and mindset in which they were taught to me, rather than the content itself.

I still have great philosophical problems with aspects of Judaism, yet in spite of this I can now sense the rainbow of colours within the multi-generational arguments of the Talmud and the kaleidoscope of truth-shapes emanating from the Five Books of Moses.

I know now that Judaism and Torah could have been infinitely more exhilarating and useful in my life, had they been presented to me in a poetic way, rather than held overhead like Mount Sinai, a symbol of control more than it is a breath of possibility, humility, love and tolerance.

My Torah education was dehydrated. It lacked intellectual and existential moisture. For hours on end, my yeshiva class would study the micro-intricacies of determining the quantity of matzot one must eat on Pesach while never dealing with its meaning to the human condition or its relationship to Pesach's slavery-versus-freedom theme.

While it seemed reasonable that the science of our existence was crucial to unscrambling truth, I craved knowing its soul. I wanted to be challenged by a multiplicity of ideas that were relevant to me. I didn't find either in Torah study.

Ideas are exciting. Uncovering truth is splendid and breathtaking. I discovered this through my sister, Naomi, and her husband, Rabbi Benjamin Hecht. The Torah is a cache of ideas. Abraham's perilous monotheistic journey is a good example of this, as is the concept of *sh'luach ha'kane* – the Jewish obligation of sending away a mother bird before grabbing her eggs from the nest, a powerful and inspirational commandment that speaks to our relationship with God and animals.

Whether you accept Torah as truth or as a compendium of knowledge that is useful for the development of a value-based world, Jews need to weave its teaching in a more masterful way so that it reflects the dimensions of possibility and real relevancy and rivets us to the ground as the dusk does for a poet.

If we do not inject this sizzling dynamic of life into Judaism, and learn Torah with the gritty enthusiasm of a deal-maker, many Jews will keep on running at the mention of Torah study, and other currently committed Jews will reject Judaism as a viable life choice.

There is a splendid diamond wedged amongst the jagged rocks.

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1/4 cup sliced green onions
1 cup bottled Italian dressing
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1 tblsp. prepared mustard
1 tsp. dill weed
1 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper

Prepare rotini according to package directions; drain. In a large bowl combine rotini, tuna, cucumbers, tomato, celery, green pepper and onions.

In a small bowl blend together Italian dressing, mayonnaise, mustard and seasonings. Add to salad mixture; toss to coat. Cover and chill. Toss gently before serving. Refrigerate leftovers. 6 to 8 servings.

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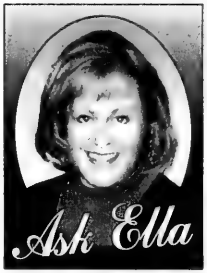
About Life



Dear Ella,

We have had a subscription to the *Toronto Star* for as long as we have been married. I have always found its reporting on the Middle East to be biased and when I heard that the Jewish funeral homes Benjamin's and Steeles took a stand by pulling out their funeral announcements, I decided it was time for me to take a stand too. I cancelled my subscription and told the paper exactly why I was doing so.

When my husband came home and I very proudly told him what I had done, he was furious. He said he reads the *Star* for many reasons, including for its Middle East coverage. He works in a very multicultural office and feels that if he is not informed on exactly what is written in the papers, he cannot discuss the topic intelligently and make others understand the whole story. I guess that makes sense. However, I feel we must unite and not sit idly by and ignore the coverage.

Reach for the *Star*

Dear Reach for the *Star*

This is a very heated topic and I know many others who have also cancelled their subscriptions in unity with Benjamin's and Steeles. People want to prove a point and don't want their dollars to go to a newspaper that reports the news with a slant. There is too much at stake. There are even advertisers that have pulled their ads because of the way the *Star* has historically reported on the Middle East.

The problem here is that you made a unilateral decision to cancel your subscription without discussing it first with your husband. He obviously reads this paper regularly and should have been involved in the decision to cancel the paper.

Whether you should renew your subscription is a decision you have to make together. If he feels he must read the *Star* to stay informed, then maybe he can pick it up at the store or read it online or maybe borrow a paper at work.

You and your husband have to get together on this and make a joint decision. Take the time to sit down and discuss it. It's important.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

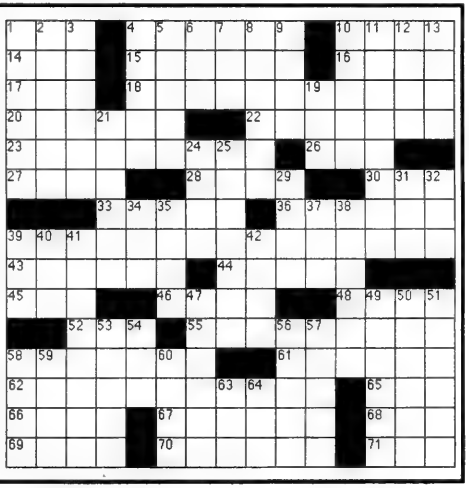
The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

Spring Visit to Israel's South
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Step, in Strasbourg
4. British skater Humphreys
10. Short for "and others"
14. High note
15. Futures, in Hebrew
16. I saw, in Latin
17. For each
18. Slogan for an Israeli city?
20. Famed rebbe
22. Surface quality
23. Tribal member, time of Moses
26. Asphalt
27. A son of Noah
28. Bennet, the humorist
30. A cousin of buts
33. Georgia city
36. Hebrew prophet
39. Ancients who sailed from south
43. Hebrew for expert in fiscal, monetary matters
44. Jots
45. Upper Mississippian tribe
46. Expansion area of David's city
48. Dian's sharp, hard precedor
52. My people, in Hebrew
55. You arrive here, then travel to the south
58. California valley
61. German legislators would meet ___
62. Wildflowers bloom here
65. Miss Zadora
66. Ireland
67. One way to record
68. College entrance exam
69. Russian river and namesakes
70. Russian ruler's dad?
71. Anal suffix

Down
1. Cokes alternative
2. "Sister, keep your husband on __"
3. Writer Jean-Paul
4. Victim of a medieval clubbing?
5. Notation of where you find Disney
6. Lip
7. Hal suffix
8. TV sitcom teacher
9. Bath temperature tester?
10. Mrs. Peron, familiarly
11. Rockies film and ski place
12. Hebrew month
13. Low calories, commercially
19. Int.'s opposite
21. Demon of greed
24. That little image on the screen
25. Kind of strength
29. Military redoubt
31. Douglas tree
32. Scandinavian airline
34. Latin I verb
35. Admin. body
37. Sheepish sound
38. Attract to a surface
39. Their, in Toulons
40. Goose, in Genoa
41. You might want to stay away from this pub offering
42. Short for Saturday animation
47. Doll House author and family
49. Body sample for lab work
50. Holocaust Kid author Pilcer and namesakes
51. Inner
53. Demeanors
54. Bill, for short
56. World According To guy, family
57. Say
58. Prune, to a Scot
59. Atmospheric prefix
60. What you need before com
63. R.R. stop
64. Organ



Israel Emergency Campaign Report

Anna's Story

Imagine surviving the death of your teenage daughter. Now imagine the life of Dr. Anna Kazachkova.

On June 1, 2001, a suicide bomber murdered Anna's 15 year old daughter, Anya, together with 20 other teenagers at Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium disco. Anna, a doctor by profession, and a 39 year old widow with a 12 year old son, had emigrated to Israel shortly before her daughter's death.

Volunteers from Selah, the Israel Crisis Management Centre, offered unlimited compassion - meeting her at the morgue, remaining with her during shiva, helping her handle painful bureaucratic details, arranging grief counseling, assisting her when she had to move to a new apartment and finding funds to purchase new appliances.

Today, nearly a year later, Anna and her son require constant companionship and support. Although she's looking forward to Alexander's bar mitzvah, Anna has difficulty concentrating on her medical studies so she can practice in Israel.

Anna, unfortunately, shares a common trauma with thousands of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters throughout Israel.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 is dedicated to Anna, over 3,000 other victims of terror and the social service network which makes their daily lives bearable, by placing hope on the horizon.

Photo credit: Israel Sun

Our community has already contributed nearly $13 million additional dollars to Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, which will be designated for:

- Assistance for victims of terror and their families
- Increased security for children in day cares, kindergartens and other facilities
- Increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by the crisis, particularly the poor, the elderly and new immigrants

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This Week

National

Shelter for Jewish homeless in planning stages. *Page 8*

School to be monitored after anti-Israeli drawings found. *Page 18*

Ottawa police warn of possible shul attack. *Page 26*

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Israeli band *RockFour* creating a real buzz, man. *Pages 38*

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Graham endorses IDF move

Bethlehem incursion 'helpful if designed to deal with terrorist menace'

CJN News Services and Staff

JERUSALEM — Canada's Foreign Minister Bill Graham gave a qualified endorsement of Israel's military operations against terrorist operations in the West Bank after a meeting Monday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Responding to a reporter's question about the Israel Defence Forces' re-entry into Bethlehem on Monday for the second time in a week, Graham said such moves "can be helpful if in fact they are specifically designed to deal with the terrorist menace."

Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the prime minister's office on Sunday. *[Isranet photo]*

Graham's statement seemed to be part of an effort to clarify the impression created by Canadian media reports of Graham's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon the night before. The reports said Graham clashed with Sharon over Israeli policies concerning travel restrictions on the Palestinians.

On Monday, Graham said that Canada recognizes "the need for Israel to have its security and it must take actions to ensure security. What we urge upon Israel is to ensure that the actions that ultimately are taken will be those that enable people to move freely in that area, to re-establish their economy, to have prosperity so that they can be neighbours with dignity to Israel."

He added that "dealing with terrorism is one dimension of the problem. Making sure that individual Palestinians are not punished in a way which makes them greater enemies of the process is another part of the problem."

Continued on page 35

A RECORD WALK: Some 25,000 people took part in the recent Walk with Israel, the largest such crowd in Toronto ever. Marchers trekked through downtown in a huge display of solidarity with Israel, ending up at SkyDome for festivities and a speech from Raanin Gissin, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's principle spokesperson. *Please see pages 4 and 19.* *[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photo]*

Greater Toronto Area

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Israel readies next generation satellite — please see page 35

The News In Brief

CANADA

BGU Award

TORONTO — Ben-Gurion University of the Negev recently awarded the Toronto Prize of Excellence in Research to two outstanding young researchers in the faculty of natural sciences. For the 2001-02 academic year, the award was given to Dr. Amnon Besser of the department of mathematics and Dr. Bilha Segev of the department of chemistry. The Toronto prize was established by the Toronto chapter of BGU to recognize outstanding achievement in science and technology, medicine or the humanities, and the partnership between the university and support from individuals and corporations in the Toronto area.

ISRAEL

Arafat's Popularity

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's popularity is slipping, a new poll shows. The poll, conducted earlier this month by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, says Arafat has the support of 35 per cent of Palestinians, versus 46 per cent in July 2000, before the outbreak of the intifadah. Marwan Barghouti, the leader of West Bank militias who is now in an Israeli jail, was chosen as the second most popular Palestinian figure.

Pageant Boycott

JERUSALEM — Miss Lebanon is boycotting this year's Miss Universe pageant, saying she will not participate alongside Miss Israel, Yamit Har-Noy, who is a 20-year-old member of the Israel Defense Forces. Miss Lebanon's decision is "very distressing. It is only a beauty pageant," Miss Israel said of the competition, slated to take place May 29 in Puerto Rico. "It has nothing to do with politics."

Doors Locked

JERUSALEM — Israeli restaurants have adopted a new measure to deter suicide bombers: lock them out. Restaurants and cafes around the country have begun locking their doors and admitting diners only after an inspection. Restaurant owners said they adopted the tactic after clients complained that the security guards now posted outside most establishments are insufficient.

Bomber 'Disguised'

JERUSALEM — The suicide bomber who carried out the Passover massacre was disguised as a woman, Israeli newspapers reported May 16. *Ha'aretz* and *Yediot Achronot* based their reports on the testimony of Abbas Sayad, the Hamas commander in Tulkarm, who was arrested recently by Israeli forces. Along with admitting that he masterminded the attack, Sayad told interrogators that the bomber, Abdel Bassat Odeh, shaved his beard, put on makeup and a wig, and wore high-heels when carrying out the March 27 attack in a Netanya hotel.

WORLD

Irving Must Pay

LONDON — British Holocaust denier David Irving has failed to have a bankruptcy order against him overturned. Irving was declared bankrupt by the High Court last month after he failed to pay Penguin Books some $213,000 (US), part of the publisher's legal costs. Last week, a judge ruled nothing is preventing Irving from paying his damages. In a highly publicized case here in 2000, Irving lost his lawsuit against scholar Deborah Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin, after a book by Lipstadt accused him of being a Holocaust denier. Irving was ordered at the time to pay Lipstadt's legal costs, estimated at nearly $3 million. The ruling ruined him financially.

Pearl's Memory

LOS ANGELES — Judea Pearl, a world-renowned computer scientist and father of slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, has donated $15,000 (US) he received from a top scientific award to a foundation established to perpetuate his son's ideals. In a related development, the Los Angeles Press Club has announced the establishment of the Daniel Pearl Award for Courage and Integrity. The first award will be presented posthumously on June 22 to the slain journalist. Pearl's parents will accept it.

Streams Unite

NEW YORK — The four major Jewish streams in the United States are folding their individual fund-raising efforts for Israel into a broad emergency campaign. The joint campaign sponsored by the United Jewish Communities (UJC), the umbrella group of North American Jewish federations, is a "show of unity among the streams of Judaism that is not seen often enough," Harvey Blitz, president of the Orthodox Union, said at a news conference. Leaders of the Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist movements pledged their support for UJC's Israel Emergency Campaign, which aims to raise $300 million (US) for needs arising from the Mideast violence.

Mandela's Employer

JOHANNESBURG — Lazar Sidelsky, a Jewish lawyer who gave a young Nelson Mandela a job as a clerk, has died here at age 90. Taking on a young black man as a clerk was "something almost unheard of in those days," Mandela later wrote of his time with the law firm of Witkin, Sidelsky and Eidelman. Three years ago, Mandela honored Sidelsky and his "first white friend," Nat Bregman, who worked for the firm with Mandela, at a kosher lunch at Mandela's home here.

'Disturbing' Rise in Anti-Semitism: League

MONTREAL — The preliminary numbers compiled for the 2002 audit of anti-Semitic incidents by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada shows a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism across Canada, the league says.

The recent pipe bombing of the Quebec City synagogue is the sixth incident this year in the province targeting synagogues. It indicates a "disturbing" trend of increasing violence in the type of incidents being reported to the league this year.

From January to the end of April 2002, 110 anti-Semitic incidents were reported to the league, compared to 286 incidents Canada-wide for April 2001. In April 2002 alone, the league received 75 reports of anti-Semitic incidents, 25 of which took place in Quebec. This compares to 25

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'Bias' in Mideast project found in public school

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Parents and Jewish community leaders have expressed concern about a Grade 5 school project handed out to students at Summit Heights Public School last week that they say presents a biased view of the Mideast conflict.

The students were asked by their teacher to read an overview of Israel's War on Terrorism, presented in the form of a current events newsletter, and then complete a worksheet and crossword puzzle.

Simon Rosenblum, director of public policy for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said "the overview presents an incredibly biased and one-sided view of the conflict."

In a statement, CJC said the "newsletter exaggerated the number of Palestinians killed in Jenin, repeating false propaganda about the recent fighting that has now been debunked by Human Rights Watch and all other credible sources."

(The assignment repeated Palestinian claims that "at least 500 people, including civilians" were killed in Jenin.)

Ed Morgan, chair of CJC, Ontario region, said that by exaggerating ten-fold Human Rights Watch's estimated casualty figure in Jenin, the newsletter presents a new version of old-fashioned blood libels.

"It plays to the anti-Semitic idea that the Jews will commit bloodthirsty acts to advance their own causes," Morgan noted.

CJC also expressed concern that the assignment refers to suicide bombers as "militants" instead of terrorists and presents Israel as the only obstacle to peace by stating that "at the root of the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis is the Palestinians' desire for an independent country and Israel's reluctance to give up control of the territories."

The assignment was taken from *What's New in the World?*, an online resource program published by British-Columbia based LesPlan Educational Services. Lesson plans are made available to school boards across Canada on a monthly basis.

Aliza Eisentein, a parent of one of the Grade 5 students, was upset by the perspective presented by the assignment and with the way allegations were presented to the children as facts.

"I was distressed by the total bias. There was no mention at all of Israel's point of view," said Eisentein.

Many parents said the teacher in this situation did alert the children to the fact that this worksheet only presented one point of view.

The teacher told them not to answer four out of the six questions on the worksheet because they were leading questions, said Fran Michaels, who is also a parent of one of the Grade 5 students.

However, some educators question the ability of 10- and 11-year-olds to fully understand differences between varying perspectives on an issue.

"Grade 5 students could understand perspective or bias if their curriculum trained them to do it," said Seymour Epstein, director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education.

If the concept were presented to them repeatedly, then Grade 5 students could eventually understand that the material they are studying is not necessarily factual but a representation of a different point of view, he said.

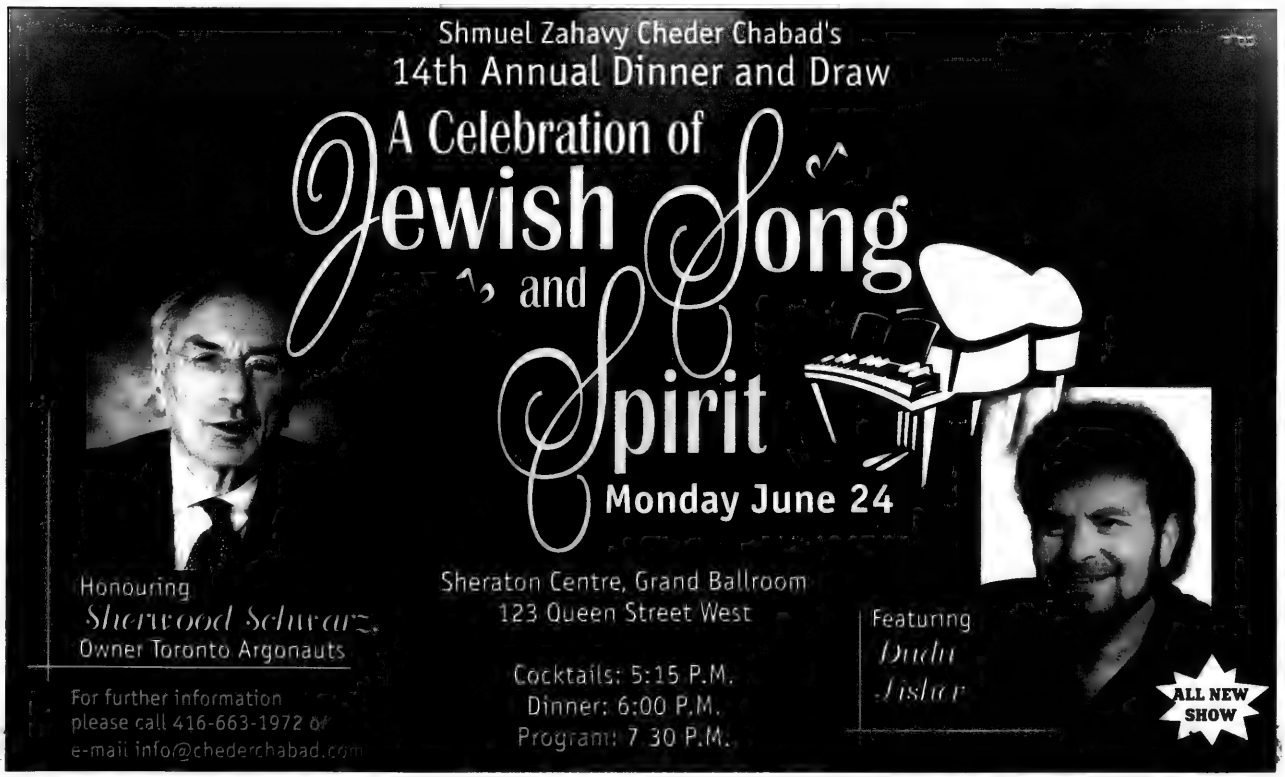
However, Epstein noted that issues of perspective are usually taught to junior or high school students and he questioned whether this worksheet was prepared with that objective in mind.

At Summit Heights, many of the students are from homes where Middle East policies are discussed and the kids would be sensitive to the issues involved, Michaels said, adding that she would be especially concerned about other classrooms where the material from this lesson would be presented as fact.

CJC has called on the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to investigate the matter fully and to provide some "professional guidance" to Jewish and Israeli students in the school who have been "subjected to this form of vilification."

Gerry Connelly, the TDSB associate director for student and community services, said the board has not yet been able to determine how prevalent the material is in the system.

However, she said it is the board's expectation that all materials used in classrooms be balanced and bias-free and that the TDSB will be re-examining this curriculum to ensure that it meets existing standards.



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Greater Toronto Area

Israel offers carrot, not just stick to Palestinians, says Gissin

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Ra'anan Gissin, senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, is surprisingly optimistic about the odds of re-educating Palestinian youth for peaceful co-existence with Israel, but he is not impressed by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's recent call for reform under his rule.

"Arafat is a master of deceit and duplicity," he said bluntly.

But what Gissin refers to as the continuous brainwashing of young Palestinians is reversible, he said in an interview last week. "We also need to educate our people, particularly after this war, that there are human beings on the other side who want to live in peace," he added.

Gissin was in town for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Walk With Israel, held on Victoria Day, when he addressed the crowd gathered for a festival at Skydome following the walk.

He came prepared to encourage the Israel supporters and assuage their fears, but instead he found himself encouraged by the crowd, he told *The CJN* the following day at the Royal York Hotel, where he spoke at a parlour meeting.

The best thing Diaspora Jews can do right now to support Israel, Gissin said, is to go there. "It's important for Israelis to get the feeling that we're not alone."

Israelis, he noted, are only the custodians of the land. "It's incumbent on every Jew to lend support to the State of Israel."

If Israel is weakened, he warned, Jews everywhere in the free world would be affected. "It would be a totally different world, a throwback to the 1930s."

The people of Israel are committed to peace, although they are divided about how to achieve it, Gissin said.

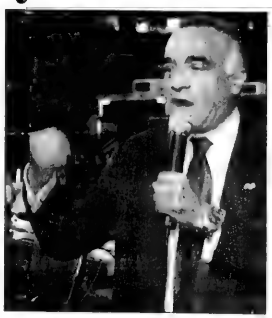
Sharon's plan includes a regional conference that would include Arab countries in a "peace coalition," he said, mentioning among others Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria. "These countries need peace as much as Israel," but deep-seated animosities will require a "period of decontamination," he added.

Ironically, Gissin noted, "those who want peace must prepare for war." The peace agreements between Israel and Egypt, and between Israel and Jordan, came about as a result of "lack of military options" on the other countries' parts regarding Israel, he said.

"The same thing will happen [with the Palestinians]. It just takes longer. More and more Palestinians are realizing that this is a futile effort; they pay dearly for it. I think then there will be a lot of pressure for Arafat to change."

Sporting a lapel pin depicting the Israeli and American flags, Gissin noted that Israel is invoking the same right of self-defence as the United States is in Afghanistan.

"We're fighting for ourselves, but we believe it's very important that all the free, civilized world unite behind the leadership of the president of the United States for taking this courageous decision in fighting terrorism until victory. There's no other way. If we don't fight terrorism today, we will fight nuclear weapons tomorrow."



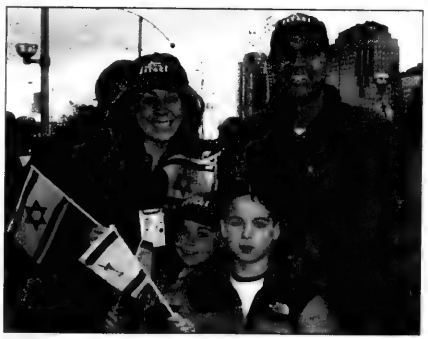
Ra'anan Gissin

The idea of Israel building a fence or a buffer zone is "important in some places," but not would not be an effective deterrent to attacks in others, said Gissin. "When you have limited resources, [it's better] to put them into intelligence systems and deterrent systems, rather than in physical barriers. We're balancing it."

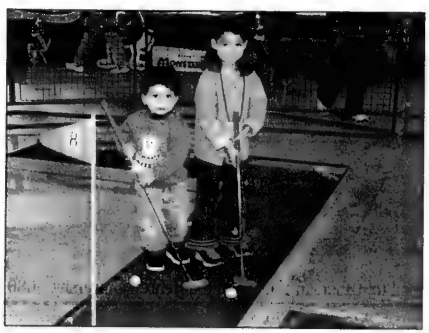
Jews and Arabs have lived together for more than 100 years, he said. "The two peoples are destined to live together. We just have to find the right type of relationship where they are not at our throats. That has to be achieved through education, through the use of deterrents, through making it very costly for them to cross, and through other measures like creating working opportunities and jobs in the territories. It's not all stick. It's carrot too."

For things to change, there has to be economic co-operation, a complete cessation of violence, and an overhaul of the Palestinian Authority, Gissin said. There is a movement within Palestinian society asking for real reforms, he added.

"It won't happen tomorrow. We need to have patience."



Thousands of Jews came out for the Walk with Israel and festival held this year at SkyDome. More photos page 19.
[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photos]



From the editor's desk
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Stephen Victor
National President

April, 2002

Mr. Stephen Victor
CFHU National President

Dear Stephen:

My name is Eli Novershtern. I am 26 years old and was born and raised in Jerusalem. I'm presently a third-year student enrolled in a combined Philosophy, Political Science and Economics major. I also participate in Amirim, HU's honors program, and work part-time at the Bank of Israel. It's a hectic schedule but I really enjoy my courses, my job in the financial sector, and my extracurricular activities: I chair HU's Debating Society. We are scheduled to attend a major debating meet in two weeks, which is provoking great excitement. However, I am an officer in the IDF and the meet coincides with my call to active duty.

Frankly, it can be psychologically hard to delay life plans—some students have to put their academic and professional careers on hold; others sacrifice their part-time jobs, and some postpone getting married. Still, we're all proud that IDF student reservists are so heavily responsible for Israel's security. A number of my friends at the University have been drafted, and it really pleases us that Hebrew University is creating a stipend for students being called up. As far as I know, our University is the first and only educational institution to offer an allowance which will enable many of us to graduate on time, or near our desired graduation date. The Hebrew University is a pioneer in many ways. To me, it's the flagship of the Zionist movement. There aren't many institutions with the ability to help the Jewish people and to promote education, culture and religion in the modern sense. Hebrew University fulfills what Israel and the Jewish people need.

I have just learned that the Canadian Friends are assisting the University in providing these stipends. Please accept my thanks for all your efforts. The money will help us with photocopying, textbooks and tutoring. It's also a morale boosting type of support. I believe that Israel will overcome the conflict, and we students in the IDF are proud to be serving. It means a great deal to know that you are also proud of us.

Sincerely,

Eli Novershtern

May 3, 2002

Mr. Stephen Victor
CFHU National President

Dear Stephen,

I am pursuing a Master's degree in History at Hebrew University, where I received my undergraduate degree in Journalism and History. In Israel, the expected level of education is very high and therefore combined degrees are so important. Hebrew University offers academically serious and prestigious programs in my field, and offers me the best opportunity for success. I am taking three classes this semester and also work full-time as a journalist for a news site on the web. But when I get a 9:00 a.m. call: "Shlomo, come to the army base now. "I'm there by 10:30. On duty I'm surrounded by thousands of soldiers, many from Hebrew University.

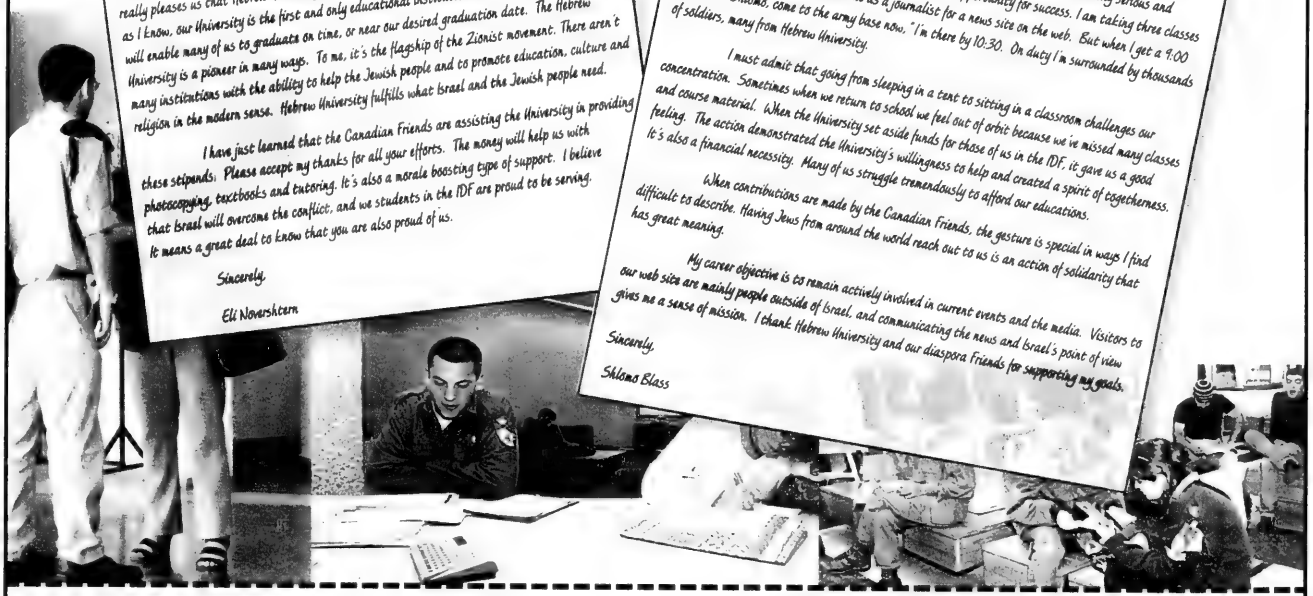
I must admit that going from sleeping in a tent to sitting in a classroom challenges our concentration. Sometimes when we return to school we feel out of orbit because we've missed many classes and course material. When the University set aside funds for those of us in the IDF, it gave us a good feeling. The action demonstrated the University's willingness to help and created a spirit of togetherness. It's also a financial necessity. Many of us struggle tremendously to afford our educations.

When contributions are made by the Canadian Friends, the gesture is special in ways I find difficult to describe. Having Jews from around the world reach out to us is an action of solidarity that has great meaning.

My career objective is to remain actively involved in current events and the media. Visitors to our web site are mainly people outside of Israel, and communicating the news and Israel's point of view gives me a sense of mission. I thank Hebrew University and our diaspora friends for supporting my goals.

Sincerely,

Shlomo Blass



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Doctor tells of Israeli hospital life since September 2000

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Although she serves as an adviser to Israel's minister of health, it was as a private citizen and hospital staff member that Dr. Rachel Adato-Levy spoke at a recent fund-raising event for victims of terror in Israel.

Her hospital work involves "all kinds of conflicts and tragedies," said the mother of two boys, ages 16 and 12, and the deputy medical director of Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. The hospital has treated more than 400 terror attack victims since September 2000.

Speaking at Beth Tzedec Congregation, Adato-Levy described some of the typical scenes at her hospital immediately following a terrorist attack. Even when she's not on duty, she is available by cellphone and beeper, as are all her colleagues and a horde of volunteers who are ready to rush to the hospital as soon as they are called.

The man in charge of air conditioning moves patients on stretchers into the emergency room (he once moved his own injured daughter), while some of the other volunteers field hundreds of calls from people looking for loved ones, Adato-Levy said.

One hospital employee was working upstairs when her daughter was brought into the emergency room. She died, said Adato-Levy. "As a big family [the way the staff feel about each other], we knew already what the mother didn't know. You need a lot of courage to go upstairs and tell the mother her life has just changed."

There is a Palestinian physician who works in the emergency room, treating both Jewish and Arab patients, Adato-Levy said. "He's terrific." But when travelling from East Jerusalem on urgent calls, he was delayed at police barriers. "We had to arrange a special card for him, because he's very important."

On the same floor as the Palestinian doctor is a colleague who made aliyah from France, she continued. The French physician, who treats Arab and Jewish children, lost his own son in a shooting incident. "You have to live with all these complications," Adato-Levy said.

In a separate address following Adato-Levy's, the synagogue's Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl spoke of his great pride in Israel, which crystallized for him during a recent conversation with an exhausted Israeli hospital physician who had spent the night treating patients, including members of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's private guard. None of the many Israelis to whom he spoke have said they hate Arabs, the rabbi reported.

When an attack occurs, the first thought is, "Where are my kids?" Adato-Levy said.

And as hard as it is for parents, the kids suffer more, she noted. "There's been a big change in Israeli life. There are no trips at school, no camps during Pesach or in the summer. We keep telling them to call every hour. Even my 12-year-old has a cellular phone. I need to find out where he's going, with whom he's going, how far from home he'll be. That's how we run our lives."

Parents who are "more extreme" allow their children only to travel to school and back. She wonders how the restrictions will affect children in the long run; in the short run, she said, it has strained parent-child relationships.

Israelis, in general, are less optimistic than they have been, Adato-Levy said. "We don't know if the worst part is behind us or ahead of us, and that's what is so frightening."

The uncertainty is the worst part, she said. "What keeps us going is the knowledge that we don't have any other home. That's our [country]."

HELPING MDA: Associated Hebrew Schools raised $98,000 for the purchase of an ambulance and medical supplies for Magen David Adom in Israel through the Read-for-a-Need program. Seen in front of a MDA ambulance are: Lou Greenbaum, president of Associated Hebrew Schools; Meir Romem, consul general of Israel; Rabbi Abraham Soffer, educational director; and Judy Cohen, vice-principal.

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Zareinu Moveathon to aid kids with special needs

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Whether participants in the upcoming Zareinu Moveathon amble through a 2-km course in Earl Bales Park or undertake a 100-km cycling route from Kleinburg to Toronto, they'll all be working together to help Zareinu Educational Centre, a 14-year-old school for children with developmental and physical disabilities including Down syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy.

Scheduled for June 9

The annual event, now in its fifth year, is scheduled for June 9. It offers a number of ways to participate for cyclists, runners and other "movers," and will include a community picnic at the park, complete with inflatable playground, carnival games, prizes and food vendors.

Cyclists have the option of a 100-km masters ride, a 50-km challenge ride, or a 20-km family bike ride. There is also a 20-km girls' ride, and a 30-km boys' ride, as well as a 10-km run. The separate boys' ride is scheduled to follow Sunday yeshiva classes, and the girls' ride is scheduled earlier in the morning.

In all, about 5,000 people, including more than 150 cyclists, are expected to take part, said moveathon co-ordinator Shaindy Cohen Goldstein.

The 100-km registrants will be bused to Kleinburg, and will meet up with the 50-km participants at York University. Support vans and professional riders will accompany the groups. "We want to make it as safe, easy and enjoyable as possible," said Cohen Goldstein.

The event will fund therapies, equipment and "hopefully, soon, a new building," she said. Zareinu, which serves students from age 1 month to 12 years, is currently housed in the Sephardic Kehilla Centre.

"It's a very one-on-one-type of school," Cohen Goldstein said. "They have cutting edge therapies. It's such a privilege to do an event for Zareinu."

For further information, call 416-661-1800 or go to www.zareinu.org.

FAMILY MATTERS WALKATHON: More than 200 walkers of all ages recently took part in a 7-kilometre walkathon that raised $4,500 in support of Jewish Family & Child Services. Temple Emanu-El sponsored the event, which began at the Banbury Community Centre with songs by the nine-member junior choir. For the record, two 14-month-olds tied for honours as the youngest to complete the route!

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PAGE 491492

Advertising Feature

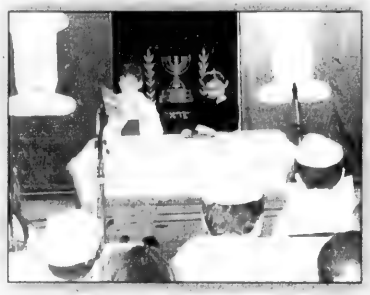
The School of Choice

Turning students on to reading is the goal of every school. The staff at Associated came up with a unique idea. Students would be sponsored for every page they read, whether in books or magazines, in English, Hebrew, French or Russian.

The result was an outstanding success, with **over one million pages** read by students from senior kindergarten to grade eight. In the process, students raised $100,000 to support vital services in Israel, reinforcing the message that Associated stands for a commitment to Torah values, Israel and the community.

"It's a fantastic school," says Lou Greenbaum, president of Associated Hebrew Schools. "It's clearly the **community school of choice** and we hope to continue to maintain its position and stature."

The school is evolving to meet the needs of both its students and their parents.



A just-published comprehensive Statement of Information includes **detailed curriculum outlines** and **learning expectations**, along with **school policies**. Newly formatted report cards reflect the requirements of the Ministry of Education.

Special talents co-ordinators advise teachers on how to provide additional stimulation within the classroom for students with exceptional abilities. A new anti-bullying policy is being monitored, as well as new policies regarding student health. Graduates are undergoing a survey to assess their preparedness for high school. A manual to help separated and divorced families is in development.

It's part of the school's mandate to be **open to communication** in order to be a forward-thinking establishment. "As good a school as we are," says Greenbaum, "we have an obligation to the community, to our parents and to ourselves to strive to do better."

Associated understands that the future of the Jewish community is in the hands of its children. "Children are the future of our people and the only way for them to stay committed is for them to receive a quality Jewish education," says Rabbi Abraham Soffer, Educational Director. "We're giving them the knowledge to begin to make their own choices in life and to choose their own path.

"When we have over 90% of our students registering to study in a Jewish high school, we know we're doing the right thing."

Arthur Landa, Executive Director, says that as a result of careful management and planning, Associated has no external debt, and therefore offers one of the lowest tuitions of any Hebrew day school in the city. Five years from now, if the government upholds the education tax credit and charitable tax receipt, Landa hopes that parents who are sending their children to public schools will view Jewish day schools as a more viable choice than ever before. The school continues to stand by its pledge that any child who wants a Jewish education will be given the opportunity, regardless of their economic means. "We're trying to do whatever we can to ensure that high quality Jewish education is an option for anyone who wants it," says Landa.

For more information on choosing the best education for your child, please call Associated's Admissions and Tuition office: (416) 494-7666, ext. 323.

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish homeless shelter in the planning stages

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Lillian Freedman [Ron Csillag photo]

Lillian Freedman's dream of a permanent shelter for the Jewish homeless is perhaps a step closer to reality, now that her own experiment shows there's a need for such a facility.

Quietly and with no fanfare, Freedman, a freelance social worker, opened a short-term, transitionary home for Jewish homeless earlier this spring. Located at 87 Mackay Ave., a quiet sidestreet in the Dufferin-St. Clair area, the modest three-bedroom house was home to four people before the three-month pilot project wrapped up this month. All the residents have since settled into more stable and long-term situations.

"I did it to prove to the community that it can be done," said Freedman, something of gadfly in Jewish social service circles, "and to show that it should be done." She calls it her "quiet experiment."

Freedman has been on the front lines of the issue since 1998, when she was contracted by Jewish Family & Child Service (JF & CS) to find homeless Jews, in addition to the ones JF & CS knew about and was tending to. She located about a dozen people who were either out on the street, facing eviction or staying with friends or relatives. Most were found accommodations.

But all along, Freedman envisioned a different approach: A permanent, freestanding, fully kosher shelter where homeless Jews can stay and take advantage of volunteered professional services, as part of their eventual reintegration into society. That dream has been an uphill battle, she sighs, for a variety of reasons involving bureaucracy and inertia.

Things turned in February, when the owners of 87 Mackay agreed to lease the Victorian house to Freedman for her project. In short order, clients filled the rooms: A young man originally from Albania who had been a medical student; two older women who came from other shelters; and a young woman en route to Israel from South America, stranded here with little money, an expired visa and nowhere to go.

Freedman rented the house for $2,000 a month, plus utilities and found donated furniture. JF&CS paid first and last months' rent for the two older women, who got to keep their disability cheques. The Albanian man received $400 a month in welfare payments, and the South American woman had all of $200.

The whole project cost roughly $9,000. Of that, Freedman reckons nearly $3,000 came from her own pocket, including supplementing grocery purchases and incidentals.

"It was a big expense and a big headache with no meaningful backing," she said without a hint of bitterness. "But it was all part of my own learning curve."

Some community help, however, seems to be finally on the way. Recently, Freedman met with Bruce Gilboord, who has been active in the fight for Jewish day school funding. Gilboord, in turn, has interested some members of his synagogue, Mizrachi Bayit, in the project.

They have also brought the endeavour to B'nai Brith Canada (BBC), which views the idea of a Jewish homeless shelter favourably, according to Pearl Gladman, national director of BBC's Centre for Community Action.

The task at hand, Gladman said, is to come up with a budget and present it to BBC's board of directors.

The parties, a loose coalition still in its infancy, include several mental health and real estate professionals willing to donate their services, said Gilboord. More volunteer expertise is needed, he noted.

"The project is doable. It's just a question of making the right *shidduch* [match] with the right people."

The group is already searching for a building. Ideally, Gilboord said, it would have 20 private suites, a kitchen and offices, and would be located away from the Bathurst Street strip to avoid the stigma of a "Jewish poorhouse."

The goal is a comfortable, non-threatening, kosher residence where homeless could stay for up to three months and have access to medical and dental care, a pharmacist, a social worker, drug and alcohol counselling, even help with job searches and resume writing.

"The need is obviously there. One just has to scratch the surface," Gilboord said.

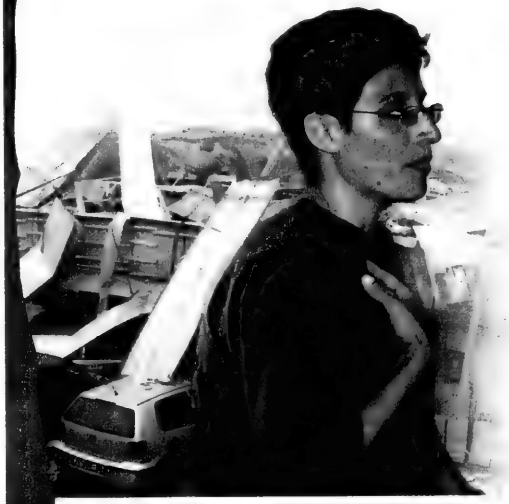
Or one can talk to one of the Jewish women who landed in Freedman's residence. Sarah (not her real name) is 58 and suffered, she said, 39 years of abuse at the hands of her husband. She has five children and nine grandchildren and has reconciled with an estranged son. She is now in a retirement/boarding home and is on a waiting list for assisted housing.

"They say Jewish men don't drink or abuse their wives," Sarah said, adding calmly, "That's bull----."

But pointing to Freedman, Sarah said, "She helped save my life."

Anyone wishing to get involved can contact Gilboord at 416-709-2902.

Israel Emergency Campaign Report



The story of Meish

The song is beautiful, almost mystical. *Shema Yisrael* by Israeli songstress Sarit Hadad. The song that Moshe Yedid-Levi – Meish to his family and friends – listened to over and over before a suicide killer murdered Meish and 10 other innocents at the Ben Yehuda Mall on December 1, last year. Meish would be alive today if he hadn't tried to help his cousin who was injured in the first bomb blast that night. Meish died during the second explosion. He was only 19.

Today, his mother, Anat, cries whenever she hears *Shema Yisrael*, especially its painful refrain *Hear, Israel, my G-d, now I am alone.*

Anat has returned to work, but her husband Ya'acov cannot get through his daily routine. Their other two sons, Tal and Adam, are absorbed in competitive swimming at an Israeli youth village where they go to school. Swimming relieves the endless sorrow of losing a brother.

Photo credit: Israel Sun

Your **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** gift increase will help to cover the cost of Adam and Tal remaining at the youth village and participating in its activities. Most importantly, it will help to restore stability to the Yedid-Levi family's shattered lives.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 is dedicated to Anat, Ya'acov, Tal, Adam and over 3,000 other surviving victims of terror and the social service network that makes their daily lives bearable.

Our community has already contributed over $13 million additional dollars to Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, which will be designated for:

- Assistance for victims of terror and their families
- Increased security for children in day cares, kindergartens and other facilities
- Increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by the crisis, particularly the poor, the elderly and new immigrants

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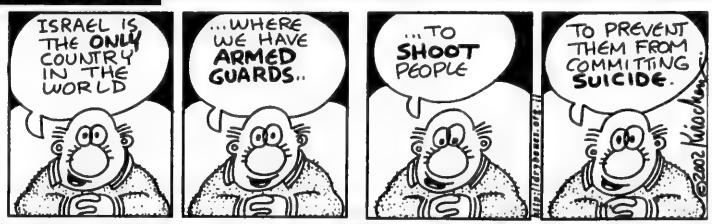
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Contrasting announcements

Last Friday, the Ottawa police publicly issued a community security advisory, along with a special message to the members of Ottawa's Jewish community, from the mayor, Bob Chiarelli, and the chief of police, Vince Bevan, warning of "the possible targeting of an unspecified synagogue in Ottawa" particularly during the month of June. The advisory and the message were also distributed in shuls throughout the city that evening and the next morning as people attended Shabbat prayers.

City officials had received information from reliable sources, that they described as "troubling and unsettling," which could neither be confirmed nor denied by police and the RCMP. They were clearly anguished about making their concerns public, but decided under the circumstances to issue the advisory in an effort "to balance the need to provide the community with as much accurate information as possible, while not creating undue alarm, or worse yet, satisfying those who would prey on or create unwarranted community fear."

We commend the Ottawa officials for the way in which they handled and continue to handle the situation.

We agree that a balance must be struck to enable disclosure of relevant, reliable information in a manner that is not alarmist and does not compromise investigations or ongoing security. It appears that Ottawa officials are striving diligently to achieve that balance. Police remain in close contact with community organizations and synagogues; community leaders were able to publicly and privately confer with "constituents" and congregants; and authorities have stepped up both preventative and investigative measures.

The laudable steps taken by the Ottawa police made somewhat less intelligible the announcement earlier in the week by Ontario's minister of public safety and security, Bob Runciman, that "foreign terrorists," a sleeper cell of al-Qaeda had "closed down shop and moved out of Ontario."

The cell was monitored by Ontario security agents but could not be arrested because "they were citizens like you and me," the minister said. Surely though, the matter of citizenship is completely irrelevant, as well as possibly inconsistent with his statement that "these were foreign terrorists." The only question was whether the individuals in question were committing an offence for which they could have been apprehended. At least within the last five months, since the passage of federal anti-terrorism legislation, that question has been settled. If authorities knew with sufficient certainty that the minister could say categorically the individuals were members of a sleeper cell of al-Qaeda, then the cell should have been arrested. If the cell was not arrestable, then why bother to announce their departure? All that the minister achieved by doing so was to undermine the public's sense of security. The cell had been here presumably as part of a larger, malevolent plan, and yet it was allowed to slip away.

The contrast between the effect of this announcement with that by the Ottawa police was quite stark.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Auschwitz shopping centre: update

Two years ago, the Polish government issued an order to stop the construction by the Maja Company of a shopping centre opposite the main gate to Auschwitz. The former concentration camp site has been designated by UNESCO as a heritage site, and the adjoining lands have been designated as a quiet zone and non-development zones. But the Maja Company reapplied to the local government to build a shopping centre of reduced scope. And despite the stoppage order, construction has progressed to a very advanced stage.

At its semi-annual meeting on April 15th at Auschwitz, the International Auschwitz Council was informed by the Polish minister of the interior, Andrzej Barcikowski, that under existing laws, the local government may be forced to issue an occupancy permit and the Polish government would not be in a legal position to stop it. This means that the Maja Company will be in a position to open bookstores, restaurants, bars and other tourist-oriented shops. The museum directorship and the Auschwitz council will have control of what is being sold and what activities may take place on the premises located opposite Auschwitz's main gate.

The owner of the Maja company, Janusz Marszalek, is an outspoken anti-Semite and liar who slandered two members of the Auschwitz council in a newspaper article published in the United States. Knowing his anti-Semitic background (he was indirectly involved in the building of 240 crosses by in a gravel pit that used to adjoin the former camp), we can expect that the bookstore will be selling books on Holocaust denial and the newly revised Polish edition of *The Protocol of Elders of Zion*.

The International Auschwitz Council is outraged that Marszalek may be in a position to exploit visitors to Auschwitz and make uncontrolled profits on this enterprise. They unanimously passed a resolution condemning the installation, recommended that Barcikowski convey our concerns to the Polish government and asked that the government pass legislation prohibiting commercial development in the quiet zone, or purchase the site and let the museum operate the facility. Failing to act on either of these recommendations will lead to further commercial development of the adjoining areas and exploitation of the sacred areas for profit.

Nathan Leipciger
Member of the International Auschwitz Council
Toronto

* * *

Dissenters part of Jewish family

Most of us agree that Naomi Klein's article in the *Globe and Mail* on which Mordechai Ben-Dat (*CJN*, May 2) commented in From the Editor's Desk represents severely "twisted writing." The rants of left wingers such as Klein are tired leftovers from the '60s. However, I will argue that the thoughts, opinions and even the actions of Jews like Klein are in a way one of the real assets Jews and Israelis have.

Now, don't get me wrong. I think that in light of all that has happened in the Middle East, these idealists are a totally misguided lot. They are unaware or ignorant of the horrific reality on the streets in Israel. But because they are part of our "extended family," we can always argue that the Palestinians don't have a corresponding element of dissent within their family. We are a mature society that knows how to tolerate dissenting views. In fact, we even welcome it, because that is what makes our cause that much stronger.

The Palestinians, and most of the rest of the world for that matter, are not so indulgent with opposing points of view within their own community.

Unfortunately, stories and pictures about how the Palestinians lynch suspected collaborators and string their bodies up in town squares, which would show how they "tolerate" dissent, are not publicized in the media. Compare these actions to how we tolerate opposing opinions, like Klein's, from within our own camp.

Howard Mednick
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Should Canada pull out of the UN?

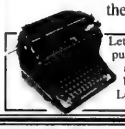
On May 7, the UN General Assembly voted to ask Secretary-General Kofi Annan to prepare a report on "Zionist atrocities" in Jenin, and condemned Israel for its unwillingness to agree to a UN fact-finding mission there. Israel's rejection was based on the proposed fact-finding commission's terms of reference, which would have focused exclusively on Israeli actions, and not on what had provoked them.

Such details didn't matter to the UN. Nor did the fact that Israel had once again become the victim of a terrorist attack a few short hours earlier, when a suicide bomber struck a pool hall in Rishon Letzion. The attack took place on the same day U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met in Washington, attempting to kick-start negotiations that would likely lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. It also didn't matter that a senior Palestinian official had recently acknowledged the Palestinian death toll in Jenin was less than 60.

The UN's abusiveness towards Israel, as illustrated by the plethora of anti-Israel resolutions it tables, as well as by last year's anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, which turned into an anti-Israel crusade, couldn't be put on hold for such trivialities. Author and journalist Yossi Klein Halevi may have understated the case when he said that the UN has squandered the dream of a united humanity animated by justice to join an unholy coalition of Islamic fundamentalists, far-left moralizers and far-right neo-fascists in targeting Jews.

Isn't it time the UN started to work toward the goals its founders envisaged for such an august world body? Shouldn't the UN begin considering human rights issues in countries like Syria and Sudan, which routinely get seated on its councils and committees, only to cast votes against democracies like Israel? If steps aren't taken to reform the organization, maybe it's time Canada considered pulling out.

Bob Dale
Ottawa



Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The Muslims' dubious claim to Jerusalem

By PAUL C. MERKLEY

The Muslims say to Britain, to France, and to all the infidel nations that Jerusalem is Arab. We shall not respect anyone else's wishes regarding her. The only relevant party is the Islamic nation, which will not allow infidel nations to interfere.

– Sheik Ikrama Sabri,
Mufti of Jerusalem,
July 11, 1997.

From time to time, it is necessary for those of us who live in giant nations like Canada to remind ourselves of how small Israel is – and, more pointedly, how small a portion of its neighbourhood, which is otherwise a Muslim Arab neighbourhood, it possesses.

A worshipper at the Western Wall looks past the Dome of the Rock in the Old City of Jerusalem.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Today, there are 21 separate states, plus the Palestine Liberation Organization, in the Arab League, with a total population of more than 300 million – that is, about 50 times the population of Israel. The Arab states take up some 5 million square miles, which accounts for about one-tenth of the landmass of the world – even though they make up more than about 1/20th of the world's population. Arab lands amount to about 650 times the landmass occupied by Israel (8,000 square miles), which has about 1/1,000th of the world's population.

Why does this miniscule non-Arab, non-Muslim entity cause such derangement in that part of the world? And why is the issue of Israel and its relationship with its neighbours such an obsession at the United Nations?

Israel's offence follows not from any of the properties that westerners (Christian or secular) imagine they can measure (size, population, wealth); nor does it follow any of the categories of moral evaluation that westerners use to judge the rights and wrongs of other current political issues.

Israel's offence follows from the nature of Islam. It is because Israel is the only non-Muslim sovereign state in the heart of the Muslim world that Muslims cannot be at peace with it. Israel has accomplished what is theologically impossible and impermissible. It has taken a portion of the Muslim world into the anti-Islamic world.

The Qu'ran states that as punishment for the Jews' refusal to heed the prophet, "humiliation and wretchedness were stamped upon them and they were visited with wrath from Allah" (Sura II:61; cf., Sura III:112). Muslims understand this as an eternal judgement on the Jews. The creation of the State of Israel is an intolerable reversal of this judgement, an assault on the credibility of Islam that cannot be permitted to stand.

Through some 12 centuries of Muslim rule (briefly interrupted by Crusader rule), Jerusalem was a city despised by Muslims and revered by Jews. All the evidence indicates that Jews were always a majority in the city, except during brief periods when Roman Emperors or Christian kings forbade their presence on pain of death.

We have credible census reports from only about 1870 onward, but these clearly prove that there was a Jewish majority in the whole city of Jerusalem, including the Old City – that is, the walled city where all local life had been confined until the late 19th century. The fact that so few Muslim Arabs were interested in living in Jerusalem until the years of the British Mandate reflects the relative weakness of the theological motive among Muslims of the time – which contrasts strongly with present Muslim interest in this "Holy City."

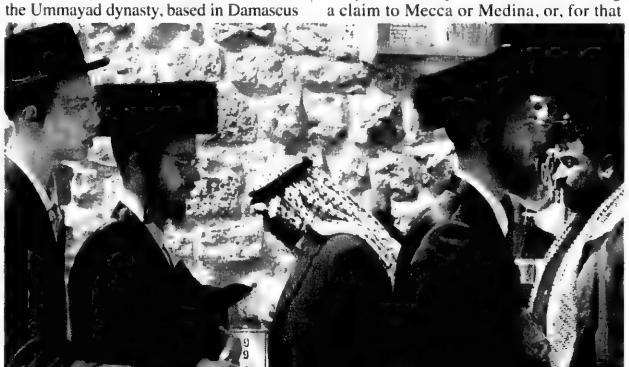
At some point in recent times, Muslims began speaking of Jerusalem as Al Quds (the Holy Place) and as "the third holiest place in Islam." Yet Jerusalem appears nowhere in the Qu'ran – neither by direct name, nor by allusion. In 691 A.D., when the Ummayad dynasty, based in Damascus (660s to 750), was in possession of this region, but was not in possession of Mecca or Medina, Caliph Abdel Malek Ibn Marwan proposed that the Temple Mount had been the site of Muhammad's mystical night time journey to Al Aqsa – "the furthest mosque" (il masjad al aksa). An indentation on the rock was identified as the print left by Muhammad's horse Barak (who had a woman's head and a peacock's tail) as horse and rider ascended into the heavens.

None of this is in the Qu'ran. The whole reference there is as follows: "Glory to [God]/ Who did take His Servant [Muhammad]./ for a journey by night/ From the Sacred Mosque [at Mecca]/ To the Farthest Mosque./ Whose precincts We did/Bless, – in order that We/ Might show him some/ Of Our signs; for He/ Is the One who heareth/ And seeth [all things]" (Sura XVII:1-2).

There was, of course, no mosque on the Temple Mount in Muhammad's time, only a Byzantine church that was later to be replaced by the present Al Aqsa Mosque. In modern times, this holy association has been magnified to match political requirements: when Muslims speak to western Christians, they insist that historical associations make Jerusalem (Al Quds) equal in spiritual importance to Christians, Jews and Muslims; when speaking to Muslim audiences, Muslims state that Al Quds is pre-eminently and pre-emptively sacred to Islam. The Jews, in contrast, have never asserted any claim to possession of any site on earth but this one – the site of their ancient Temple. They have utterly no interest in asserting a claim to Mecca or Medina, or, for that matter, to Rome or Kapilavastu (the childhood home of the Buddha), et cetera.

The Israeli cabinet recently considered re-opening the Temple Mount to Jews, not only for visiting, but for prayer, a move that would have overturned a policy that has been in place since Jerusalem was reunited during the Six Day War of June 1967. The idea was ultimately rejected. Yet, one thing is certain: the decision will not affect Muslim attitudes. The notion that a "right decision" would win over or lose Muslim moderate opinion throughout the world has been disproved by history: the decision to do the right thing and to hand the Temple Mount over to Islamic control in the first place gained Israel absolutely nothing.

The Tower of David near Jaffa Gate in the Old City.
[Isranet photo]



Walking to, from prayers. **[RNS/Reuters photo]**

We have seen a great many images lately of the Palestinian flag, and we are told that the great unrealized ambition of the Palestinian people is to see it flying over the Temple Mount and atop the Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. It is important to note that none of the historical elements appearing on that flag belongs to the local history of Palestine and none of them has secular significance. All belong to the history of Islam: the black represents the Prophet Muhammad; the white represents the Umayyad Dynasty; the red represents the Khawarij, an early Islamic revolutionary group; and the green represents the Fatimid Dynasty of North Africa. (I draw this information from the Yearbook of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs.)

The second intifadah surely makes clear what the first intifadah perhaps did not. The conflict between Israel and its enemies is not about an unsatisfied need for political independence, but about the Islamic claim to pre-emptive possession of everything that is sacred to Jews and Christians everywhere.

Paul C. Merkley is a retired Professor of history at Carleton University. He is the author of The Politics of Christian Zionism, 1891-1948 *(London: Frank Cass, 1998), and of* Christian Attitudes Towards the State of Israel, 1948-2000 *(McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.)*

The disease is spreading

The disease I have in mind is the old anti-Semitism that we hoped would no longer be part of western culture.

The Holocaust had made many of our enemies wary, but of late they have cast off their hesitation and are back to their old "hate-the-Jews" campaign.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

France leads Europe today in the percentage of people who freely admit to anti-Semitic sentiments, and wherever such feelings exist, evil deeds will follow sooner or later.

And, indeed, synagogues have already been desecrated and torched, Jewish businesses have been vandalized, and expressing anti-Semitic feelings has become perfectly acceptable once again.

As one who has lived in Germany and watched the growth of the Nazi party and its eventual rise to power, I should be greatly worried about the future. Yet, strangely, I am not. There may be tougher times ahead, and Israel will surely be vilified even more than it already has been. But this too shall pass.

Meanwhile, let us support Israel with vim and vigour, and while we are rousing ourselves, let us remind the world again and again about the contributions we have made to society. That in itself will not stem anti-Semitism, but the knowledge will help us affirm our self-esteem. They cannot overcome us when we know who we are and are determined to stand up for our people, come what may.

A piece in this vein by the late American comedian Sam Levinson has recently made the rounds on various Web sites:

"It's a free world and you don't have to like Jews, but if you don't, I suggest that you boycott certain Jewish products, like the Wasserman Test for Syphilis; digitalis, discovered by Dr. Nuslin; insulin, discovered by Dr. Minofsky; chloral hydrate, discovered by Dr. Lifreich; the Schick Test for diphtheria; vitamins, discovered by Dr. Funk; streptomycin, discovered by Dr. Woronan; the polio pill, by Dr. Sabin; the Polio Vaccine, by Dr. Jonas Salk.

"Go on boycott!

"Humanitarian consistency requires that my people offer all these gifts to all people of the world. Fanatic consistency requires that all bigots accept syphilis, diabetes, convulsions, malnutrition, polio and tuberculosis as a matter of principle.

"You want to be mad at us? Be mad at us! But I'm telling you, you ain't gonna feel so good."

Letter from Jerusalem

Here we are in Israel, and my heart is so full I find it difficult to organize my thoughts. It's the little things that give the current situation away: soldiers forbidden to hitchhike; not just a guard at the post office, but a metal detector machine and a soldier to pick through your bag after it has been scanned; closed shops in tourist areas; empty tourist offices, closing out sales, Zion Square full of armed guards.

Irony, however, still abounds.

It starts with the Knesset, infamous for its raucous debates, which sits on the "Hill of Tranquility." Across town, the United Nations headquarters is built on the "Hill of Evil Counsel."

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

We feel like ghosts in Jerusalem, haunting once-crowded attractions and finding our favourite tours non-operational. Yet life goes on, with its murky and contradictory realities. The main thing is to expect complexity, a virtue the western media (think CNN) have given up in return for the simple, and therefore false, image of Israel. But some few signs of hope for better times still flourish in the most unexpected places.

An example? Half a decade ago, two students in education from Machon Mandel approached a small yishuv on the border of Upper and Lower Galilee with an intriguing proposal – educating Jewish and Arab children in the same school. Kids would study both Hebrew and Arabic and learn all subjects together, except for religion. Teachers would come from both communities, and the school would have an Arab and a Jewish principal sharing the post.

Galil, the name chosen for the school, has been running for four years, drawing students from Jewish settlements inside pre-1967 borders and surrounding Arab villages. Contact between parents and teachers, and Jewish and Arab students, has been regular, though not without difficulties.

The participating Jewish settlements that snake along the high ridges of the Galilee were planted there by Ariel Sharon, giving Jews a commanding position over Arab villages lying further down the hillsides. Ironically, Russian immigrants who were supposed to live in the new Jewish areas preferred city life, so it was mainly idealistic young couples who came to live in the Spartan surroundings.

Each encounter between Jews and Arabs comes with a heavy past, blocked by a dismal present, shrouded in a misty future. Grand schemes for weighty negotiations between states will have their part to play.

But in the meantime, while both sides contemplate their lines in the sand, simple ideas such as the Galil school make sense.

(I should add that for many years there has been a summer camp for Jewish and Arab children in the same area. An Arab family attended the bar mitzvah we celebrated on Shabbat at Shoreshim, one of the settlements whose children attend the Galil school.)

Later in our trip, irony intrudes again. Two Arab women are arrested on suspicion of recruiting female suicide bombers. The irony?

They come from an Arab village that has just negotiated space where the Galil school will have its permanent site.

In nearby Haifa, an Arab-owned restaurant, the site of a suicide bombing that killed 16 people (Jews and Arabs), reopens the same day the women are charged, with Jewish and Arab patrons returning in droves.

In this letter that abounds with irony and ambiguity, I must add our trip home on the bus today. We pass a demonstration proclaiming "Withdraw from the territories, for the sake of Israel." Tomorrow we will have coffee with settlers determined to stay in those territories. And in tonight's news, we learn that four Jews charged with planning a terrorist attack against an Arab girls' school were arraigned in a Jerusalem court.

We have also visited with a family living in a mixed – religious and secular – neighbourhood. Their son will begin hesder in another year, then the army, a common choice for modern religious youth. Their balcony overlooks the road where roadside shootings have left several Israelis dead. Where years ago they would have supported Oslo, today they contemplate voting Likud in the next election.

What to make of all this? Unlike the western media, we find no way to quickly summarize the reality that is life in Israel today. It is thick with hope and history.

And for that future in the mist? Who can tell?

Common scents Jewish memories

As a lactose intolerant person, Shavuot isn't exactly a holiday whose menus appeal to me. Between the cheese pies, cheese blintzes and cheese kugels, I am painfully more aware of the holiday than my non-lactose intolerant co-religionists. As much as I wish that the overwhelming, warm sensation I feel at the very depth of my being on Shavuot were the divine presence... it's not.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

And just over seven weeks ago, we celebrated Pesach, the most food-focused of all holidays. A friend wondered how there was no time to let the bread rise as B'nai Yisrael left Egypt, but there was time to crack a dozen eggs to make a cake, and time to catch, grind and spice 30 pounds of pike. In my family, Pesach is more Noah than Moses as we tend to consume two of every species.

With this Shavuot that just ended, I think I'm finally starting to get the connection between Jews, the Jewish calendar and food. I'm not talking about kashrut, necessarily, but about the eating habits connected to Jewish ritual and Jewish being. And the power of it all.

Since becoming a parent three years ago and again one year ago, I've become increasingly aware of food in general. As far as my children's nutrition is concerned, food is a frequent topic in our home.

"Cari, please eat all five of your cucumber slices. If you eat all five, you can have a cookie for dessert. OK, four, but no cookie. Fine, eat three and you can have half a cookie..."

By the end of the discussion, I've found that I've agreed to let my three-year-old daughter eat half a slice of cucumber, but only after she finished her five cookies. If dessert was a topic negotiated at the United Nations, my daughter would be on the Security Council.

Just before the weekend, our pediatrician informed us by voice mail that a blood test showed our one-year-old son Noah was somewhat low in iron. The solution, he said, was to feed our boy a bit more red meat than we normally do. Well, needless to say, we have since stuffed our boy with beef in complete defiance of Shavuot tradition, not to mention the Canada Food Guide. One phone call from the doctor, and the boy is on Atkins.

The point is that as our consciousness in our household about food has risen, so has the Jewish connection. Our three-year-old daughter knows that Friday night is grape juice, challah and chicken. Pesach, of course, is matzah. On Rosh Hashanah, she gleefully dips apples in honey. On Chanukah, it takes a hose and a pail to clean her up after the sufganiot. Our son is also starting to partake of Shabbat and holiday fare, although most of it ends up on the floor or in his hair. As they get older, they'll learn that the tastes and smells are tangible symbols of something more important.

What I'm finally starting to realize is that the foods we eat on certain holidays – those that are mandated and those that are just customary – carry a great deal of significance. I'm starting to believe that the scent, flavour and texture of challah will always remind our kids of Shabbat dinner at home. The "*shkaydim*" they put into their chicken soup at Zaida and Baba's house will also kindle Shabbat memories. The scent of Baba's meatballs and 73 types of kugel will always evoke memories of Rosh Hashanah. And Rosh Hashanah will always evoke memories of the food.

And that seems to be the key. Creating Jewish realities for our children will create Jewish memories. They can't yet intellectualize about Shabbat, or challenge their parents' level of observance or meditate. But eating challah is an activity they can understand. It touches the senses.

When they're older, perhaps it will touch the soul.

The Kirshner File

Historian of the Holocaust reviews the issues

Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University is doubtless one of the great Holocaust scholars of our time, having studied every facet of this seminal, unprecedented tragedy.

Now, in *Rethinking the Holocaust* (Yale University Press), he applies his erudition to a variety of themes he and other researchers have studied for years.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

In a series of bracing essays, he brings fresh insights to basic issues ranging from Nazi racial anti-Semitism to the connection between the Holocaust and the founding of the state of Israel.

Being a meticulous scholar, Bauer defines his terms before setting off on his intellectual journey. Genocide, he observes, is "the planned attempt to destroy a national, ethnic or racial group." The Holocaust is a "radicalization" of genocide, in which one of these groups is specifically targeted and physically annihilated down to the last person.

The diabolical Nazi scheme to murder European Jews – the Holocaust – was genocidal in conception and scope. But was it deliberately plotted or a function of fortuitous circumstances? Historians from the "intentionalist" school believe that Adolf Hitler, from his earliest days as a demagogue and pamphleteer, intended to wipe out Jews. "Functionalists," however, contend that Hitler exploited certain events – the outbreak of war and the German occupation of parts of the Soviet Union – to unleash his murderous crusade.

Subscribing to neither school, Bauer acknowledges that both approaches have, nevertheless, been useful for the purposes of historical investigation.

The majority of Nazi party members, he writes, were not quite certain about the centrality of anti-Semitism to their ideology. Quoting sociologist Peter Merkel, Bauer suggests that a high proportion of Nazis were not extreme anti-Semites. Although they sought to remove Jews from the German economy and Germany's culture and government administration, they were not necessarily thinking of resolving the "problem" in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

Bauer argues that the Nazi party elite, consisting of diehards like Joseph Goebbels, Reinhard Heydrich, Heinrich Himmler, Julius Streicher and Alfred Rosenberg, developed the heinous idea of the Holocaust. Hitler was the "radicalizing factor," the essential decision-maker who issued the momentous order for the Final Solution.

Germans who cast their votes for the Nazis knew, of course, that they were voting for a party riddled with anti-Semitic notions. But anti-Semitism was not foremost in their minds, Bauer holds. Nor did the Nazis consider anti-Semitism their first priority. Topics like mass unemployment and the national trauma caused by the 1919 Treaty of Versailles superseded anti-Semitism.

"No one thought in terms of an Auschwitz: not the Nazis, not the general German population, and not the Jews," he notes.

Bauer accuses Germany's intellectual elites of preparing the ground for the Nazis. Without them, neither war nor the Holocaust would have ensued. "Once in power, the Nazis quickly gained the overwhelming support of the people."

Demolishing the myth that the educated classes opposed Hitler, Bauer reminds us that two of the four Einsatzgruppen – the mobile killing squads – were commanded by Germans with PhDs – Walther Stahlecker and Otto Rasch – while a third was led by an economist and lawyer, Otto Ohlendorf.

And lest we forget, some of the concentration camp commandants held university degrees, while doctors, biologists, chemists and engineers played an integral role in implementing the Holocaust.

"The same must be said about the scientists, philosophers, historians and theologians... who supplied the rationalizations for the murder machine..."

Taking exception to the view propounded by many of his colleagues, Bauer maintains that racial anti-Semitic ideology, buttressed by traditional Christian anti-Semitism, were the main incubating factors of the Holocaust.

He elaborates: "The basic motivation was purely ideological, rooted in an illusionary world of Nazi imagination, where an international Jewish conspiracy to control the world was opposed to a parallel Aryan quest. No genocide to date has been based so completely on myths, on hallucinations, on abstract, non-pragmatic ideology – which was then executed by very rational, pragmatic means."

Contending that the Holocaust was unique in its global reach, Bauer says it was never limited geographically. The persecution of Jews started in Germany and then, like a cancer, spread to the rest of Europe. The Holocaust, too, was unique in its intended totality. "The Nazis were looking for Jews, for all Jews."

Bauer is ambivalent about Daniel Goldhagen's *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, which caused an international furor in the mid-1990s. He agrees with the emphasis Goldhagen places on anti-Semitic ideology. But Bauer faults him for ignoring the social and economic ills that afflicted German society after World War I.

Furthermore, Bauer takes him to task for confusing exterminationist anti-Semitism with the kind of anti-Semitism that promoted the disappearance of Jews through assimilation and conversion. Besides, he says in a claim that should be subjected to scrutiny, most German anti-Semites "did not wish to abolish formal Jewish emancipation."

The real question to be answered, he observes, is why, after 1941, the vast majority of Germans became " a reservoir of willing murderers of Jews?"

Bauer comes down harshly on the Judenrat, the Jewish councils whose assistance, albeit coerced, was of invaluable help to the Nazis. Relying, in part, on historian Raul Hilberg's judgment, he concludes that the Judenrat's policy – a mixture of evasion, bribery and workshops and factories working on the Nazis' behalf – was a resounding failure.

Bauer debunks the theory, popular in the immediate aftermath of the war, that there was not much of a Jewish resistance movement.

Throughout Eastern Europe, from the forests of Poland to the Ukraine, upwards of 30,000 Jews fought the Germans, but with inadequate weapons. Nearly all the partisans were killed in action.

Armed rebellions broke out in a succession of ghettos, from Warsaw and Cracow to Bedzin and Czestochowa. But, as Bauer points out, the Jewish population at large did not side with the rebels. In passing, he also takes note of the rebellions that erupted in Sobibor and Treblinka.

Debate has raged as to whether the Yishuv – the Jews in Palestine – was sufficiently active in assisting beleaguered Jewish communities in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Bauer stakes out a clear position. New scholarship, he notes, shows that the Jewish Agency, led by David Ben-Gurion, was very much engaged in rescue attempts. Practically all these failed. Nonetheless, slightly more than 50,000 Jews managed to reach Palestine, mostly from Hungary, the Balkans and the Soviet Union.

Could the Allies have helped? Prior to November 1943, they could not bomb the death camps in Poland, since they lacked airfields close enough. But after that date they could have acted with resolve. That they did not speaks volumes.

Finkelstein screed

Norman Finkelstein's latest screed, *The Holocaust Industry* (Verso), argues that Israel and the organized American Jewish community exploit the Holocaust to justify Israel's "criminal policies" and to gain U.S. support for them.

Finkelstein, who teaches political science at DePaul University in Chicago, previously focused his attention on the Arab-Israeli conflict, producing three slanted books on the subject. Now, in *The Holocaust Industry*, Finkelstein – the son of Warsaw ghetto survivors – uses the Holocaust to bitterly denounce Israel.

Like any other country, Israel should not be immune from criticism. Its policies, particularly with respect to the Palestinians, are not always wise and far-sighted. But in this thin volume, Finkelstein veers way beyond the boundaries of fair comment.

He argues that the Six Day War revived memories of Jewish vulnerability and prompted the United States to form a strategic alliance with Israel. True. But then he goes off on a tangent, claiming that Israel, in league with American Jewish leaders, exploited the Holocaust for their own cynical ends.

Finkelstein makes several other points that do not hold up under scrutiny. "The claims of Holocaust uniqueness are intellectually barren and morally discredible," he writes in an unsubstantiated blast. Finkelstein also claims that many Jewish survivors "fabricated" their past so as to collect reparation payments from Germany. This verges on the libellous. Then he segues into a rant comparing the "Holocaust industry" to "an outright extortion racket."

Finkelstein is entitled to his opinions. But his views, besides being reprehensible and baseless, are gleefully lapped up by Holocaust deniers.

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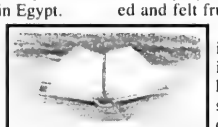
Sometimes we just want to complain

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS

At the end of this week's parshah (Numbers 11:4), the Torah describes how a group of the Jewish people came complaining to Moses. They wanted meat like they had back in Egypt.



Rabbinic Reflections

"Remember the good life back in Egypt with the cucumbers and melons that we ate for free?" they asked. "Well, we want the good life, we want meat."

The Jewish people complain a lot in the Torah. Sometimes Moses responds calmly, sometimes angrily. Sometimes he responds by calling to HaShem. Some of these complaints are well founded and reasonable – for example, when the people complain that they want water and ask for food while wandering in the desert. When the people complain to Moses after he goes to Pharoah the first time, and, instead of letting the Jewish people go, he makes their work even harder – that, too, is an understandable complaint.

However, in this complaint about the meat, Moshe did not fall on his face in prayer – he became exasperated and felt frustrated.

Rav Yaakov Kaminetsky points out an interesting aspect of human nature in this story. The people in the desert were fed manna from heaven every day. The Torah describes the look of the manna and says that there was sufficient for each person every day. What did the manna taste like? The Midrash comments that the manna could taste like whatever you wanted it to. If you wanted it to taste like cheese, it would taste like cheese. If you wanted it to taste like bread, it would taste like bread. If you wanted it to taste like meat, it would taste like meat.

So if it could taste like meat, why were they complaining that they wanted meat? The point of this Midrash is to comment on human nature. We could make it taste like meat, but we would rather complain. When you have everything you need, you complain. When you don't have everything you need, you complain. Some people just like to complain – whether for a good reason or not.

This was what Moses found frustrating: "I can respond to complaints that are reasonable. I can help people who want help. But when the complaints are not real and are simply complaints, that is harder to respond to."

We must always be careful to express our dissatisfaction in a reasonable way, to know when to complain, to know what to complain about, to know how to complain – and to recognize in ourselves when we are merely entertaining ourselves by kvetching.

Rabbi Tradburks is the spiritual leader at Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

Thank you, parliamentarians

Guest Voice

By NORM GODFREY

The two-day visit of 27 Canadian federal legislators, members of Parliament and senators to Israel on a Canada-Israel-Committee-sponsored trip in late April is deserving of our community's acknowledgement and thanks.

At a time when many Canadian Jews have been wondering about our country's Mideast policies, and at a time when Israel itself is feeling isolated, the largest delegation of parliamentarians to ever travel from Canada chose to travel to Israel.

I was privileged to have the opportunity of joining this group on their brief visit.

The partisan divides that are so apparent here in Canada disappeared as the group engaged in constant meetings and briefings that reflected the diversity of opinion in Israel. They had the opportunity to meet not only with Israelis, but also with Palestinian representatives.

I sat and watched as they took notes, asked questions, challenged speakers and made notes of items they wanted to pursue further.

As Foreign Minister Shimon Peres walked into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefing room, I could see that he was taken aback by the size of the delegation. He noted that the presence of so many Canadian parliamentarians was a message of friendship. He paid tribute to Canada's recent role at the United Nations Human Rights Commission meetings in Geneva and thanked each parliamentarian for travelling to Israel at a time when so few are visiting. What was to be a brief 30-minute meeting went an hour longer than scheduled.

Most of the people the parliamentarians met with commented on the size of the delegation. The presence of so many in Israel on one trip was seen as a statement.

While our parliamentarians learned first-hand about the challenges, realities and issues facing Israelis, I had the chance to learn more about our parliamentarians.

What was significant about this group was that most do not have many Jewish constituents. Indeed, some likely do not have any.

As a Canadian, I was proud to be in their company. They spent a total of 24 hours on airplanes to be in Israel for just two days and took every moment of their time there seriously. These individuals, representing four of the five parties in the House of Commons (there were no Conservative MPs or senators), did not go out of political considerations. They went out of an interest and responsibility to educate themselves.

I had a clear impression that as a result of their time in Israel, their understanding of the country expanded, their concern for the challenges facing Israelis deepened, and they valued our community more for having provided them with this opportunity.

The respect and access accorded this Canadian delegation spoke clearly to the importance that Israel places on its relationship with Canada. Now that they have returned, the challenge falls to us to show these legislators the respect and importance that we place in our relationship with each of them. As capable as we are of corresponding when we are upset, we must now demonstrate the same ability to say thank you – thank you for going, thank you for engaging in the issues.

As a Jew, I was proud that Israel let this group of parliamentarians know how important their visit was. As a citizen of Canada, I was proud to be represented by them.

A list of contact information for the parliamentarians who travelled to Israel can be found at: cicweb.ca.

Norm Godfrey is a board member of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Dry Bones

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT ISRAELIS AND JEWS AROUND THE PLANET...
NOW STAND TOGETHER WITH A SOLIDARITY UNSEEN IN RECENT YEARS.
AND THE BAD NEWS?
THE REST OF THE WORLD IS ON THE OTHER SIDE!
Kirschen

Jewish Life

Israeli victims of terror

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Statistics about Israeli victims of terror are reported with tragic regularity. But there are other elements we don't hear nearly as much about: details about the remarkable lives that have been cut short, how families are trying to cope with their grief and what their communities are doing to help. Today, the stories behind the statistics and background about the Israeli organizations that help victims of terror.

Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs chronicles the lives and deaths of all the victims of terrorism since September 2000 **[http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/go.asp?MFAH0iky0]**. As of this writing, the list has 493 names. One of those names is Rina Didovsky.

On Dec. 8, 2000, Didovsky, 39, was a passenger in a van en route to Kiryat Arba when a car full of gunmen sprayed the van with bullets. The mother of six died in the attack. According to the ministry Web site, "Didovsky's husband, Haim, runs a settler news agency called *Hakol Mehashetach* (voice from the field) and he was the first to inform journalists of the incident. Only later did he discover he had reported the death of his wife. Friday afternoon, thousands lined the Jerusalem streets through which Didovsky's funeral procession passed. She was buried in Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot cemetery" **[http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/go.asp?MFAH0ikv0]**.

On June 1 of last year, 21 people were killed near the Tel Aviv Dolphinarium. The DolfinDisko Web site has photos and biographies of the victims, most of them teenage immigrants from Russia, along with a poem in their memory **[http://www.dolfindisko.com]**.

The Terror Victims Association plays a critical role. According to its Web site, "Unlike the military, where families of injured or killed soldiers are visited on a regular basis by the unit's social workers to keep a connection between the unit and the families, there is no real framework set up by the government to deal with the families of terror victims." A network of volunteers, including social workers, helps families of the victims cope with their tragedies. The association also lobbies the Israeli government and has launched legal battles against the perpetrators of terror **[http://www.terrorvictims.com/]**. Similarly, an American organization called Stop Terror has launched several cases on behalf of U.S. citizens who were killed or injured while in Israel. You can read court documents from three of their cases on their Web site **[http://www.stopterror.org/lawsuits.html]**.

Natal, the Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War, is a non-profit organization that provides trauma therapy and counselling. The centre explains that victims of terror have different needs from victims of road accidents, domestic violence or rape. Natal works with anyone suffering from emotional stress as a result of the Israeli-Arab conflict **[http://www.natal.org.il/eng/site_map.html]**. If you have the Hebrew font installed on your computer, visit Natal's discussion forum which contains hundreds of entries where victims of terror talk candidly about their pain, loss, futility and anger. After you spend a bit of time at this Web site, you begin to feel the sense of community and support the organization fosters **[http://forums.nana.co.il/forum.asp?id=1988]**.

Bituach Leumi, the National Insurance Institute of Israel, has just created a site that lists civilian victims of terror dating back to the establishment of the State of Israel. This Hebrew-only Web site allows you to search its database by decade, location of attack and hometown of victim **[http://www.galed.co.il/leumi/search.asp]**. Friends and relatives are invited to submit reminiscences and other biographical information to be added to the historical record **[http://www.galed.co.il/leumi/connect.html]**. Also on the site is a photograph of the memorial to civilian victims of terror at Mount Herzl cemetery in Jerusalem.

The town of Efrat has lost three of its residents to terror. Efrat's Rabbi Shlomo Riskin writes that survivors have a responsibility to those who have died. "We must live our lives for the sake of ideals that are beyond those of each individual – like the nation of Israel, the Torah of Israel, and the land of Israel – in order to give meaning to our lives and to bear witness that Esther, Baruch and Sarah did not die in vain since they did not live in vain" **[http://www.vulcana.com/memorial/english.html]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Another valuable collection

Books
Bernard Baskin

***Never Far Away: the Auschwitz Chronicles of Anna Heilman*, University of Calgary Press, $24.95.**

Will they never come to an end? I mean the books about the Nazi terror and oppression. Aren't we surfeited? Haven't we been told over and over again – often in shocking and horrifying detail – that the Holocaust was the triumph of death over life, ugliness over beauty, hate over love, evil over goodness?

Perhaps books continue to be written to affirm those values that even the most diabolical cruelty could not expunge, to indicate what it meant to remain human despite all the forces that strove to coerce despairing victims into grotesque forms and shapes of inhumaneness.

Anna Heilman, now living in Ontario with her family, was born into the comfort and security of a largely assimilated family in prewar Poland. Her life as a child was happy and carefree. Looking back on those years, a half-century or so ago, before her family was engulfed by the horror of the Holocaust, she remembers the delights of home and friends and school.

Soon after war broke out in September 1939, her father came home one day a changed man. His hair had turned all white. "His face was composed but his eyes were tortured, full of tears that he had to wipe away with his handkerchief. In his hand he had a piece of paper, a receipt from our factory. The Germans had confiscated his factory. On that day, the nightmare began."

The author and her sister, whom she loved dearly, were eventually sent to Auschwitz, where they escaped certain death by being chosen to work as slave labourers in the camp's munitions factory. Furtively, the two sisters, together with a small number of other women, began to smuggle small amounts of gunpowder from the factory to the men of the Sonderkommando.

"One day in October 1944, there was an awful commotion. The Sonderkommando revolted. They succeeded in blowing up one of the crematoria before the SS killed all of them on the spot. We were at work in the factory when the revolt occurred. We were dumbfounded. There had been no planned date for the uprising. No password had been given. What had happened?

"Slowly, bits and pieces of information reached us. It seemed that there had been an informer among the Sonderkommando who got wind of the preparations for the uprising and betrayed them to the SS."

After the failed uprising, Anna's sister and three other young women were publicly executed before the whole camp. These women were murdered, as were millions of others, but their acts of defiance and courage forced the Nazis to recognize them as resistance fighters.

The executions took place shortly before the camp was evacuated, just ahead of the advancing Red Army. Anna Heilman possessed the amazing strength, courage and will to complete the death march to Neustadt-Glewe. On May 2, 1945, she successfully traversed the valley of death when the prisoners were liberated by the Russians.

Heilman's diaries are not simply a serious documentation of life in Auschwitz, or an exploration of the human heart, or a struggle to deal with large moral questions. They are an attempt to free herself from the ghost of murdered inmates, especially her sister, and from "the experience of radical evil."

These many-sided recollections are filled with courage, nostalgia, remorse and the spirit of renewal. They provide another valuable addition to the intricate mosaic of the Holocaust experience.

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Bonds honours Marvelle Koffler for her leadership

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Marvelle Koffler was recently honoured with State of Israel Bonds' 2002 Golda Meir Leadership Award.

The award is presented by Bonds to individuals who have distinguished themselves in their chosen field and in their support of Israel.

Last year's recipient was journalist and author Barbara Amiel Black.

Koffler, who received the Order of Ontario in 1999, is founder of the International Committee of Women for Science of the Weizmann Institute, and the co-founder, with her husband Murray, of the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

She has participated on a number of boards, including those of the Tel Aviv Museum, the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and Mount Sinai Hospital's board of governors. She has also been active with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Opera Company.

Marvelle Koffler

After she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, Koffler founded the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, a comprehensive care centre located at Mount Sinai Hospital.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Koffler, who has five children and 16 grandchildren, credited her parents, Eva and Irving Seligman, with giving her a sense of community.

"We were always encouraged to take part in tag days. That is when my commitment to the community began.

"It's important to me to help out and get going. I try to take part quietly in the Jewish community and [the community at large]."

It is up to community volunteers to lead by example, she said, so that "their children, by osmosis, will have the desire to follow."

It is also important to her, she says, to support Israel by visiting as often as possible. "Israel has always given the Jewish people their backbone and has allowed them to stand tall [as Jews.] We have to be supportive emotionally, physically and financially."

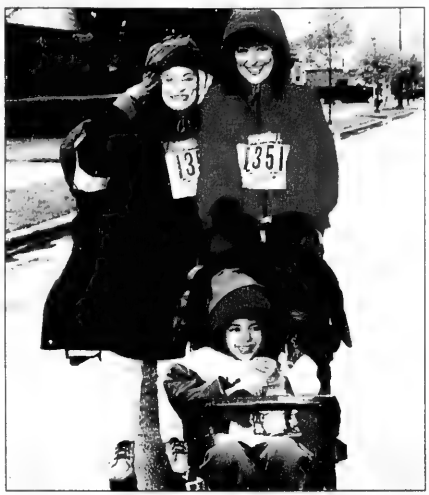
She was last in Israel in November, she said, and she saw that Israelis' spirits were high. "They are not in a state of despair. Although they remain very cautious, their lives are continuing.

"Families are living fairly normal lives because parents do not want to instill fear in their children. Kids play on their bikes, gather with their friends and go to school on buses. One of the only times parents may say 'no' is if their children want to go to a party in a public place."

At the Golda Meir Luncheon, Amiel Black, who was unable to attend, sent a message that said, "For me, [Marvelle] is a beacon of light. No matter how dark or ugly the times surrounding us, the Jewish tradition is to create warmth and ever more light. No one could exemplify that more than Marvelle...

"One is hard put to know how many hundreds of thousands of people have had some corner of their lives illuminated by Marvelle's work in Israel and Canada: the sciences, the arts and medicine have all felt her magic," said Amiel Black.

Renette Berman, chair of Bonds' women division, said Koffler is an "inspirational leader and is dedicated to Israel. She has helped us focus on the positive and the beautiful in Israel. That is what this award embodies."



BAYCREST CHALLENGE: Reva Lawry (left) braved the cold, rainy weather with her daughter Susan Ockrant and four-year-old granddaughter Nira at the 22nd annual Baycrest Challenge on Mother's Day. They were among an estimated 1,000 participants who came out to run or walk to raise more than $125,000 for Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The Rabbinical Assembly of Ontario
is honoured to have

Rabbi Dr. David Feldman
in Toronto as a Scholar in Residence
for the week of May 31–June 9, 2002

Rabbi Dr. Feldman is Dean of the Jewish Institute of Bioethics, is the author of "Birth Control in Jewish Law: Marital Relations, Contraception and Abortion, as set forth in the classic texts of Jewish Law," holds degrees from Yeshiva University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, he is now rabbi emeritus of the Jewish Center of Teaneck, New Jersey. He recently was granted "Rabbi of The Year Award" by the New York Board of Rabbis. Dr. Feldman has lectured widely before synagogue, university, and medical groups.

Rabbi Feldman will be speaking on the Shabbat of May 31 - June 1 at

Beth Tzedec Congregation 1700 Bathurst Street, on May 31, 6:30 p.m. - Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by dinner (reservations required by May 28) speaking on

"Jewish Issues Surrounding the Beginning of Life" (in vitro fertilization and surrogacy. Partial-birth abortion. Genes, genetic engineering and genetic therapy. Neo-natal problems, wrongful birth, artificial insemination and adoption)

June 1 at Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave West 8:45 a.m. - Shabbat Morning Sermon - "Issues Surrounding Birth - Artificial Insemination and Adoption"

Following services, Shabbat Lunch, "Marriage and Sexual Relations" - Reservations Required

8:00 p.m. at Beth Tzedec, presentation (prior to Minha service) **Sat. June 1**

"Jewish Issues Surrounding the End of Life" (allocation of scarce resources. Brain death and cardiac death. Autopsies and DNA identification. Physician assisted suicide. Treatment of the dying.)

Monday, June 3, 8:00 p.m. at Beth Tikvah 3080 Bayview Avenue on "Cloning and Jewish Law."

Thursday, June 6, 8:00 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue 2 Simonston Blvd. Thornhill

"Sexuality and Sexism: The Role of Women and Current Idelogical Issues"

Shabbat June 8-9 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, 100 Elder Street, Downsview and Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am 55 Yeomans Road

"Medicine and Morality Today: Where Our Traditon Stands"

Friday, June 7 at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
6:15 p.m. - Minhah, Kabbalat Shabbat, Maariv, Family Shabbat Dinner, Public Lecture by Rabbi Feldman

Saturday, June 8 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda
8:45 a.m. - Shabbat Morning Services Rabbi Feldman will deliver the sermon, following Kiddush, Study luncheon with Rabbi Feldman. Adults $12/Children 10 & Under $9

Saturday, June 8 at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
7:30 p.m. - Study Session with Rabbi Feldman, Minhah, Seudah Shleshit, Maariv

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Dana Black knows that good health is a gift.

At age 51, the active wife and mother of two was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

She left the job she loved because of her condition — and as a result lost a big part of her identity and self-esteem. To make matters worse, all of the recreational activities she enjoyed were now painfully difficult.

Dana was facing a life-long struggle with an illness that causes painful inflammation of the joints. She found herself retreating from the world and sliding into a deep depression.

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She's learned to manage her arthritis, pace herself and find new interests.

Dana now volunteers with the *Pace Program* and is an inspiration to others living with chronic illness.

"It goes both ways. As much as I help others, they help me too."

Dana keeps fit with acquatic excercise at the Baycrest Centre pool. With her (at left) is physiotherapist Jennifer Sansalone.

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School to be monitored after anti-Israel drawings found

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

The Toronto District School Board will be monitoring an Arabic language school that rents classrooms from a Scarborough high school after anti-Israel drawings were displayed there.

TDSB media relations spokesperson Jennifer McIntyre said an Arabic language and heritage group has been renting space in Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute for the past four years and meets regularly on Saturdays and during the summer.

According to the group, a one-day activity that included colouring in the pre-printed, connect-the-dot drawings was recommended by a psychologist to the Arabic language school to help its students deal with the current crisis in the Middle East, McIntyre said.

The Arabic language school claimed the pictures, which depicted Israeli airplanes dropping bombs on buildings, were a one-time occurrence and has apologized for the incident.

McIntyre would not reveal the name of the school or principal, citing privacy concerns, but a source later told *The CJN* the school is run by the Al-Huda Lebanese Muslim Society.

However, she did say that all groups applying for a TDSB permit must describe the purpose of their request. A permit can be denied if the group is known to promote violence or any other action that is considered inappropriate.

It is not TDSB policy to review or pre-approve curriculum, McIntyre said.

The board would only become involved if something came to its attention and would then decide whether to monitor the situation or cancel the permit.

While McIntyre said the drawings are inconsistent with the TDSB's policies on diversity, she did not feel there was a need to cancel the permit.

At this time, the board has decided to monitor the situation, she said.

Frank Bialystok, chair of the community relations committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said that while these are positive steps, CJC is concerned that the permit holders will, on the strength of their apology, be permitted to conduct their business with no oversight mechanisms in place.

Bialystok added that "it is neither reasonable nor in the public interest for the permit holders to operate with the same freedom that they were given prior to this offence."

CREATIVE QUILT: Associated Hebrew Schools Grade 3 students at the Posluns campus in Toronto created a quilt for their unit on animals. Each child cut and sewed one square, and the finished result was sewn together to make a wall hanging. Shown, from left are: Esther Abecassis, Aimee Genah, Dustin Kopman and Elliot Wine.

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Toronto Jews take to the streets for Israel

A RECORD WALK: An estimated 25,000 people took part in the recent Walk With Israel, the largest such crowd in Toronto ever. Marchers trekked through part of the downtown core in a huge display of solidarity with the Jewish state, ending at the SkyDome for festivities.

[Ron Csillag & Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photos]

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Greater Toronto Area

Amal Schools seek to raise their profile in Canada

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Canadian Friends of Amal dates back to the 1920s, but the Israeli network of schools is not a household name here.

Itzchak Fuchs, the 53-year-old Tel Aviv-based director general of Amal Network of Colleges and High Schools for Technologies, Sciences and Arts, was in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg last month to raise Amal's profile. Vancouverites may remember him as the Jewish National Fund emissary to their city from 1995 to 1998.

One of the missions of Canadian Friends of Amal is to find families to "adopt" individual Amal schools and assist them on an ongoing basis, said Michael Meyer, the group's national executive director.

Amal serves about 60,000 students a year in 110 institutions. Many Israeli soldiers working in technical areas such as aircraft mechanics received their training from Amal.

Founded in 1928 by the Histadrut-General Federation of Labor of Israel to prepare youngsters for jobs such as technicians and carpenters, the school system has changed direction since that time, Fuchs said.

"We still have schools that prepare children for the army, but 32 of our 55 high schools are comprehensive schools."

Amal operates within Israel's Green Line, and – for the most part – outside of major cities. Many are in "places you wouldn't believe anyone would want a school," often in out-of-the-way, low-income areas.

One exception is Amal's Lady Davis High School in Tel Aviv, adjacent to the organization's headquarters. The school was recently named one of the best six high schools in Israel. Formerly a technical school, it was upgraded to a comprehensive high school and improved to reflect local economic improvements and the changing needs of area residents, said Meyer.

In addition to the regular technical and comprehensive high schools, there is also a technical high school in Kfar Saba that serves 70 deaf students integrated with their hearing counterparts, and there are seven Amal high schools in Bedouin cities, with Israeli and Bedouin teachers working together. "They used to be in tents. Now they are regular schools, good schools," Fuchs said.

Amal also has about two dozen post-secondary vocational schools, as well as a distance education program.

None of the affiliates have been affected by the intifadah, to the best of Fuchs' knowledge. The retired major-general, who was appointed in September, visits four schools a week.

His recent career change was not as big a jump as it might seem, he said. Before retiring from the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), he dealt with the education of soldiers – often immigrants – whose spoken or written Hebrew needed upgrading. It's vital, he explained, that soldiers' language skills are good enough so they can understand their commanders.

Amal, like other Israeli schools, is funded by the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Education and, like other schools, has been hit by government funding cuts. Ninety per cent of Amal's funding is used to pay teachers' salaries, which are mandated by the government, Fuchs said.

In some cases, however, partnerships with local municipalities or with the IDF generate extra funding for items like computers.

Because Amal serves a large proportion of underprivileged children, its schools offer hot meals, after-school tutoring and the use of computers that students might not have access to at home. "We are the last chance for some kids."

One of Fuchs' goals is finding and bringing into the Amal system more of the thousands of Israeli school-age children who are not in school.

"This is a moral mission. From any perspective it's a good thing to do. Of course we'll benefit from it, but the wider picture is that it's important not to leave anybody in the streets."

HELPING OUT THE IDF: Associated Hebrew Schools Middle School students packed dozens of boxes filled with personal care items for soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces. Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and other such items were placed in plastic bags along with hand-written notes from the students. The boxes will accompany Canada-Israel committee groups leaving for Israel in the coming weeks. Seen from left to right are: Carina Bouganim, Michael Sheps, Melanie Ross, Jordan Novack and Ben Laufer.

Mussar tradition teaches inner qualities: author

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After years of studying Hinduism and Buddhism, Alan Morinis turned to Mussar, a little-known movement in Judaism, for comfort during a mid-life crisis.

Morinis, author of *Climbing Jacob's Ladder: One Man's Journey to Rediscover a Jewish Spiritual Tradition*, had studied Hindu pilgrimage for his doctoral dissertation at Oxford University, which he attended on a Rhodes Scholarship.

He "became lost," after a film production company that he ran for 15 years collapsed, he said in a telephone interview from New York where he was promoting his book.

"I had lost sight of my priorities, of right and wrong. I lost my ethical compassion and did things I should not have done. I was distressed at what I saw in myself, of what I had become little by little."

Morinis, who now lives in Vancouver with his wife and two daughters, grew up in Toronto in a secular Jewish family, he said.

"My perfunctory bar mitzvah was an alienating experience, and at our wedding, the rabbi did not perform the service we had written and had worked out with him.

"I began moving away from Judaism and became interested in eastern religions."

For his doctoral dissertation, he said, he spent months travelling to holy places in India.

"I never took a Hindu name or shaved my head, however. I tasted Hinduism, but never fully became part of it. Something stopped me. I knew I was Jewish, and no matter how much I learned about Hinduism, I couldn't completely go there."

His successful film production company – he won a Toronto film festival award for the *Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick* – collapsed in 1997, said Morinis, "and I knew I needed to rebuild the inner core of my life."

"I went off on a search; Hinduism and Buddhism did not seem authentic enough for me, so I turned to Judaism."

It was while studying Jewish texts that he came upon the 1,000-year-old Mussar tradition.

"It was developed in the 10th century, and books were written about it until the 20th century, yet people were largely unaware of it," he said.

Mussar is a personal discipline that people use to develop inner qualities that need to be worked on, said Morinis. "They could, for instance, be too quick to anger or not be generous enough. They may be too impatient or too passive. These are qualities that keep a person from being an optimal human being."

The Mussar tradition, although not meant to be about self-help, he said, gives reasons why these characteristics exist, and provides deterrents for them.

"The Torah tells us to strive for high ideals and have the inner qualities that could be considered holy, but we look at ourselves and we ask 'How do I get there?' The truth may be that I'm not naturally very generous.

"Each person has places where it is a challenge to rise up and move in the direction of the Torah. Everyone has a piece of themselves that they just can't work out. We tend to repeat patterns that cause us and others grief. These patterns are not uplifting.

"The rabbis recognize this," he said, "and they worked out a body of teaching that shows people how to transform certain qualities of their inner life. This is what I needed for myself."

Morinis spent two years reading about the Mussar tradition until he began searching for a teacher. "Many Mussar teachers had died during the war. The movement was devastated by the Holocaust."

He finally contacted Rabbi Yechiel Perr, rosh yeshiva of the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway in Long Island, N.Y. "He agreed to see me, and when I travelled there, we spent six hours together. Although he was head of a yeshiva of 250 students, he had time to spend with a lost soul. To this day, I consult him."

Each chapter of his book is about a conversation with Rabbi Perr on different topics of Mussar, he said. "Nothing in the book is my creation; I relate what I learned. Mussar is a treasure room full of a tradition that has not been accessible.

"It is a tradition that faded because of the Holocaust. Part of our spiritual life requires us to take care of others, but after the Holocaust a whole new world needed to be created. People could not get to the Mussar agenda," he said.

KURTZ RETIRES: York University's centre for Jewish studies recently held a special evening in honour of Dr. Shoshana Kurtz on the occasion of her retirement after more than 20 years of service in York's Jewish Teacher Education Program. Kurtz (seventh from the right in the front row) is surrounded by some of the approximately 100 alumni who have graduated from the York program since its launch. Today, Kurtz's former students are teaching in Jewish day schools across North America. Some have taught young people who have, in turn, graduated from the York program. Kurtz's career in Jewish education spans more than 50 years during which she was a Hebrew teacher at Eitz Chaim Schools, assistant director of the Board of Jewish Education and an adjunct professor and course director in the York University program.

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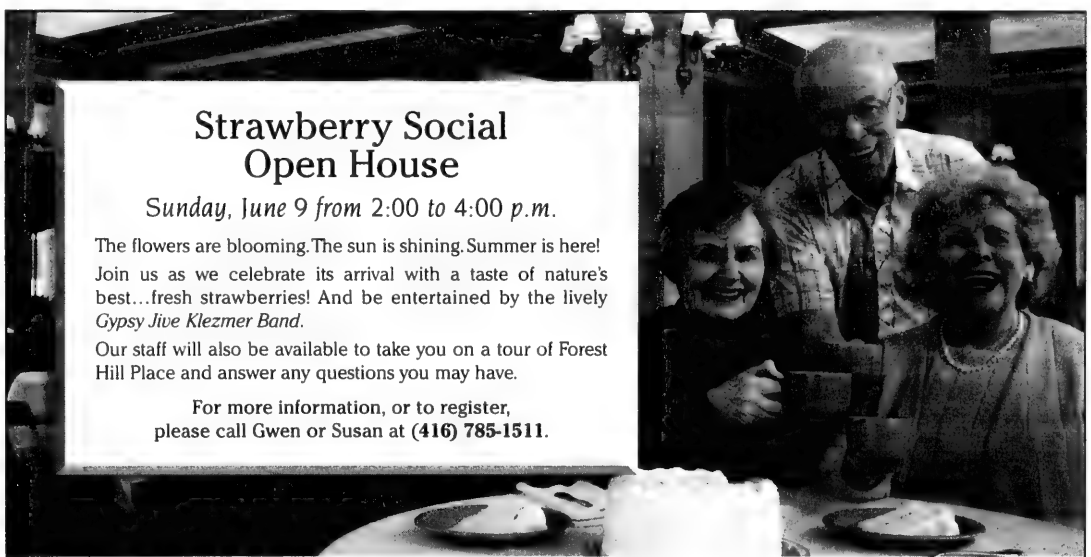
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 3, is deadline for June 13 issue and Monday, June 10, is deadline for June 20. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Saturday, June 1

JEWISH ISSUES

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents **Rabbi David Feldman**, dean of the Jewish Institute of Bioethics, speaking on Jewish Issues Surrounding the End of Life (allocations of scarce resources, brain death and cardiac death, autopsies and DNA identification, physician assisted suicide, treatment of the dying) 8 p.m. presentation (prior to Minchah service). 416-781-3511.

Sunday, June 2

ISRAEL DAY FESTIVAL

The 7th annual Israel Day festival takes place at Mel Lastman Square 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features entertainment, presentation of Jerusalem Awards, children's village, marketplace, kosher food (COR), live auction. Sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation, under the patronage of the Consulate General of Israel. 416-633-3988.

PRE-WAR BERLIN

A panel discussion. The Feldberg Collection: Jewish Patrons in Pre-War Berlin, co-sponsored by York University's Centre for Jewish Studies and Canadian Centre for German and European Studies. Chaired by **Prof. Carol Zemel**, with panellists **Shelley Hornstein** and **Jeff Peck** of York U., and Norman Kleeblatt, Jewish Museum, New York. 3-4 p.m., Harry Crowe Room, Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York U. The Feldberg Collection is at Hart House until June 30.

KIRYAT ARBA

Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, rosh yeshiva, Yeshivat Nir, Kiryat Arba, discusses The Situation in Kiryat Arba: Can the Community Survive? 7 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-886-3810.

OLD JEWISH TORONTO

The Downtown Jewish Learning Council of Miles S. Nadal JCC invites you to A Walk in Old Jewish Toronto, 10 a.m. Meet at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue in Kensington Market (10 St. Andrews St.) Bagel brunch follows at Miles S. Nadal JCC at noon. 416-924-6211.

JEWS BY CHOICE

Temple Kol Ami features a panel discussion moderated by **Daneal Charney** titled Jews By Choice. 8 p.m., Indigo Book Store, Yonge and Hwy 7. 905-709-2620.

MAYOR OF SHILO

The Mayor of Shilo, Israel, **Chaim Katz**, formerly of Toronto, is speaking at the home of **Rabbi Gary Zweig**, 7:30 p.m. Topic: The New Youth Centre in Shilo. RSVP 905-886-6305.

A HEALING SERVICE

Toronto Jewish Healing Project Healing Service, led by **Rabbi Ed Elkin** (First Narayever Synagogue) and music therapist **Mary Rykov**, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. Experience hope, comfort, faith and support in life's difficulties. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

GARAGE AND BAKE SALE

Lots of household bargains and delicious homemade desserts, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 102 and 108 Rodeo Dr. (off Atkinson), Thornhill. Organized by Keren Or Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO. Proceeds to projects in Israel.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Congregation Habonim invites you to hear **Miriam Schneid-Ofseyer** talk about Let Us Understand Marc Chagall, lecture and slide show. 10 a.m. at Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave.

Continued on page 23

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Eleanor Wachtel
Host of CBC's "Writers & Company" and "The Arts Today"

2002 AWARD WINNERS

FICTION - **Emma Richler** - *Sister Crazy* (Knopf Canada)
BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR - **William Weintraub** - *Getting Started* (McLlelland & Stewart)
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE - **Cary Fagen** - *The Market Wedding* (Tundra Books)
HOLOCAUST MEMOIR - **Rabbi Erwin Schild** - *The Very Narrow Bridge* (Adath Israel/Lester)
BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIPS - **Eric Lawee** - *Isaac Abarbanel's Stance Toward Tradition* (SUNY Press)
CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIP - **Morton Weinfeld** - *Like Everyone Else...But Different* (McLlelland & Stewart)
YIDDISH TRANSLATION - **Simcha Simchovich** - *The Song That Never Died* (Mosaic Press)
CANADIAN HISTORY - **Janine Stingel** - *Social Discredit* (McGill-Queen's University Press)
POETRY - **Joseph Sherman** - *American Standard* (Oberon Press)

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What's New

Continued from page 22

HONOURING FATHERS DAY

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood presents **Nina Shapilsky** and **Michael Ziskin** performing selections of musical favourites and Jewish music. Breakfast served. 9:15 a.m. 416-633-5500.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Discussion of *Walking in the Shade* by **Doris Lessing** at the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, at the Barbara Frum Library at 1:45 p.m. **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada-Toronto Section garage sale of new and used items, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

Tuesday, June 4

BOOK AWARDS NIGHT

CBC broadcaster **Eleanor Wachtel**, host of *Writers and Company*, is the guest reader at the 14th annual Jewish Book Awards Night, 7:30 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. She reads from **Emma Richler's** novel *Sister Crazy*, winner of the Beatrice & Martin Fischer Prize for fiction. Winners in 8 other categories also receive awards.

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 18, led by **Yaacov Israeli**.

Wednesday, June 5

JUDITH DAN MEMORIAL

The Judith Dan Memorial Lecture featuring **Tzipporah Heller**, preeminent Jewish educator with a broad knowledge of philosophy, Torah and Kabbalah. 8 p.m., Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W. Thornhill. Register 905-764-1818.

EATING DISORDERS

Eating Disorders and Disordered Eating: Prevention and Recognition is discussed by **Merryl Bear** of the National Eating Disorder Information Centre, at the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada-Toronto Section meeting, 7:30 p.m at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. RSVP 416-633-5100.

And What Else Is New

TORAH AND SCIENCE

At Queen's University, a lecture series, People and Ideas in Jewish History, offered by the Program in Jewish Studies, features Torah Encounters Science: Genesis and Big Bang Cosmology, with **Aron Rosenfeld** of Beth Israel Congregation, Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., Policy Studies Bldg., Room 202.

RUTH KELMAN MEMORIAL

The entire community is invited to a weekend of learning in commemoration of the third yahrzeit of Ruth Kelman.

Thursday, June 6, **Marc Shapiro** speaks at Beth Jacob Synagogue, 147 Overbrook Pl., at 8 p.m. on the topic Rabbi Jehiel Jacob Weinberg and the Challenge of Halachah and Modernity.

Saturday, June 8, Prof. Shapiro speaks after morning services and in the afternoon and evening at Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave.

For information, 416-633-5770.

JRCC TORAH STUDY

Jewish Russian Community Centre, 18 Rockford Rd. For information/registration, **Chana Weisberg**, dean of the Institute of Torah Study., 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

Monday, June 3: Rebecca: How a Woman Changed the Course of History for Our People with **Chana Weisberg**, author/lecturer, Mondays 8 p.m. and Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. Textual material provided. Sponsored by JRCC's Institute of Torah Study.

Sunday, June 8: The books of the great Jewish prophets predict a major apocalyptic battle between the Jews and Arabs in the end of days. **Rabbi Isser Weisberg** lectures on the War at the End of the Days, 8-9:30 p.m. Register.

L'DOR VA'DOR

Multi-generational learning service for all ages and background, singles and families in the Lerman Chapel at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 10 a.m. to noon, June 1 and 15. 416-633-3153.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

The Audey Stanleigh Leukemia Research Foundation golf tournament June 20 at Cherry Downs Golf course in Whitby. Also includes a Charity Casino, exciting prizes. Register. **Dikla Weitzner** 905-882-7776.

Canadian Council of Christians and Jews has once again been selected as the SF Group (Solursh Feldman and Partners) Charity of Choise for its annual Golf Tournament June 19 at Kleinberg Golf Club. Auction items, prizes, lunch, banquet dinner. 416-597-9693.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Toronto Heschel School is inaugurating the Doves and Cranes (Origami) for Peace Project at the Adath Israel Campus, for Grades 4 to 8 students on Thursday, May 30, 9:15-10:30 a.m. and for kindergarten to Grade 3. The goal of this project, which was initiated last November, was to gather the voices of the Heschel community in a prayer for peace.

TASTE OF KABBALAH

Mystical Moments at Minchah of Shabbat. Join **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** for a Taste of Kabbalah, 1 hour before afternoon services in the chapel June 1 and 15, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) May 30, free evening for stories; Sunday, June 2, Israeli Day Dance, 7:30 p.m.; June 6, bingo; June 13, political lecture by Chasida David; June 20, video movie; June 27, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama June 12, 26; Saturday dance, 7:30 p.m. June 8, 15, 29; Sunday dance with live band June 2, 23; Stage West Dinner Theatre June 13 to see *Joseph*; Casino Niagara June 20; Catskills July 22-28. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors' Cultural Club meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Canadian Politics: How Important Issues and Leaders Have Shaped Canadian Politics in the Postwar Period with **Prof. Hugh Innis**, Tuesdays 10-11:30 a.m., June 4, 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 9.

Low Vision Interest Group, Tuesday, June 4, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Eva Chambers** of the CNIB, discusses Helpful Hints for Low Vision. ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. June 4, movie; June 11, political lecture; June 18, singalong; June 25, picnic in the park. **Anna** ext 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

A Walk in Old Jewish Toronto, Sunday, June 2, 10 a.m. For details, check What's New under the date.

Seniors Club: Thursday, June 6: 2 p.m. Tonto's Nephews with **Ryan McMahon** and **Sid Bobb** direct from the Native Cultural Centre and 3:30 p.m. Mamaloshen Club, selections from modern Yiddish poetry, facilitated by **Linda Lipski**, followed by Yiddish discussion.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Through to June 5, BJCC Atrium-Koffler Centre of the Arts, BJCC and the Israeli Consulate present Our Country, a photo exhibit depicting life in Jerusalem by Israeli photographer **Alex Levac**, ext. 271.

Through to June 30: Regarding Landscape organized by curator **Gregory Salzman**. On view at the Koffler Gallery, Art Gallery of York University and Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. ext. 380.

Sundays a shuttle bus travels between the 3 galleries. Ext. 268.

Register now for summer 2002 visual art courses at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. painting, drawing, ceramics, stone sculptue begin July 2, ext. 269.

WALK FOR HOPE: Mike "Pinball" Clemons from the Toronto Argonauts cuts the ribbon to begin Jewish Women International's Walk for Hope held recently at Centrepoint Mall to raise funds for the awareness of, and to combat, domestic violence. With him (from left) are Charlotte Lefler, Yona Soer and Juliette Hershkovich, chair.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News
Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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The story of our Torah

By HARRIET EISENKRAFT
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

Our Torah's journey began somewhere in Poland about 100 years ago.

In a rural shtetl or in one of the major cities, a sofer did the painstaking work of writing its script. Our Torah may have then gone on to a local shul, but it is more likely that it landed, like countless others, in the arms of one of the many community members travelling to the new world, to the United States.

Perhaps that traveller was rescuing it from destruction and intended to keep it safe until a new home could be found. Perhaps the traveller was simply the courier who had been asked by the members of an already-existing congregation to bring it to them. We don't know where our Torah found its welcome once it reached the shores of America at the turn of the century.

What we do know is that some time in the 1940s it took a journey once again, this time to a military base in a suburb near Chicago. It stayed there until almost four months ago, when it arrived in Toronto in the arms of another traveller who brought it to our congregation, Toronto's Shir Libeynu (Hebrew for Song of our Hearts).

Actually, the traveller was coming home after visiting relatives in Manhattan, where the Torah rested between journeys in the offices of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB). The JWB has been in existence since 1917 as the only agency in the United States organizing Jewish programs, education and chaplains for American military centres.

Responding to the call from bases for Torahs during the war years, it gathered hundreds of scrolls and distributed them throughout the world. It had two sources: the many synagogues around the country that were shifting or closing down; and, mainly, congregations whose members felt it was their patriotic duty to donate.

It was always understood that the Torahs belonged to the JWB because "the armed forces didn't want to deal with something so holy," remembers Rabbi David Lapp of the JWB.

Our Torah, with its original writing intact but now in a new blue velvet cover, stayed in a non-denominational chapel at Fort Sheridan, Ill., for about 50 years, says Rabbi Lapp. It served the community there until the Jewish chaplain departed when the base scaled back operations. The JWB took it and others back to its headquarters in Manhattan and offered them for sale.

As it turns out, Shir Libeynu was looking for a Torah. Our liberal, egalitarian congregation had been using two other Torahs over the seven years of its existence. One was on loan from a larger congregation for our popular High Holy Day services, held at the Cecil Street Community Centre downtown. The other, which we used only a few times, belongs to one of our members, whose grandfather brought it over from Romania.

This second Torah had been stored in a fur vault on the Prairies after a tour of duty in various rural communities (but that's another story). Its binding, however, was torn and needed expensive repairs if we were to continue to use it. We decided that we needed another one.

After our lay spiritual leader, Aviva Goldberg, heard about the JWB's cache, our enthusiastic board endorsed the purchase of our new Torah. The JWB would, in turn, use the money we spent on the Torah for its programs for the needy.

In what can only be described as a bashert series of events, last January, one of our members was about to visit his parents and adult daughter in New York. He agreed to bring the Torah back with him. After carrying it in its massive cardboard box through the streets of Manhattan, onto the train to Long Island and into the baggage section of an airplane out of LaGuardia, he eventually emerged with it at the customs section of Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

The question then arose: how to explain this holy relic to a government official who would determine whether it could enter the country and how much it would cost to do so? Added security measures since Sept. 11 only heightened the concerns. The person at the first desk referred him to a supervisor.

"This is a Torah," explained the traveller. "It's a religious item, written 100 years ago to be used... "

"I know what a Torah is," interrupted the bemused, Jewish, customs official, who then consulted his supervisor by phone, who also happened to be Jewish. What a coincidence in a world of so few Jews! Our Torah entered the country legally and as smoothly and as economically as possible.

On June 9, at 3 p.m., Shir Libeynu will celebrate the dedication of our very own Torah in a service and procession through the community garden of the Scadding Court Community Centre in downtown Toronto. All are welcome.

Although our congregation does not yet have a building, we do have a Torah and a group of people who are dedicated to a meaningful, inclusive Jewish life. Shir Libeynu is affiliated with the Network of Jewish Renewal Communities (NJRC). It provides communal activities throughout the year in which traditional families, singles, gays, lesbians, same-sex and interfaith couples and members of the deaf community may participate and feel at home.

"We at Shir Libeynu are overjoyed that this well-used, wonderful Torah has come into our lives and that we will be able to continue its active use for our services. It has a permanent place within the hearts of our community," Goldberg says.

Harriet Eisenkraft is a Toronto writer and member of Shir Libeynu. Her husband, Gary Klein, was the traveller who brought the Torah to Toronto.

Now.
More than ever.
We can do it together.
"Do not separate yourself
from the community"
Pirke Avot 2:5
"אַל תִּפְרוֹשׁ מִן הַצִּבּוּר"
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UJA FEDERATION

No one gift changes more lives.

Ralph Shedletsky

Leslie Gales

Each year, we recognize and salute the committed corps of women and men who have made volunteering a priority in their lives. Their exceptional devotion to our community enriches us and reminds us that we can all make a difference.

These individuals and the organizations they embrace are the backbone of our compassionate community. They strengthen us and the people of Israel, especially in times of adversity like these, when unity is the key to survival.

This year we are especially proud of our volunteers for responding to Israel's emergency call for assistance. Over the last several months our community has come together, as never before, through fundraising, rallies and educational initiatives that demonstrate our indestructible bond with Israel during these difficult times.

The unity of purpose and dedication of our volunteers has enabled our community to become a world leader in responding to the current crisis facing Israel. Of this we can all be proud.

On behalf of UJA Federation, we express our deep appreciation for your remarkable commitment.

Ralph Shedletsky
Chair of the Board
UJA Federation

Leslie Gales
Vice Chair of the Board
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One of Jewish Toronto's most important mobilization efforts in nearly 100 years is now underway.

Ronnie Appleby

Howard Sokolowski

After only two months, UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 has already raised more than $36 million, which represents gift increases and new gifts approaching $14 million, which will be going directly to Israel to:

- Assist victims of terror and their families
- Provide increased security for day care centres, kindergartens and other facilities for children
- Offer medical and psychological support for Israel's vulnerable, most affected by the current emergency

Our fundraising has been accompanied by other dramatic initiatives on Israel's behalf, organized by the Israel Now Consortium of 115 organizations, under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel.

We are proud to be a part of such a strong, caring community and we salute the men and women honoured in this Supplement with whom we are so privileged to serve.

Ronnie Appleby
Chairs, UJA Federation
Israel Emergency Campaign 2003

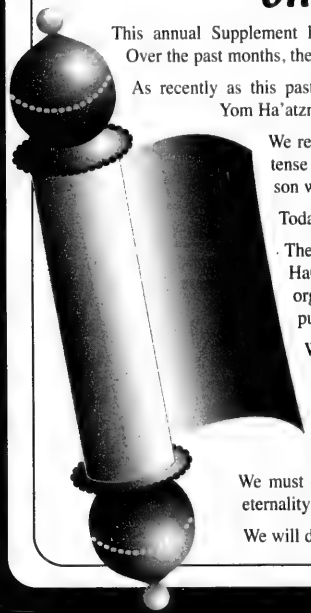
Howard Sokolowski

UJA FEDERATION
ISRAEL
EMERGENCY
CAMPAIGN 2003

One community - inseparably linked

This annual Supplement honours thousands of individuals who volunteer to provide for the needs of the Toronto Jewish community. Over the past months, the community has come together as one united body on behalf of communal concerns.

As recently as this past month, we have witnessed a nexus of events: major rallies for Israel in Washington and Ottawa, the largest Yom Ha'atzmaut and Walk with Israel programs in Toronto's history, and the holy day of Shavuot.



We read in Shemot (19:2) that, upon receiving the Torah at Sinai, Israel "camped there." The language using the singular tense is unusual. The commentator Rashi explains that, at that moment, Israel was "k'ish echad b'lev echad— as one person with one heart."

Today, as we rally for Israel, we too come together to stand as one integral body.

The term "Clal Yisrael" is generally referred to as the gathering of all the individual parts of the whole. Harav Tzvi Yehuda HaCohen Kook maintains that it is much more: It is the eternal soul and embodiment of the nation of Israel. "Just as an organ of the body exists for its task in the body as a whole," Rav Kook explains, "so too does an individual derive his purpose from the Clal as a whole."

We are inseparably linked in one continuous chain of history and responsibility for one another.

We must redouble our advocacy efforts by writing to our politicians and media outlets. We must express our solidarity with and assist in the support of our Israeli brothers and sisters by increasing our campaign pledges, purchasing Israeli products, and visiting Israel.

We must do this and much more. It is for our beloved Israel. It is for the eternality of the Jewish People.

We will do it as one person with one heart.

*by **Julia Koschitzky**, Chair of the Israel Now Consortium and a past recipient of the Ben Sadowski Award, this community's most prestigious volunteer recognition award.*

IsraelNOW

Israel Now Consortium:
Bringing Toronto Jewry Together

(left to right) Rabbi John Moscowitz, Rabbi Moshe Shulman, Julia Koschitzky and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kuhl formed the inaugural steering committee of the Israel Now Consortium.

The one word that describes the Israel Now Consortium is solidarity.

With a membership of 115 community organizations and counting, the Consortium, under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel, offers one of North America's most unified voices for Israel. Consortium members represent the entire religious and ideological spectrum of community.

The Israel Now Consortium, chaired by Julia Koschitzky, ardently and passionately shows the citizens of Israel they will never stand alone. Consortium-run rallies in Toronto attracted more than 20,000 participants. The Consortium also helped 10,000 Torontonians attend Israel rallies in Ottawa and Washington by bus and plane and organized Toronto's largest-ever Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. In addition, the Consortium sponsored several expert speakers on the Middle East and served as an effective vehicle to keep the community up to date on individual organization activities.

The Consortium's success is based, in large measure, on adherence to its mission statement.

- **Strengthening the bonds of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel.**
- **Developing core, cross-organizational programs, including rallies, grassroots advocacy activities and missions to Israel.**
- **Promotion and coordination of a broad range of Israel advocacy programs that will engage all elements of the community.**

"The consortium is a reflection of Toronto's remarkable Jewish community and its unbreakable bond with Israel," says Koschitzky. "Few communities in the world have united to such an extraordinary extent on behalf of Israel and the impact can only be positive and powerful."

ISRAEL NOW CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

– as of May 20, 2002 –

Adath Israel Synagogue • Aish HaTorah • All-For-One Mutual Sick Benefit Society • Anshei Minsk Congregation • ARZA Canada • Associated Hebrew Day Schools • Association of Soviet Jewry in Canada • B'nai Akiva Schools • BBYO • B'nai Isaac Synagogue • Bathurst Jewish Community Centre • Beit Halochem • Bernard Betel Centre For Creative Living • Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto • Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am • Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue • Beth Israel Hebrew Academy • Beth Jacob High School • Beth Sholom Congregation • Beth Tikvah Synagogue • Beth Tzedec Synagogue • Bialik Hebrew Day School • Bnei Akiva of Toronto • Board of Jewish Education • Canada Israel Committee • Canadian Associates of Ben Gurion University • The Canadian Foundation For Masorti Judaism • Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation • Canadian Friends Boy's Town Jerusalem • Canadian Friends of Amal Charity • Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University • Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem • Canadian Friends of Israel Museum • Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital • Canadian Friends of Peace Now • Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University • Canadian Friends of Tel Hashomer Hospital • Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University • Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association • Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region • Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation • Canadian Society for The Weizmann Institute of Science • Canadian Society for Yad Vashem • Canadian Technion Society • Canadian Young Judaea • Canadian Zionist Federation - Central Region • Chai Tikvah Foundation • Circle Of Care • Congregation B'nai Torah • Congregation Knesseth Israel • Consulate General of Israel • Downtown Jewish Community Council • Downtown Jewish Community School • El Al Israel Airlines • Emunah Women of Toronto • Ezrat Nashim Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital • First Narayever Congregation • Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies • Games Jewish Singles Play • Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residence • Habonim Dror • Hashomer Hatzair • Herut Likud • Holy Blossom Temple • The Israeli Artists Group of Toronto • Israel Aliyah Centre • Israeli Association of Greater Toronto • Israel Tourism Office • Jewish Camp Council of Toronto • Jewish Campus Services • Jewish Family & Child Service • Jewish Public Library • Jewish Russian Community Centre • JIAS Toronto • JVS of Greater Toronto • Kehillat Shaarei Torah • Keltzer Sick Benefit Society • Kolel: The Adult Centre For Liberal Jewish Learning • Lagover Mutual Sick Benefit • Maccabi Canada • Mercaz-Canada • Meretz Canada • Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre • Mizrachi Organization of Canada • Na'amat Canada • NCSY- Building a Jewish Tomorrow • The New Israel Fund • Orah School for Jewish Children • Oraynu Congregation • Reena • Rishon Le Zion Congregation • Sephardic Kehilla Centre • Shaar Shalom Congregation • Shaarei Shomayim Congregation • Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue • Solel Congregation of Mississauga • State of Israel Bonds • Temple Har Zion • Temple Sinai Congregation • Toronto Board of Rabbis • Toronto Council of Hazzanim • Toronto Hadassah-Wizo • Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa • Toronto Jewish Youth Council • Toronto Zionist Council • UIA Federations Canada • UJA Federation of Greater Toronto • United Synagogue Youth • Ve'Ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee • The Village Shul

Now. More than ever. We can do it together.

Community Awards

The women and men pictured here have made tzedakah and community involvement constant priorities in their lives. They will receive their Volunteer Recognition Awards on behalf of the entire community at UJA Federation's upcoming Annual Meeting in June.

Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence

Named after the late Jewish community leader Phil Granovsky, the award is a tribute to individuals who exemplify the best in UJA Federation campaigning.

ABE GLOWINSKY

Among his numerous leadership roles, Abe is perhaps best known for his strong support of the UJA Federation Walk with Israel. In addition to co-chairing the event for the last two years, Abe's clothing manufacturing company has been a major Walk with Israel sponsor for several years. His more than 10 year involvement with UJA Federation also includes serving as Vice Chair of Campaign 2002, and Chair of the Fashion and Goods and Services Division which have grown significantly under his leadership.

""Volunteering is important to me because, as I began to get older, I realized how fortunate I was that I was in a position that allowed me to give back to the community, to those who were less fortunate than I. The more I got involved, the more I realized how much work was needed to be done both locally and overseas. I met and befriended so many others who had similar aspirations - to make our world a little better place."

Leadership Development Awards

Leadership Development Awards were established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles. The awards are presented to individuals who demonstrate extraordinary community commitment and service.

RICHARD DIAMOND

Richard didn't miss a beat in getting involved with UJA Federations Young Leadership Division after moving to Toronto from Montreal in 1998. During the last four years, Richard, who is founding Chair of the National Young Leadership Executive of UIA Federation's Canada, has been the driving force behind many new national YL initiatives including creation of the national Ben Gurion Society, annual missions to the former Soviet Union and regular national retreats and conferences for the YL Executive.

"The best federations and campaigns in my mind are those which can successfully bring together the main constituents of their communities into a strong force for leadership, community service and fund-raising. This is why I am so passionate about Young Leadership. It must be the heart and soul of any vital federation. This is what I am working towards."

ALLEN GALES

For nearly seven years Allen has assumed key roles in both UJA Federation and its Board of Jewish Education. He is currently a member of UJA Federation's Board of Directors, Finance and Administration and Community Planning and Allocations Committees. Allen's strong support for Jewish education includes membership on the BJE's Board of Directors and Executive as well as serving as Treasurer of United Synagogue Day Schools.

"The reason I chose to volunteer was because I wanted to make a difference in strengthening our Jewish Community."

Shem Tov Honourees

The Shem Tov Awards are presented to leaders representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

HELEN FINDER GUTTMAN

BATHURST JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Helen Finder Guttman is currently President of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre where she has been an active volunteer since 1994. Helen has also been deeply involved with UJA Federation for more than 10 years serving on its Board of Directors and as Vice Chair of Community Development. She is also a member of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy Executive as well as the Canada Israel Experience Management Committee.

"I volunteer not only because I am the child of survivors, not only for the sake of my children, not only because I believe in tzedakah and tikun olam, but because of the sense of accomplishment I get from my involvement. The challenges are often great – the rewards even greater."

AGI MANDEL

JEWISH CAMPUS SERVICES OF GREATER TORONTO

For the last three years Agi has worked tirelessly promoting the Jewish campus experience in almost every aspect of JCS, including its arts and culture program, its governance structure and financial resource development. Agi is currently Vice-President of Jewish Campus Services and Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life. She is also former Chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy and a Board member of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

"For me, voluntarism stems from the pride I feel in belonging to a people that believes each of us is responsible for the other."

ALAN MOSTYN

TORONTO JEWISH FREE LOAN CASSA

Alan has been an active volunteer with TJFLC for over 20 years. In addition to serving as President from 1991-1993, Alan has held several key positions in the agency, including legal counsel, Loan Committee Chair and presently Policy Committee Chair and Co-chair of Special Events. In 2001 Alan was the recipient of TJFLC's Most Valuable Volunteer Award.

"I have been an active volunteer at TJFLC for over twenty years and have found volunteering here to be a stimulating, rewarding and challenging experience."

STEPHANIE OLIN CHAPMAN

KEHILLA RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME

A trained architect and real estate consultant, Stephanie has been the Executive Director of the Kehilla Residential Programme for 10 years. She has most recently been instrumental in the successful development and completion of the Baycrest 2 Neptune Drive Life Lease Project for Jewish seniors. Her extensive voluntarism includes work with UJA Federation, the Jewish Camp Council, the Canadian Cancer Society and Chai Tikvah.

"Volunteering is more than an obligation. It provides an opportunity to share my good fortunes in life while teaching my children by example so that hopefully they will continue the tradition."

BERNICE ROYCE

CIRCLE OF CARE

Bernice has been a volunteer at Circle of Care since 1997. Her extensive involvement in the agency includes being a member of the Circle of Care Board of Directors, chairing the Volunteer Services and Coordination Committee and substituting as a driver for Kosher Meals on Wheels. Bernice is also an active member of the Temple Sinai Social Action Committee and a volunteer with NaMeRes working with the homeless.

"Volunteering gives so much to all concerned. Much needed help to the agency, service to the community and a sense of fulfillment to the volunteer."

MARK SARNER

MILES NADAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

For the last 10 years Mark has been an active volunteer with the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (formerly Bloor Jewish Community Centre), lending his marketing expertise to numerous aspects of the agency's operations, including a major restructuring which took place in 1994. In addition to his current role as President of the Miles Nadal Centre's Property Board, Mark has served as Chair of the Nadal Centre/UJA Federation Joint Management and Marketing Committee.

"Volunteering is a matter of the heart. I feel connected to a greater purpose through serving an institution and a community I love."

RHONA SHULMAN

UJA FEDERATION BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION

Jewish education is a priority for Rhona Shulman in both her professional and volunteer life. A project coordinator for the Toronto District School Board, Rhona is also Chair of the BJE's Tikun Chaim Advisory Committee and a member the BJE's Board of Directors.

"I believe that many of the achievements in the Toronto Jewish educational community have come about as a result of an incredibly rich and skilled collaboration between dedicated professional staff and volunteers. I am proud to have shared as a volunteer in this most rewarding experience."

A TRIBUTE

It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to the eighth annual Salute to our Community Volunteers. The men and women highlighted in these pages have made voluntarism a priority in their lives, thereby enhancing all our lives.

This year, in addition to recognizing the individual contributions of our dedicated volunteers, I would also like to congratulate all our community organizations that came forward in support of Israel. Their unified efforts on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people is testament to the strength and integrity of our community and a tremendous source of pride to us all.

Yasher Koach!

Fern Orzech
Chair, Volunteer Recognition Project

ALPHA OMEGA DENTAL FRATERNITY

Alpha Omega is the worldwide dental organization that promotes professional excellence through family, fraternal and Judaic values. www.aotoronto.org

Dr. Daniel Pollit

"Alpha Omega has given me the opportunity to give back to our community through a variety of different programs. The rewards are many and I look forward to continuing my involvement with this caring group of individuals."

ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF TORONTO*

Provides students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive learning environment. www.toronto.com/associated

Ellen Markin & Sally Zigler

"Over the years, volunteering at Associated Hebrew Schools has allowed us to participate in and have an impact on our children's educational experience. Whether we were serving pizza to young children or working with the school's administrators to determine educational policy, we have derived great satisfaction along the way. Many meaningful relationships developed from these experiences. It has been an honour to continue a tradition of lay leadership in this exceptional educational institution."

ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET JEWRY IN CANADA

Represents and protects the interests of Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Helps Jewish immigrants adapt to Canadian society and the Toronto Jewish community. gurevich@sympatico.ca

Ella Kogan

"Coming to Toronto I was overwhelmed by the warm reception and attention to my needs that I received from the Toronto Jewish community and Association of Soviet Jewry in Canada. Now it's my turn to give back to our community and to help Russian immigrants adjust to their new home."

*Denotes 2001-2002 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

BATHURST JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE*

A community organization providing quality programs and services that meet social, educational, cultural, recreational and citizenship needs of our constituents. www.bjcc.ca

Elizabeth Quek

Elizabeth is an outstanding volunteer at the Koffler Centre of the Arts at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. A member of the Koffler Board since 2000, she consistently participated in any and all activities with graciousness, punctuality and intelligence. No job is too big or too small and she has undertaken everything from telephone calls to soliciting major funds, and she does it all with quiet charm and grace. We are very lucky to have her on Board.

BAYCREST CENTRE FOR GERIATRIC CARE

Internationally-renowned for its care, research and education related to aging and geriatrics, its unique continuum of care includes supportive residential care and community services for seniors, short-term specialized medical care, as well as long-term and complex continuing care. www.baycrest.org

Jayden & Kimberley Walters

"My daughter Jayden and I enjoy the time we spend helping patients in the Bingo program. Baycrest has enabled us to continue in the Ungerman/Wortsman tradition of community involvement. Now we can add the 'Walters' name to this family tradition."

BBYO*

A youth-led, worldwide organization that provides opportunities for Jewish youth to develop their leadership potential, a positive Jewish identity and a commitment to their personal development. www.bbyo.on.ca

Ken Bernknopf

"What do teenagers do in their spare time? This can be a frightening notion so it's wonderful to know there is a BBYO where teens can spend their play time in a Jewish environment, while developing leadership and other skills that will serve them well in future life endeavours."

BEIT HALOCHEM CANADA

Raises funds to help support the disabled veterans in Israel, and establishes meaningful relationships between the veterans and the Jewish community in Canada. www.interlog.com/bhcan

Julia Sax

"Israel's disabled war veterans have given more for Israel's existence and world Jewry than our work on their behalf could ever accomplish. It is an honour for me to dedicate my time and energy to Beit Halochem."

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING*

A non-profit learning and wellness centre reflecting Jewish values and committed to maximizing the quality of life for seniors in the community. www.betelcentre.org

Marion Greenberg

"I must admit that my most meaningful volunteer experience is the satisfaction of helping isolated seniors mingle with their peers. It gives me great satisfaction to see them open up with new friends."

BETH AVRAHAM YOSEPH OF TORONTO CONGREGATION

A family synagogue emphasizing the warmth of Torah tradition. baytmembers@rogers.com

Marshall Bir & Elizabeth Turk

"Volunteering in our Shul is something that every one of us should experience. It provides us with spiritual and physical satisfaction knowing that our joint efforts serve to benefit our respected Rav, our Board, and our members and guests. Spiritually, we endeavour to fulfil Hashem's word when helping our fellow Jews. As a unifying force, we volunteers stand together to contribute to the vibrant community in which we live."

BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION

Dedicated to cultivating, developing and sustaining Judaism and Jewish living in accordance with the ideas and standards of the Conservative Movement. www.bethdavid.com

Marion Tully

"Through participation as a volunteer I have been inspired, challenged, fulfilled and enriched working on various committees. Educating families vis-à-vis our Judaica Shop has been a rewarding experience."

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE

Fosters a full and joyous way of life rooted in a heritage of traditional Conservative Judaism and committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community. www.beby.org

Marilyn Wise

"Helping inaugurate the Out of the Cold Shelter at Beth Emeth was both an inspiring and humbling experience – inspiring because of the many volunteers who gave so freely of themselves – humbling for the lesson learned, that there is little separating us from those less fortunate."

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

A vibrant forward-looking Conservative synagogue dedicated to fostering spiritual and Judaic growth and fulfillment. www.bethtikvah.on.ca

Kenneth Stewart

"I am grateful that the Beth Tikvah environment provides me with opportunities for knowledge and growth in the spirituality and traditions of Judaism, and interaction with people and programming that strengthen my passion for Social Justice."

Now. More than ever.

WITH ISRAEL NOW

Dear Friends,

While these past several months have indeed been some of the most difficult days ever faced by Israel, the unity of the Jewish people has never been stronger.

As Director General of Keren Hayesod, I have visited many Jewish communities around the world which are rallying behind Israel in her fight for survival. It is truly reassuring and empowering to witness first hand the solidarity of Jews all over the world with Israel when most of the non-Jewish world has turned away.

Toronto's Jewish community, in particular, has shown itself to be one of Israel's staunchest supporters and a model for all other communities to emulate. Your passion and commitment are truly felt across the great distances that geographically separate our two countries. Your dedication is a tremendous source of comfort and strength.

I congratulate you for all your efforts on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people. You are leading the way, with remarkable community unity, in both fundraising and sending missions to Israel at a time when each and every visit counts.

Thank you for your support and for setting a standard of support which the world can follow.

Gad Ben-Ari
Director General, Keren Hayesod

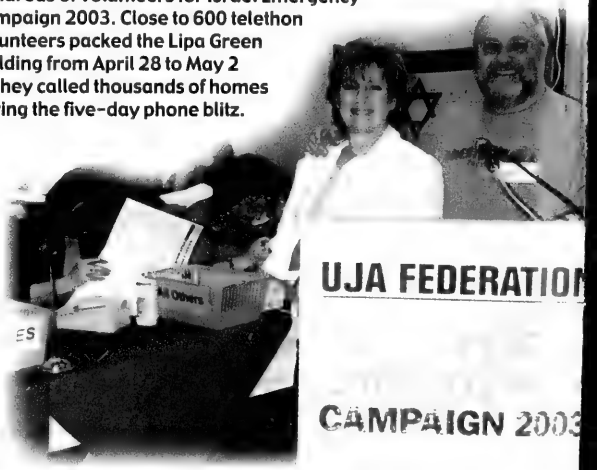
MISSIONS LIFT ISRAELI MORALE

Thirty young Torontonians joined forty others from across Canada last month on a unique, week-long volunteering mission to Israel. Some participants distributed food to the needy while others sorted, stocked and counted medical equipment, clothing and other goods. The mission was made possible through generous subsidies from the UJA Federation system. The trip was closely followed by two others involving students from the GTA, and former *birthright israel* participants.

UJA Federation's ambitious monthly missions schedule has brought 1000 participants to Israel.

EMERGENCY TELETHON BLITZ

UJA Federation is mobilizing thousands of donors and hundreds of volunteers for Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. Close to 600 telethon volunteers packed the Lipa Green Building from April 28 to May 2 as they called thousands of homes during the five-day phone blitz.



PHONING FOR ISRAEL

Telephone lines on Parliament Hill were buzzing with thousands of calls from 500 members of Toronto's Jewish community on Sunday, April 7, during a one day *Phone For Israel* campaign, under the auspices of Israel Now Consortium and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region. Canadian Members of Parliament from coast to coast received phone calls, e-mails and faxes urging them to express stronger support for Israel. This united effort helped community members to vent their frustration with Canadian foreign policy in the Middle East.

We can do it together.

A REMARKABLE CELEBRATION

What a party! More than 10,000 people demonstrated the true spirit of Toronto's Jewish community on Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israel's Independence Day – as they marched from the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre to Earl Bales Park to celebrate Israel's 54th birthday. The festivities not only attracted Jewish community members of all ages but Christian friends of Israel as well.

The Solidarity March along Bathurst Street was one of many Yom Ha'atzmaut events.

TORONTO RALLIES FOR ISRAEL

It was the largest Israel solidarity gathering that Ottawa had ever seen. On April 21, more than 15,000 people – at least half of them from Toronto – rallied on Parliament Hill.

UJA Federation organized nearly 100 buses and one airplane, chartered from Toronto for this historic event, sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa and Canadian Jewish Congress.

UJA Federation also organized several buses and an aircraft so that 1,000 Torontonians could attend April's massive Israel rally in Washington, which attracted over 100,000 participants.

On March 24, Yuli Edelstein, Israel's Deputy Minister of Immigrant Absorption spoke at Mel Lastman Square to a crowd of more than 2,500 who demonstrated against terror in Israel and around the world.

WALKING INTO HISTORY

The massive turn-out for UJA Federation's Walk with Israel this past Victoria Day was the largest single-day Israeli solidarity event in the history of Toronto. Close to 25,000 men, women and children took to the streets, forming a sea of blue and white on behalf of Israel, before filling the SkyDome for the Walk's Israel Festival.

Keynote speaker Ra'anan Gissin, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's principal spokesperson and key advisor, noted the Walk's significance. "To know that we have the support of the Jewish people here in Toronto, in Canada and abroad is even more important than the money in some ways. The fact that we – as Jews come together, no matter where we live, is what keeps us strong as a nation. When we work together, we can accomplish anything."

Beth Tzedec Congregation

Founded to preserve Judaism, to inculcate belief in G-d and reverence for our heritage, to translate Jewish spiritual values into terms of present day thought and action, to revitalize Jewish traditional practices in synagogue and home, and to cultivate Hebrew language and literature.

Margaret Weinstein

"As a Hesed volunteer, I hope that I've helped make a difference in the lives of all of the people that I have served. Each of those experiences have had meaning and have left residual memories with me. A mitzvah is a mitzvah."

Bialik Hebrew Day School*

Committed to providing a Jewish and General education in an atmosphere conducive to learning and growth. www.bialik.on.ca

Karen Abells

"As PTA Chair and member of the Board Executive, I have enjoyed the opportunity to plan, discuss and execute many ongoing and new endeavours with the parents, staff, students, Board and administration of Bialik."

Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The University acts as a driving force in the development of the Negev and seeks to excel as a major centre for education and research in Israel. www.bgu.ac.il

Michael Wynston

"I love Israel and express my love by helping Ben-Gurion University to make the desert bloom. Ben-Gurion University has accepted the challenge of conquering Israel's last frontier and making the dream of Israel's first Prime Minister a reality."

Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital

Herzog Hospital is Israel's foremost centre for geriatric and psychiatric medical care with outstanding research achievement. Herzog Hospital treats the problems of advancing age and mental instability using advanced medical technologies, professional expertise, compassion and care. herzoghosp@on.aibn.com

Rosalie Mednick-Nepom

"While I do not volunteer a lot, I do when I feel that the project is special and very much needed. I believe volunteering is a selfish act, since the work brings me much fulfillment and pleasure."

Canadian Friends of Peace Now

To educate towards peacemaking, and to support the work of Shalom Achshav in working towards peace between Israel and its neighbours. www.peacenowcanada.org

Erez Anzel

"We brought to Toronto a retired Israeli general, a former head of Military Intelligence. I took great satisfaction in the concerted efforts of the other volunteers, staff, co-sponsors, and host (Temple Sinai) in bringing a record crowd to hear the message that, while Israel must defend itself, the only solution is a political one."

*Denotes 2001-2002 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University – Toronto Chapter

Develops and promotes awareness, leadership and financial support for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. www.cfhu.org

Lorne & Iris Greenspoon

"We are very proud to actively support the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For over 75 years, including during the most difficult of times, the Hebrew University has served as a beacon of hope and enlightenment for the State of Israel, the Jewish people and the whole world."

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Provides support for the educational goals of Tel Aviv University, facilitated by enhanced public awareness of the University's achievements, fundraising and the development of a strong local membership. www.tav.ac.il

Dr. Irving Gottesman

"CFTAU builds and solidifies bridges between our community in Canada and Tel Aviv University in Israel. This includes our vibrant and active Overseas program that encourages and enables students to pursue education in Israel. I am proud to participate in these endeavours."

Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation

Provides the best medical care to the people of Israel and leads the way in health care supported by a strong measure of compassion. www.szmc.org.il

Philip Black

"Giving back to our community has always been drummed into me by my parents who set an enormous example. When our first-born daughter was born 3 months prematurely, my connection to the Neonatal Clinic of the Shaare Zedek Hospital was 'beshert.' I am so honoured to work with a great group of volunteers and to be able to benefit an extraordinary Israeli hospital that desperately needs our help and support right now. Everything that we can do to help our community in Israel in these most difficult times of terrorism is both necessary and incumbent on us."

Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science

Expresses commitment of the Canadian Jewish community to help the Weizmann Institute maintain its standards of excellence and its significant contributions to world science and Israel. www.weizmann.ac.il

Arthur B. Konviser

"I am honoured to be associated with this world-class scientific research institute and the Canadian Society. The research taking place at the Weizmann Institute provides the best assurance that Israel will endure and prosper in tomorrow's world."

Circle of Care*

Facilitates and supports independent living in the community and promotes individual health, well-being and quality of life. www.circleofcare.com

Heather Unikel

"Volunteering at Circle of Care enables me to give back to my community. The two women I visit say that they always feel better after our time together. We are friends and call ourselves 'soul sisters'."

Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)*

Striving for excellence in all aspects of education, CHAT provides each student with a Judaic and General Studies education in a co-educational setting. www.jewishtoronto.net

Marlene Rochwerg

"I feel great pride and satisfaction in being a part of the tremendous growth and change that has taken place at CHAT. As a parent of four CHAT graduates, it is important to me to give back to the school that has given so much to them, in terms of education, moral values and chevra."

Downtown Jewish Community School*

Provides Jewish students with a basis for Jewish identity in a pluralistic community. Students are taught the concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and to feel comfortable within a Jewish setting. www.djcs.org

Véronique Perez

"When our Community School projects succeed thanks in part to my work as a volunteer, I get incredible satisfaction giving of my time and skills. Contributing in kind is that much more fulfilling."

Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School / Sara and Sam Hennick Educational Centre*

Canada's first and only Jewish school for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. Programs are designed to help students reach their personal and academic potential by providing them with strategies to manage their difficulties. faigied@hotmail.com

Kenneth D. Goldstein

"I was privileged to assist in defining the partnership between She'arim, Jewish Toronto Tomorrow and the Hennick Family, as well as negotiating the agreement regarding the relocation of She'arim to the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre."

Emunah Women Of Toronto

An international women's Zionist organization with a long history of providing children and adults in Israel with a broad education and strong Jewish values. emunah@pssnet.com

Laurie Teperman

"Aware of the daily stresses and losses in Israel, I feel a sense of helplessness being so far away. The work we do will affect the lives of orphaned or displaced children and to know this is truly satisfying."

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

"Friends" combats anti-semitism and hate by promoting tolerance, justice and human rights worldwide through education and advocacy. www.wiesenthal.com

Mark Waldman

"My involvement allows me to give others the opportunity to be more educated about the Holocaust, Israel and anti-semitism. I know that our programming has made a difference by raising the level of consciousness."

Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences Corporation

A unique living environment based on recognition of the changing needs of older adults. Committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive Jewish identity. afoss@circleofcare.com

Lisa Levin

"I have always been interested in housing options for older adults and studied this topic in graduate school. When my grandmother became older and more frail, I saw first hand how beneficial it was to her to be able to 'age in place' with supports. For these reasons, I find my work on the Board of Habayit Shelanu to be most rewarding."

Hatzoloh Toronto

Responds to emergency medical needs of the Toronto Jewish community, complementing the ambulance service with rapid, high quality, non-transport care within minutes of being dispatched. Hatzoloh Toronto also ensures that 911 has been called and will stay with the patient until an ambulance arrives. schusterhatzoloh@yahoo.com

Moshe Rubelow

"Hatzoloh is an organization that provides emergency medical care to the community day or night with warmth care and dedication. It is for this that I am proud to be a part of the Hatzoloh team."

Holy Blossom Temple

A Canadian congregation of Jewish men and women who are committed to the principles of Reform Judaism. dtameanko@holyblossom.org

Pam Albert

"The hats that I wear at Holy Blossom Temple range from chairing the Bikkur Cholim Committee to chanting Torah. Bikkur Cholim involves hands-on support such as meals, visits, rides and crisis intervention. I am continuously rewarded when volunteers experience how great it feels to effectively help others."

Israel Cancer Research Fund

Supports scientists working in institutions, hospitals and health centres throughout Israel, enabling them to engage in innovative cancer research to the benefit of all. www.icrfonline.org

Joy D. Kaufman

"Volunteering feels great! My work can make a difference in Israel and around the world. My children see that 'Tzedakah begins at home.' I have met many people who share the same goals as I do."

Jewish Camp Council of Toronto*

Provides residential, recreational camping services to the community, geared to the social needs of the recipient, regardless of ability to pay. Camping services for children provide an opportunity to learn and enjoy recreational skills, while gaining independence and self-sufficiency in a creative and caring Jewish environment. www.campnbb.com

David Barkin

"Nothing in my volunteer experiences compares with the exhilaration of assisting at Northland arrivals and departures. Campers leave with trepidation and return with maturity. My reward for volunteering is seeing the expressions on their face."

Jewish Campus Services*

Committed to building Jewish identity, nurturing intellectual development, and fostering spiritual growth in a pluralistic university and college setting. www.jewishcampusservices.com

Aaron Kasman

"Taking part in and providing positive, meaningful opportunities for Jewish students on campus, by working with diverse and passionate fellow students, committed staff and dedicated lay people in Toronto and abroad, has been a gratifying and enriching experience."

Jewish Family & Child Service*

Supports and promotes the healthy development of individuals, families and communities in the GTA through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values. www.toronto.com/jfsc

Amanda Rosenberg

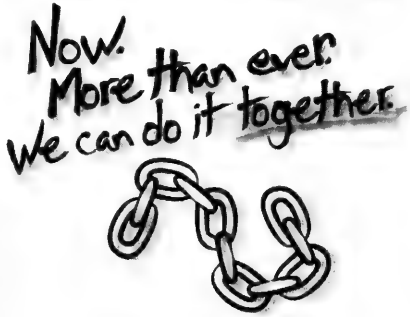
"The JF&CS Big Brother and Big Sister Program not only provides children with role models, it presents their volunteers with the gift of a friend. My little sister is the best gift I have ever received."

Jewish Family & Child Service – Chaplaincy Services*

Supports and promotes the healthy development of individuals, families and communities through prevention, protection, counselling, education & advocacy services within the context of Jewish values. www.toronto.com/jfcs

Gershon Pick

"Volunteers, like myself, are uplifted when working with youth who bring blessings to the elderly. I attribute my success to continued support from the Kynres and Rosenzweijg families, Congregation B'nai Torah and my own family."



Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (Toronto)*

Facilitates the lawful entry and resettlement of Jewish refugees and immigrants arriving in Canada. Advances their well-being through settlement services/programs and expedites integration into the Jewish community and society at large. www.jewishtoronto.net

Sandy Atlin

"Jews have always known and followed the biblical injunction to welcome the stranger into their midst. I am very grateful to be part of JIAS, the gateway organization that lets us perform the mitzvah of welcoming newcomers. It is a profound joy to participate in the process of aiding immigrants to become self-sufficient, achieving and proud Jews in Canada."

Jewish National Fund of Toronto

Part of the international family known as Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel, an agency given primary responsibility with regard to afforestation and reforestation in Israel. tor@jnf-canada.org

Nathan Disenhouse

"My connection to JNF over the years has provided me with the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the importance of protecting Israel's environment while enhancing the country's development."

Jewish Women International of Toronto

Strengthens the lives of women, children and families and perpetuates Jewish values through education, advocacy and action. www.jewishwomen.org

Eleanor Mayne

"I find a feeling of contentment by helping our less fortunate. You cannot buy happiness. Happiness comes from within and a measure of my happiness comes when I have been able to do something that brings happiness, safety and contentment to those less fortunate in our community."

Jews for Judaism*

Dedicated to counteracting the multi-million dollar efforts of numerous cults and missionary groups who target Jews for conversion, offering an extensive variety of preventive education programs and counselling. www.jewsforjudaism.org

Shari Lash

"It's an honour and pleasure to volunteer at Jews for Judaism. I'm inspired by their dedication and commitment to the important work they do in countering missionaries and cults, preserving Judaism, promoting the value and beauty of our tradition and saving Jewish lives."

JVS of Greater Toronto*

Provides educational and vocational goals, develops the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve those goals and, deals effectively with educational or vocational disabilities. jvstoronto.org

On behalf of everyone at JVS of Greater Toronto, we would like to thank all our volunteers for their time and commitment. Volunteers like Shelley Popert and Jeff Holding have been a part of JVS since 1998 and are now assisting our clients in the ATLAZ workshop. They have exceeded more than 1600 volunteers hours each throughout the year. In total this year, JVS has benefited from more than 6483 volunteer hours.

KEHILLA RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME*

Identifies and champions affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community through education and advocacy, project sponsorship, development consultation, research and management. www.members.rogers.com/kehilla

Moiz Behar

"As Chair of the New Initiatives Committee, I have had the opportunity of being involved in the coordination and implementation of what has now become an annual conference on affordable housing. It gives me a great sense of accomplishment to serve on the Board and Executive of Kehilla and assist in many of its worthwhile endeavours."

KEHILLAT SHAAREI TORAH

Serving the Bayview-York Mills area, this modern Orthodox Synagogue prides itself on providing an open and welcoming setting where all feel at home. tradburk@interlog.com

Mike Wychara

"My most satisfying moment as a volunteer was the feeling I had on erev Rosh Hashana, making sure that everything was set up and in place for services in the main sanctuary, auxilliary service and trailers; knowing that all was in readiness for the Yomim Noraim."

KOLEL: THE ADULT CENTRE FOR LIBERAL JEWISH LEARNING

Provides pluralistic, inclusive adult education from a liberal perspective. Study of traditional texts from a modern view for Jews, their partners and spiritual seekers. www.kolel.org

Karen Haber

"Studying with Kolel's egalitarian and pluralistic community has inspired me to explore Judaism more deeply and enrich my family's Jewish spirit. As Chair of the Program Committee, I want even more people to benefit from Kolel."

LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL*

Reform Jewish Day School where families, professionals and Board members together, create a learning environment in which students experience a multi-faceted Judaic and General Studies program in a warm, family atmosphere. zita.gardner@leobaeck.thornhill.on.ca

Michelle Flax

Michelle, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, was Co-Chair of our "Let's Build Campaign" for the addition to our Atkinson Campus. Currently she chairs the Personnel Committee and has served on the Leo Baeck Board of Trustees for many years. Michelle combines a professional career as a psychologist with an exceptional commitment to volunteering in our school community.

MACCABI CANADA – ONTARIO REGION

Dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadian Jewish youth through athletic, cultural and educational programs. Maccabi Canada utilizes the unique venue of athletics to communicate its ideals of Jewish unity and continuity across the country and throughout the world. Maccabi Ontario supports Maccabi Canada by building awareness and support at a local level. www.maccabicanada.com

Allen Gerskup

"The look of awe in the eyes of our young Canadian Jewish athletes as they listened to Hatikvah at the opening ceremonies of the 16th Maccabiah Games in the city of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is something I will never forget."

MILES NADAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE*

Dedicated to serving the cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto through programs and services guided by Jewish values. Open to all members of the community regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation. www.milesnadaljcc.ca

Judy Wolfe

"The downtown community is flourishing thanks to the dedication and creativity of the staff at the JCC. The work we do together, as volunteers and staff, nourishes my spirit."

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Serves the community as an internationally-recognized health sciences centre that provides quality, compassionate care and contributes to the development of innovative approaches to effective health care and disease prevention through research and teaching. www.mtsinai.on.ca

Marjorie Rothstein

"Volunteering is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. I enjoy feeling that I have helped people in a genuine way and I have met the nicest people - the patients, their families and the staff."

NA'AMAT CANADA – TORONTO

Goals include enhancing and safeguarding the status of women, children and families; responding to humanitarian concerns in a diverse society; and promoting Jewish identity to ensure Jewish continuity. naamatca@aol.com

Sheryl Kohl

"Devoting time and energy to Israel and serving the community fulfills my sense of purpose. Belonging to Na'amat is like having a large family of women all committed to the same cause."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA, TORONTO SECTION

A non-profit volunteer service organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals through education, service & social action. www.ncjw-ts.org

Sheila Mostyn

"Volunteering at Council helps women attain their potential and grow as community leaders. I am inspired to see their commitment to making our community a stronger and more vibrant place for everyone, as well as inspiring future generations of fine, young women to continue the service and tzedakah that 104 years of Council has known."

NETIVOT HATORAH DAY SCHOOL*

An Orthodox Jewish Day School striving for excellence in a full program of Judaic and General Studies incorporating the Zioni Dati philosophy and Halacha and Halachic principles. asteinfeld@netivothatorah.com

Michael Lax

"It gives me satisfaction to see the level of excellence in the school achieved through the great efforts of its administration, teachers, Board members and volunteers. It's all for the kids, our future leaders!"

REENA*

Enables people with developmental handicaps to realize their full potential by forming life-long partnerships with individuals and their families within a framework of Jewish culture and values. Skeshen@reena.org

Marilyn Bromberg

"I believe I may receive more out of volunteering than the Reena clients I spend time with. Their optimistic love of life inspires me on a regular basis and puts everything in perspective. When I volunteer, it doesn't matter how I did on my mid-term, or if I remembered to reply to my e-mails. All that matters is cherishing the time I spend interacting with these people. Reena greatly improves the quality of life of its clients and I very much enjoy being a part of it."

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE

Provides for the spiritual, intellectual and social lives of the Jewish community through religious services and educational, cultural, social and recreational activities. ebader@shaarshalom.on.ca

Sybil & Gerald Berley

"We both derive a great deal of satisfaction as well as enjoyment from volunteering for our Shul and other organizations. Being able to assist our deserving Shul staff is a source of great pleasure to us."

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION

A Modern Orthodox centre of Jewish life that provides the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs, and that seeks to inspire the community to greater commitments to Torah, the Jewish people and the State of Israel. www.shomayim.org

Ben Stark

"Being a volunteer at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation has been like having a second home and family. The Brotherhood has been my favorite committee. I have helped raise ticket sales from 200 to 600 for our Annual Draw, as well as serving as President. I have also been Vice President of the Congregation and House Chairman for over 20 years, and the Chassan at Simchat Torah. The greatest honour was when my wife Barbara and I were chosen as honorees at the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation Chai Dinner."

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

Israel Bonds are securities issued by the State of Israel to help build and strengthen the nation's economy and infrastructure. www.israelbonds.net

Barbara Bank & Harry Krakowsky

"Being appointed as Toronto Board Co-Chairs for Israel Bonds has enabled us to touch countless Israeli lives. Beyond the sales, the real dividends offered by Israel Bonds are the human ties we forge with our sisters and brothers in Israel."

Now. More than ever. We can do it together.

*Denotes 2001-2002 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

A Reform Congregation that is committed to perpetuating Judaism within the home and the Synagogue through worship and study. Central to the activities of the Congregation is concern for issues of social justice. temanuel@pathcom.com

Dina Krawitz

"It has been rewarding to work closely with our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Debra Landsberg and a committee of volunteers dedicated to enriching the educational programs for the students of Temple Emanu-El."

TEMPLE HAR ZION

Fosters commitment to Judaism through the mitzvot of worship, study and good deeds, in a warm inclusive environment. www.templeharzion.com

Lawrie Kaplan

"As a founding member, Past President and perpetual volunteer for over 31 years, I have been privileged to participate with many other volunteers in fostering the growth of the Temple Har Zion community from eight original families to over 600 today."

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO

Enhances lives in Israel's communities and promotes women's issues in Canada. hadassah@pathcom.com

Myrtle Coopersmith

"I have been a member of Kinnereth Chapter (of cookbook fame) for 50 years; past Bazaar Chair; past President of Toronto Hadassah-WIZO. The concept of raising funds and the opportunity to see the results in Israel, especially Ben Yakir Youth Village, a residential school for Ethiopian children without families, is particularly rewarding."

TORONTO JEWISH FREE LOAN CASSA*

Provides short-term relief in the form of interest-free loans while preserving the dignity of others. The agency adheres to Maimonides' philosophy of charity – "to help people help themselves." www.jewishtoronto.net/JewishFreeLoanCassa

Howard Switzman

"My reward for the time I spend volunteering for the agency is hearing that the people we have helped have achieved success in their endeavours, whether it be educational, business or successful integration into our society."

TORONTO ORT

Raises funds in support of education and training programs worldwide; serves Jewish and non-Jewish ORT students, providing them with the skills necessary for today and tomorrow. www.ort-toronto@ortcanada.org

Renee Bleeman Bernbaum

"As a volunteer at ORT Toronto, I have the personal satisfaction of making a real and direct positive impact in the education and assistance of under-privileged children and their families in Toronto."

*Denotes 2001-2002 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL*

A dynamic Conservative Jewish Day School that strives to provide excellence in integrated Judaic and General Studies programming, focussing on the needs and growth of students in order to foster a life-long love of learning. swalsh@usds.on.ca

Stephen Flatt

"My involvement with USDS is driven by a desire to create a higher quality Jewish educational experience for my children, while setting an example for them of the importance of giving back to our community."

VE'AHAVTA: THE CANDIAN JEWISH HUMANITARIAN & RELIEF COMMITTEE

Raises the consciousness of all its members to the world's ills, and actively engages in efforts to repair the world's inequities and imperfections, as part of the Jewish value of "tikun olam" – "repairing the world." www.veahavta.org

Bekkie Vineberg

"I was touched by an HIV/AIDS victim in Africa, my age, who died in front of me. Her death encouraged me to consider life, in its truest sense. Then and there, I decided to work to make other's lives better. I am proud to be able to do this through a Jewish organization that recognizes that we cannot absolve ourselves of the responsibility for others."

UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO

Serves as the central Jewish communal organization, dedicated to the preservation and enrichment of Jewish life in the Greater Toronto Area and to the perpetuation of the community's identification with Israel. www.jewishtoronto.net

ACTION COMMITTEE FOR JEWISH CONTINUITY**

Eleanor Mintz

"Applying the ethics and values of Judaism that were instilled in me to the practical concerns of the Jewish community is my view of volunteering. In this small way, I help to enrich and sustain Jewish life"

THE HOLOCAUST CENTRE OF TORONTO**

Elly Gotz

"It is a source of great satisfaction to work on recording the testimony of our survivors. We are preserving them for posterity and making the testimony available on computer. I often think of the student who will hear our voices and see our faces after we are no longer here to tell our stories. We are history's witnesses."

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

Phillip Skovnorek

"The news about Israel has been so depressing, but we must stick together and show the world that we won't give up. All Jews should do as much as they can to help our brothers and sisters in Israel. I will work for the Jewish community until I breathe my last breath; I pray that my children and grandchildren will do the same."

JEWISH INFORMATION SERVICE**

Jack Bernstein

"When I retired, I felt it was time to give something back to the community. I became involved with Jewish Information Service and have received great satisfaction in dealing with the community-at-large."

BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION**

Allen Gales

"I chose to get involved in the BJE because I wanted to be able to make a positive difference in Jewish education."

WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN & ADVOCACY**

Ruth Ekstein

"Our parent's generation survived the Holocaust and gave us Israel. Our g eneration has the responsibility to support Israel and the Diaspora communities, including our own. UJA Federation lets me make a difference."

COMMITTEE FOR YIDDISH**

Bambi Katz

"I grew up in a Yiddish speaking home, attended the Arbeiter Ring Peretz Shule and Camp Yungvelt, where I learned a love for Yiddish and the wonderful culture that the Yiddish speaking world gave to us. Today, I believe that there is still a need in our Jewish community to create opportunities for the young and not so young, to learn, enjoy and share Yiddish as a language through literature, music, film, art and storytelling."

**Denotes committees and departments of UJA Federation

UJA FEDERATION
No one gift changes more lives.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and generosity of ***The Canadian Jewish News.***

Supplement coordinated by UJA Federation

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ISRAEL, WE'RE WITH YOU.

**Send a strong message of support to Israel at a time when it is needed the most.
Now, when Israel faces some of its darkest days since Independence 54 years ago.**

The economy is shrinking. Tourism revenues have dropped dramatically while unemployment has jumped. Billions of dollars are being directed away from critical human services to cover increased security costs. All of this has affected ordinary Israelis in ways we cannot even fathom.

**That's why it's time for us to act –
as individuals and as community organizations to show that we stand with Israel.
Now more than ever.**

BUY ISRAELI

- When shopping, look for all the excellent Israeli products in the Kosher section of your favourite grocery store.
- Include fine Israeli wine at your dinner table. Check your neighborhood L.C.B.O. and encourage the store to carry a selection if they do not already do so.
- Look for "Made in Israel" labels on clothing, shoes, beauty products, etc.
- For a detailed list of Israeli products, visit www.jewishtoronto.net

DO BUSINESS WITH ISRAEL

- Buy Israeli stocks on the NYSE and NASDAQ.
- Where appropriate, form relationships with Israeli businesses. Call Benjamin Noy at the Israel Trade Mission at 416-640-8540 or Gabriel Regev at the Israel Economic Mission at 416-640-8540.

SPEAK OUT/SPEAK UP

- Call friends and family in Israel. Let them know we, in the Diaspora, are standing with them. A caring word of encouragement goes a long way.
- Mark special events (birthday, bar/bat mitzvah, wedding or anniversary) with a donation to an organization addressing Israeli needs.
- Share your knowledge and support for Israel with your friends, and colleagues.
- Educate yourself about the facts. To gain a balanced perspective, check out these sites:

www.jewishtoronto.net
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www.debka.com
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VISIT ISRAEL

- Join one of the many upcoming UJA Federation Solidarity community missions. E-mail: amalka@ujafed.org for information.
- Canadian Young Adult Solidarity Mission to Israel from June 30- July 7, 2002 for singles and couples ages 25-45. For more information call (in Toronto) Naomi Cohen at UJA Federation 416-631-5698 or (the rest of Canada) Lance Davis at UIA Federations Canada at 416-636-7655 ext. 241.
- For information on tourist sites in Israel, visit www.goisrael.com

Now. More than ever. We can do it together.

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

The Jewish Agency, UJA Federation's partner in Israel, has initiated a special Volunteer Project that gives concrete expression to the concept of world Jewish solidarity with Israel.

Programs for ages 18-65 (2-4 weeks)

- KIBBUTZ VOLUNTEERS
- WORK WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
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- KIBBUTZ ULPAN: Hard work, serious study and lots of fun and growth in an international group setting
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E-mail:	gadia@jazo.org.il
	www.jewishagency.org.il

For more information on volunteer opportunities in the Toronto Jewish community, call Shelly Rotman, UJA Federation at 416-635-2883 ext. 137.

On Campus

Prof studies environmental politics at U of T

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Globalization is heralded by some as a bright new historical phenomenon, but to Steven Bernstein, it's essentially old wine in new bottles.

A 36-year-old University of Toronto political scientist whose academic interests embrace global environmental politics, Bernstein claims there is really nothing novel about globalization.

"Many researchers have pointed out that other epochs in history fit the conditions that people think of when they say we are in a period of increasing globalization," he explains in an interview.

"But people forget that the era just before World War I was also very highly open, and a lot of trans-border activity occurred, even more than today by some measures."

Yet, he acknowledges, the world has changed tremendously since the great war. As he puts it: "The speed of transactions is much faster owing to incredible and unprecedented technological advances in telecommunications, travel and computers."

A former journalist who joined U of T three years ago, Bernstein believes that politicians have two responsibilities in relation to globalization.

First, they must ensure that its beneficial effects are more evenly shared. Second, they must try to minimize its negative repercussions.

Bernstein, a graduate of U of T and the University of Western Ontario, sympathizes with those who fear that globalization means a loss of control over their own destinies.

But if politicians make the right choices, globalization may not turn out to be so threatening a force after all, he adds.

An environmentalist who has charted the inextricable relationship between economic growth and a sustainable ecosystem, he is keenly interested in the current debate about the yet-to-be ratified Kyoto Protocol.

Designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by consumers and business, Kyoto has run into formidable opposition from the United States. The Americans contend Kyoto would damage their economy – a claim supported by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters. As a result of the controversy, Canada appears hesitant to ratify the 1997 treaty, which was negotiated by 150 countries.

"My impression is that [Canada] remains committed to ratifying it," he observes. "It would be a major embarrassment for Canada if we didn't."

Since Kyoto's costs and benefits have not been determined, Bernstein cautions, advocates and opponents would do well to pause and reflect. "The economic debate is a complex one, and right now, we're hearing a lot of hyperbole."

On the other hand, he points out, Canada stands to lose by withdrawing from Kyoto. The science behind Kyoto is exceedingly strong, and there is a consensus that climate change, with all its effects, is likely to increase in the future.

In short, he argues that Kyoto, while only a first step, represents a serious attempt to shift the world's dependence away from carbon-intensive fuels such as oil and coal, the root cause of accelerating climate change.

Bernstein's interest in globalization and the environment dates back to his days as a U of T graduate student.

"I was interested in studying the potential for the international community to address important global problems, as well as the constraints under which such action occurs."

Long before he turned his attention to such weighty matters, Bernstein – the son of Milton, a lawyer, and Temmy – dabbled in journalism.

At the University of Western Ontario, he was the managing editor of the student newspaper, the *Gazette*. Later, he was a reporter at the *London Free Press* and on the Ontario desk of *Canadian Press* in Toronto.

"I covered a great many things, normal kinds of stuff and some feature writing," he recalled. "I went back and forth between journalism and graduate school."

Bernstein eventually decided journalism was too limiting in terms of his freedom to investigate topics that mattered.

Besides, he had always planned to pursue a career in research. "I realized I had more potential to make a contribution to society as a teacher and researcher."

Bernstein, whose wife Linda White is also a U of T political science professor, has made good on his ambition.

Last year, he and Benjamin Cashore – a Yale University professor of forestry and environmental studies whom he met in graduate school – won the John McMenemy Prize.

It is awarded to the author or authors of the best scholarly article, in English or French, published in the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

"Our article showed how international and transnational pressures helped to improve forest practices and promote sustainable forestry in British Columbia despite global economic pressures."

They chose eco-forestry as their topic because it is a good example of globalization. "Canada exports more forest products than any other country, and there is a lot of foreign investment in that sector. So it's economically globalized to a large degree."

Bernstein's book, *The Compromise of Liberal Environmentalism*, published by Columbia University Press in 2001, also bridges the divide between globalization and the environment.

His thesis is that when environmental concerns swell, they are usually addressed by governments in an open economic order characterized by global growth, free trade and liberal economies.

"This trend has allowed environmental concerns to gain a great deal of backing, especially in developing countries. Yet it's still a big question whether the world's environmental problems can be easily addressed in this framework."

Bernstein's growing reputation in his field is such that he and associates from McMaster University were recently given a $3.8 million grant to study globalization.

Israel for Free

If you are Jewish, aged 18-26 and have never been to Israel on an Israel Experience - your community invites you to spend ten days in Israel for free* on a CIE birthright israel program, this August.

*Based on departure from Toronto

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CANADA ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Ottawa police warn of possible shul attack

OTTAWA — The police here have warned the local Jewish community that they have received an intelligence report of a possible incident in June against an unspecified Jewish synagogue in the city.

"We recognize that this information could be troubling and unsettling to you, your family and friends," police Chief Vince Bevan said in a message to the Jewish community last Friday.

"In issuing this advisory, we are attempting to balance the need to provide the community with as much accurate information as possible, while not creating undue alarm, or worse yet, satisfy those who would prey on, or create, unwarranted community fear," he said.

In a statement, the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'ir (JCCO) said measures have been taken "to ensure... security and safety procedures are being followed" and that the community is "working with the Ottawa Police to reevaluate the situation" at all community facilities.

In addition, the JCCO said Ottawa Police are increasing surveillance around Jewish institutions.

The JCCO said the community plans to go ahead with all its scheduled events.

"Unfortunately security has become a necessary consideration for Jewish facilities and events for some time now," the JCCO said in its statement.

"We do not intend to allow threats or fear to deter us from gathering as a community, strengthening our connections and continuing to add to the wonderful fabric of the Ottawa community."

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Winnipeg walkthon nets $20,000 for Israel

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A walkathon here on May 12 raised $20,000 for Israel.

As with a community rally on April 14 that attracted 2,500 people to the steps of the Manitoba legislature, the walkathon was organized on short notice by a group of concerned individuals unaffiliated with the community leadership.

"We wanted to do something to help Israel," said Sara Lesserson, one of the organizers of the walkathon, in which about 600 participants trekked from the Asper Jewish Community Campus to nearby Assiniboine Park and back.

Winnipeggers are also contributing generously to the CJA's emergency campaign, which began Sunday, May 5 with breakfast meetings at four city synagogues.

The campaign started a little later than similar drives in other communities because much of the local leadership was on a solidarity mission to Israel in late April.

Nonetheless, said CJA executive director Gerry Koffman, as of mid-May, contributors had donated $870,000 toward a goal of $1.1 million.

He said the mid-May total came despite the fact some major donors had been out of town.

"We are getting 40 letters a day at the office in addition to phone calls and people coming in," Koffman said. "I am always proud of this community's response. We have had over 1,000 gifts and very few people have asked for statements."

He said the money raised in the emergency campaign will go to social service needs in Israel. The drive ends in mid-June, when work begins on the annual Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA campaign.

Louisa Raizman, spokesperson for Canadians for Israel, the ad hoc group that organized the rally in mid-April, was also proud of the response to that event.

"We were very pleased with the level of support from the community," she said. "We had people of all ages and backgrounds at the rally. And we are particularly happy that the rally was peaceful.

"We hope to have more public events to show solidarity with Israel," she said.

Organizers videotaped the rally and intend to send copies of the video to Israeli schools.

"We want to show Israelis that they are not alone," Raizman said.

Thousands march to show 'unwavering support for Israel'

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL – Thousands of Montrealers of all ages braved unseasonably cold weather on May 19 for the city's 30th annual 18-kilometre March to Jerusalem

The event shows the community's "unwavering support for Israel," and is "more relevant than ever," said march co-chair Bonnie Paperman.

At the opening ceremonies before the first marchers departed from the Ben-Gurion checkpoint at 1 Cummings Square, Jewish community leaders and politicians mingled with the crowd and spoke.

Shlomo Avital, Israel's consul general in Montreal, said the march is one of the community's greatest events.

Montreal Mayor Gérard Tremblay attended the opening ceremonies and spoke of his "profound attachment to the Jewish community." He wished the marchers well on their journey through "the many diverse neighbourhoods of the city," adding that all Montrealers are united in the values of "love, justice and peace."

Rabbi Sidney Shoham of Congregation Beth Zion spoke about the central importance of Jerusalem to the Jewish people and deplored the violence and bloodshed that the "city of peace" has seen. He told the marchers to walk "with pride and dignity" and prayed for a "ray of peace to shine on Jerusalem."

Morton Besner, president of the Jewish Cultural Association, the march's sponsor, recalled that "30 years ago, four men had a great idea to express our solidarity with the wonderful people of Israel."

Two of the four, Gordon Brown and Joe Ain, have since passed away, and Ruby Zimmerman sent his best wishes from Israel. Herbie Paperman, the fourth founder of the March to Jerusalem, was beside Besner on the podium.

FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings referred to the march as a symbol of the community's "solidarity, love and support with our brothers and sisters in Israel." He also announced that the Israel Emergency Campaign in Montreal had already raised $15 million.

Other dignitaries included Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler, D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman, Montreal city councillors Robert Libman and Michael Applebaum, and Daniel Gal, Israel's former consul general in Montreal.

The runners of the Wolf Pack led the way as the marchers began to make their way through the streets of Montreal to "Jerusalem." March co-ordinator Aviva Miller told *The CJN* that between 10,000 and 15,000 marchers participated. Proceeds from the march help fund cultural exchange programs with Israel.

The route brought the marchers back to Cummings Square and Checkpoint Jerusalem. As they finished the march, the participants were joined by thousands of others for the annual YM-YWHA Israeli Street Festival, where animators got the crowd dancing, to Israeli horahs one moment and to disco beats the next.

Impartial analyses dispute 'massacre'

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The perennial issue of journalistic responsibility was thrown into high relief during Israel's military operations in Jenin. Some newspapers carried banner headlines of a "massacre" on page one; others resisted the temptation to repeat unsubstantiated statistics. A few journalists are beginning to reflect on the reporting about the massacre that never was. No doubt the Jenin coverage will become a textbook case study of journalistic fairness and accuracy.

One effort at impartial analysis took place on "CBC News: Sunday" on May 12. Co-host Carole MacNeil introduced the subject by asking what really happened. "Reporters were barred from entering Jenin by Israeli troops, but almost immediately reports began to circulate that a massacre had taken place. Many major media outlets around the world, such as the BBC and the *Independent* in England and the *Toronto Star* here in Canada, reported body counts of up to 500."

Evan Solomon, the other co-host, pointed out that according to Human Rights Watch, which conducted its own investigation, "52 Palestinians and 23 Israelis were killed." This confirmed what Israel had maintained all along. "So," asked Solomon, "how did the media get it all so wrong?"

Solomon interviewed the *Toronto Star*'s Olivia Ward, one of the first Canadian reporters to arrive in Jenin, and the *Globe and Mail*'s Marcus Gee. Ward initially defended her use of the word "massacre," citing figures of 400 Palestinians killed, and acknowledged that she received these figures from the Palestinians. She also explained that she reported Israel's denial. Solomon challenged Ward's "balance" by asserting that the sensationalism surrounding a term like "massacre" tends to overwhelm a statement of denial. "Does that already bias the whole context of the conversation?" he asked.

Gee pointed out that "certain reporters leapt to conclusions" without knowing the facts: "I mean, they went in; they saw terrible destruction, which was shocking, but these reports of 500 dead turned out to be completely false." Also proven false were other charges of gross human rights violations like mass graves, a refrigerated crematorium, and a portable morgue, which the Palestinians, eager to sell the "massacre" narrative, promoted to the media.

Phil Reeves, of Britain's *Independent*, who is known for his anti-Israel perspective, reported that "a monstrous war crime Israel has tried to cover up has been exposed." As it turned out, what was exposed was Reeves' own determination to capitalize on unsubstantiated allegations as fact.

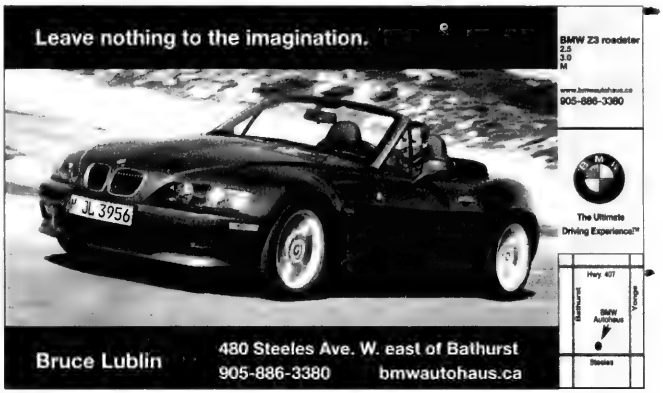
Gee explained that especially in the "overheated atmosphere" surrounding Jenin, reporters "have to be absolutely scrupulous… to base their reports purely on the facts." He added, "and if you're going to say 'reports of a massacre'… you have to make clear immediately that these reports could not be verified, and also report the Israeli response. Finally… you have to go in and find out what really happened," as some news organizations, like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* did, to their everlasting credit.

While "CBC News: Sunday" is to be commended in this instance for asking the right questions, one element is still missing: a critical assessment of how CBC-TV News itself covered Jenin. More on that next week.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Clarification

In the May 23 edition, we published the article, "Going against the grain with homeschooling." For more information on homeschooling in Ontario and throughout Canada, visit www.angelfire.com/ne/hschool or www.ontariohomeschool.org. You can also e-mail Sarah Feuerstein, co-ordinator of the Toronto homeschoolers e-mail list, at hschool@angelfire.com, or write to the newly established Jewish homeschoolers of Canada e-mail list at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jhsc or to the new Toronto homeschoolers support group at www.angelfire.com/ne/hschool/support.html.



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Coast to Coast

Police search for clues in Quebec City shul blast

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Quebec City police said fragments of a pipe bomb were being tested last week by forensic experts in Montreal to see if the results could lead to whoever firebombed the city's only synagogue in the early morning hours of May 19.

It was the third violent attack against a Canadian synagogue in 19 months.

The explosion at Beth Israel Ohev Shalom Synagogue, which occurred at about 1:30 a.m, caused damage estimated at several hundred dollars, said president Simon Jacobs in an interview.

But it produced shock waves the tiny community of about 100 Jews is not likely to recover from for some time, he added.

"This is traumatic for everybody," said Jacobs, a native of England and violist with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra who has been living in the provincial capital for 14 years.

"The general reaction has been: 'What's happening here in Quebec?' The scary part is that it was a bomb. Somebody made something that is not a simple device."

Jacobs did not speculate as to who might have been responsible for the attack on the 30-year-old synagogue, an off-white stucco bungalow located on de Mérici Avenue, a partly commercial, partly residential street about a half-hour walk from Old Quebec and within walking distance of the Plains of Abraham.

Jacobs said the synagogue itself "is pretty invisible, very low key."

But he, along with Rabbi Aaron Sultan, believe that the sense of security among the Jews of Quebec City has been put to the test by pro-Palestinian protests in the city in recent weeks that have included placards like "Kill the Infidel Jew."

Rabbi Sultan, who commutes between Montreal and Quebec City, said the firebombing was part of the wave of anti-Semitic incidents happening around the world.

"Of course this was an anti-Semitic act," Rabbi Sultan said, suggesting that it was fuelled by the anti-Israel and anti-Jewish climate at local universities.

He said he probably would have been sleeping in his quarters at the shul that night had he not left for Montreal after Shabbat to help his 17-year-old son Meir prepare for his departure to Israel to study at a yeshiva. He said his son sometimes sleeps in a room at the shul only "55 centimetres" from where the explosion occurred.

The explosive device was believed to be a small pipe bomb that was propped up against the synagogue's front door.

The blast pierced through the steel-reinforced front door, shattered a door-length window and damaged the ceiling, spewing plaster and dust over religious articles in the interior vestibule.

An anonymous, non-Jewish donor phoned the Sun Youth Organization to offer a reward of $5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator and to pay for the damage, Sun Youth director Sid Stevens told *The CJN*.

The donor told Stevens he made the gesture because "today it's a synagogue, tomorrow a church."

At writing, however, no arrests had been made for the firebombing. A 27-year-old man who was making anti-Semitic statements in the area of the shul was detained by police but later released because of a lack of evidence, Quebec City police spokesperson Jean Minguy said.

"For now there is no progress," he said.

Jewish community leaders have condemned the attack as intolerable.

Joseph Gabay, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region (CJC-Q), said the bombing was an act of defiance against "order" and was symbolically and deliberately made in the capital of the province.

"There's a message there, and we have to read it."

He warned that the bombing has to be seen in the context of 55 anti-Semitic incidents across Canada since mid-April, 12 of them in Quebec.

"All big things start with small things," he said. "We have to be very vigilant, very careful not to fall into the same trap France fell into."

The situation, he said, has not been helped by the media, which tend to produce "snapshots" of the situation in Israel without adequate background information or context.

Jacobs also blamed a "climate fostered in the media" for setting the stage for the incident.

Shortly after the bombing, Gabay received a personal call from Premier Bernard Landry condemning the bombing and providing assurances that the province would not tolerate any expressions of intolerance, xenophobia or anti-Semitism.

Liberal MNAs Lawrence Bergman and Russel Copeman last week visited the site of the bombing, along with Israeli consul general in Montreal Shlomo Avital.

B'nai Brith officials from Montreal also planned to visit Quebec City to meet with the Jewish community and assess the situation.

In a press release last week, Steven Slimovitch, B'nai Brith's Montreal-based national legal counsel, said authorities "must deal with this most recent attack against a Canadian synagogue with a firm hand… No attack on a house of worship should be tolerated in Canada."

In an interview, Bergman also deplored the bombing as an intolerable anti-Semitic act and stressed the need to "nip in the bud" any such trend in "a free and open society."

"The Jewish community of Quebec City has a long and glorious history. Every effort has to be made to find those responsible," Bergman said.

Jacobs said synagogue officials will likely put into place security measures that the congregation can ill-afford given the community's size and the synagogue's lack of resources.

Canadians take part in Israeli young leadership seminar

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Already a graduate of the Birthright Israel program, Bryan Epstein recently returned from a second, more intense Israel experience.

He was one of only two Canadians chosen to participate in the sixth Young Jewish Leadership Diplomatic Seminar, organized by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Epstein, who is an investment advisor, and lawyer Jeff Kahane of Calgary, joined 11 young professionals from the United States for two weeks of in-depth touring, meetings with officials, seminars and discussions designed to give them a greater knowledge and understanding of the issues facing Israel today.

Epstein likened the rigorous selection process to applying for a job. "I had to apply, to provide references and to write an essay," he said. That was followed by an interview at the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa.

"When I met the calibre of people on the program, I felt very honoured to have been selected," Kahane said.

Both Epstein and Kahane are transplanted Montrealers who have become actively involved in their local communities. Kahane moved to Calgary in the mid-1970s; Epstein moved to Ottawa in October 2000.

Their two weeks in Israel have had a profound effect on both young men, who experienced both the good and the not-so-good aspects of life in Israel.

"On the last day of the trip, there was a suicide bombing at a coffee stand that injured 70 and killed five," Epstein said. "We were a block away and it really hit home as to what people were discussing with us.

Continued on page 29

Coast to Coast

Philanthropists establish tzedakah fund for youth

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The imagination and generosity of a local couple is enabling bar and bat mitzvah youth here to help ensure the future of the city's Jewish community through a new tzedakah program.

Local philanthropists Edna and Saul Goldfarb are always looking for new ways to help their community, and they like to help others perform the mitzvah of tzedakah.

As president of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, Saul has spearheaded, and provided funding for, a number of new programs to encourage people to donate life insurance policies to the foundation.

Anxious to see their grandchildren carry on the family tradition of community involvement, the Goldfarbs came up with the B'nai Mitzvah Club to encourage young people to open funds with the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation in their own names to begin a lifelong connection to the community.

Although the cost of opening a fund with the foundation is normally $1,000, bar and bat mitzvah youth can do so for as little as $500. As a further enticement, the Goldfarbs will contribute $250, leaving only $250 for the young person and his or her family and friends to add.

They will also match any amount up to $1,000 that a family contributes to open the fund.

"We put a limit of $1,000 on it because I didn't want the parents or grandparents to do this," Edna said.

"I wanted to get the children personally involved. I told them to give me $36; let their parents give me $36; let their grandparents give me $36. The children can give money that they have saved or money that they receive for their bar or bat mitzvah."

To ensure the youths' involvement doesn't end with their bar or bat mitzvah, the Goldfarbs have created a club to maintain contact with them.

To date, there are 28 members and the club is growing quickly.

Jamie Berezin was its first member. At a recent dinner held by Hadassah-WIZO to honour Edna, he spoke about his involvement with the club.

"I felt that by being given the opportunity to create the Jamie Berezin Mitzvah Fund, it was a good chance for me to give tzedakah every year. My fund could grow over the years as contributions could be made towards it for special events.

"By involving us in the work of the foundation and enabling us to disburse our own funds, we learn a lot about the needs of the young, old and disabled," Jamie said.

The Goldfarbs host a summer barbecue at their country home for club members. The young people board a school bus in the city for the trip to the country, where they spend the day swimming, boating, playing tennis and generally enjoying themselves.

They also talk "business," as they are asked to open the mitzvah banks they are given when they start their funds, and count the money they have saved. They are all encouraged to add loonies and toonies on a regular basis to ensure that their funds grow.

Once the funds are able to generate annual interest of $50, the young people will be consulted on how they want the money distributed.

"I would really encourage anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the B'nai Mitzvah Club to do so, not only because this is a mitzvah, but because Mrs. Goldfarb gives great barbecues at her country home," Jamie said.

Anyone interested in setting up a similar project in another city can call Edna at 613-232-9631.

Israeli young leadership seminar

Continued from page 28

"It is difficult to understand it until you actually see people dying in front of you. The worst part was seeing the chevrah kadishah arriving with their bags [to retrieve bodies and body parts]. I have a keen awareness of the issues and the situation, and it really makes me want to share the message with others."

Both men said visiting Israel left them with a strong sense of identity, though neither considers himself particularly observant.

Kahane said that "in Israel you are a Jew period. Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, yes they distinguish, but first and foremost you are a Jew. I think we put too much emphasis in sub-dividing ourselves."

Kahane and Epstein said they plan to promote solidarity and unity in their communities.

"I intend to do everything I can to create a stronger Jewish community in Calgary," Kahane said. "I think this is important for many reasons. First, if ever the tide of public feelings about Jews changes in [Canada], it is important that we are connected.

"Second, with a strong sense of community, people will be more likely to recognize the importance of the State of Israel to us as Canadians, both from a security perspective and a spiritual perspective.

"Lastly, I have two young daughters. Without close ties with our Jewish community here and a strong community to be tied to, they will likely not value the importance of what it means to be a Jew."

Epstein said he is in the process of helping to organize new activities to bring young professionals together on a regular basis to discuss issues facing Israel and to form bonds of solidarity with the Jewish State.

The seventh Young Jewish Leadership Diplomatic Seminar will be held in Israel from July 21 to Aug. 9. Interested individuals should contact the Israeli Embassy or their local consulate.

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Coast to Coast

Links cited between Holocaust, recent anti-Semitism

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Speakers at the recent annual dinner of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada made connections between the Holocaust and the worldwide increase in anti-Semitism over the past year.

"The very evils that you so heroically combated have resurfaced," said Keith Landy, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress. "The ugly reality is that almost 60 years after the Holocaust and your role in the defeat of Nazism, virulent anti-Semitism is all too alive and well."

Landy commended the veterans while urging the community to remain vigilant. "You here tonight have faced daunting challenges as you bravely did your duty in service to this great country of ours," he said.

"Your courageous efforts helped raise the curtain on the darkness that had descended upon the world over half a century ago. Let us work together now to ensure that your noble endeavours, and the sacrifices of your fallen comrades, will not have been in vain."

Verna Bruce, assistant deputy minister in the Ministry of Veterans' Affairs, brought greetings from the federal government. "Seventeen thousand Jewish men and women joined arms and fought for this country. At Veterans' Affairs, we would like to do anything we can to help keep these memories alive."

Gerry Levitz, president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa, urged local politicians to recognize the contributions of Jewish citizens and to stand up in their defence.

"We were Canadians then and we are Canadians now," said Levitz. "Five hundred men and women from our Ottawa community have served in the armed forces. Don't let another synagogue be defaced in the city of Ottawa without speaking up."

Ottawa Post chaplain Rabbi Reuven Bulka suggested that, as the veterans age, the organization find ways to attract younger members so that the soldiers' legacy is not forgotten.

"You have been a role model for all of us of what it means to have values," he said. "Think very seriously about expanding your membership in the Jewish War Veterans to create categories which would include younger members to carry on the tradition."

Landy said he would like to see a Holocaust museum in Ottawa soon.

"I sincerely hope, in the not too distant future, to hear our government announce that it is honouring its commitment to establish a museum of the Holocaust and human rights," he said.

"Canada must join other western nations in properly commemorating the Shoah. Canada must create an appropriate facility in the nation's capital to teach all visitors, but especially younger generations, about the horrors of racism and hate that many of you here today fought so bravely to defeat."

The dinner, which was held at Agudath Israel Congregation, also included speeches by city councillor Peter Hume, Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon, Rabbi Arnold Fine of Agudath Israel Congregation and incoming Ottawa Post Commander, Paul Bender, the first merchant navy captain to hold the position.

ISRAELI PRODUCTS IN CLASS: Students of Bnos Chaya Mushka School in Toronto recently began an initiative to provide economic relief for Israel by bringing in product wrappings of Israeli products and watching how small purchases add up cumulatively. The project will be followed up with in-depth studies of various cities in Israel where the "most popular" products in Israel are manufactured. Seen here (from left) is Chaya Wagner, Tzippy Trauig and Racheli Gerber.

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All qualified voters in Ward 2 of the City of Vaughan are encouraged to vote on Voting Day: **Thursday, June 13, 2002.**

The voting places will be open at 10:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. SHARP! You are encouraged to vote before 6:00 p.m. in order to avoid congestion at the voting place.

If your name is on the Voter's List for the Ward 2 By-Election, you should receive a card showing the location in your area where you are to vote. If you do not receive this card by June 3, 2002, please contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504 for further information.

How many candidates can you vote for?

All qualified voters in Ward 2 are entitled to vote for one (1) candidate for the Office of Local Councillor, Ward 2.

Who can vote?

You may vote in the Ward 2 By-Election if you:

- Are 18 years of age or older, or will attain the age of 18 years on or before Voting Day
- Are a Canadian citizen; and
- Have resided in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2, at any time between April 22, 2002 and June 13, 2002; or
- Are an owner, tenant or non-resident owner or tenant of property in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2 or spouse or same sex partner thereof, provided all other qualifications are met.

Note: Corporations or Limited Companies are not eligible to vote.

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

First published: May 30, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

2002 BY-ELECTION

Notice of Advance Voting

Who can vote at the Advance Voting?

If you are eligible to vote in the 2002 Municipal By-election — Ward 2 and expect to be unable to vote on Thursday, June 13, 2002 (Voting Day) at your designated location, you are encouraged to vote on one of the Advance Voting Days.

The Advance Voting location is accessible to persons who have a physical disability or mobility impairment.

When and where will the Advance Voting be held?

The Advance Voting will be held on:
Wednesday, June 5, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 8, 2002 from 10:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and
Sunday, June 9, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at **Father Ernanno Bulfon Community Centre** (formerly the West Woodbridge Community Centre), 8141 Martin Grove Road, Woodbridge.

Questions?

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504. A card will be sent advising you of the location where you vote on Voting Day.

First published: May 30, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Coast to Coast

Sydney businessman heads demining organization

By JULIE ZATZMAN
Special to The CJN

SYDNEY, N.S. — A prominent member of Cape Breton's Jewish community may soon get a chance to apply his organizational skills in Afghanistan.

Irving Schwartz is the founder and chair of the Canadian International Demining Corporation (CIDC), an organization that helps to remove landmines in some of the world's most troubled hot spots.

His Sydney-based organization has already worked in such war-ravaged countries as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Jordan, Mozambique, Peru, Equador, Taiwan and Thailand. When peace is restored to Afghanistan one of the first problems to be dealt with will be the countless landmines buried throughout the countryside.

"The Canadian government would have to request proposals [for demining work]," Schwartz said in an interview. "The government will have to determine what kind of contribution it will make to that effort."

It is still too early for demining operations to begin in Afghanistan, Schwartz said. Military operations are still underway and peace has not been fully restored. But the Sydney businessman, who has had successful ventures in industries ranging from retail sales to telecommunications and school construction, would welcome the opportunity to take CIDC to that country.

"Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. We would be very ready to go there," he said.

Schwartz, who earned the headline "Thank God It's Monday" in a Cape Breton business magazine a decade ago for his entrepreneurial work, still puts in 12- to 14-hour days. Now, however, most of his work is voluntary. CIDC is only one of many volunteer projects that have attracted his interest.

Volunteerism has been a part of his life since 1947, when he joined the New Waterford volunteer fire department in his home town. He is a board member for the Nova Scotia community college system, has volunteered for the Red Cross and sits on the University College of Cape Breton's board of governors. He has worked to provide employment in job-hungry industrial Cape Breton and has helped launch two growing software companies and an independent cheesecake producer in the Sydney area. He has also worked with Israel Bond committees and B'nai Brith and is a life associate member of Hadassah-Wizo.

But CIDC gives him the most satisfaction these days, he said. "It's the one major opportunity to work on an international problem on a totally voluntary basis."

The organization began in 1996 after a person with an interest in landmines approached him with an idea.

"A fellow came to see me," he said. "He was an ex-soldier and said he knew something about demining. He wanted to start a company to raise landmines."

Schwartz agreed to start the company on the conditions that the office remain in the Sydney area and that it be a not-for-profit corporation.

Funded by corporations, government agencies, NGOs (non governmental organizations) and individuals and groups across North America, CIDC today is recognized as a world leader in its field – training and working with landmine detection dog teams.

Seventy countries are known to be contaminated by landmines. There are hundreds of thousands of landmines in the Balkans and an estimated 300,000 to 2 million in Mozambique, and each landmine lasts up to 100 years.

On any given day, there are at least 60 landmine casualties in the world, most of them civilians. Where there is a threat of landmines, children often can't go to school, farmers can't work their fields and villagers can't return to their settlements.

CIDC, which is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), teaches local humanitarian demining organizations and NGOs how to train dog teams to detect landmines. The result is a 500 per cent increase in productivity over traditional detection methods.

CIDC has also just completed a $2.5 million national landmine impact survey for the Mozambique government. The study charts the location of landmine fields as well as detailing their socio-economic impact on the country. Approximately 2,000 villages took part in the study, the first of its kind in Africa.

Giving back to society is something Schwartz and his siblings were brought up to do. The family owned a general store in New Waterford, N.S., during the Depression and knew they were better off than most of their neighbours.

"We saw all kinds of poverty and sadness," he said. "We always felt luckier and knew we had to share some of that."

For his voluntary activities Schwartz was named a Member of the Order of Canada in 1997.

Schwartz said being Jewish motivates him to work on projects such as CIDC.

"Being Jewish comes in there everywhere you are," he said. "You're always constantly aware you're being judged as being Jewish, wherever you go, whatever you do. It's part of us. Whatever we do we keep thinking we're representing Jews. We have a responsibility to do the right thing.

"We've been lucky, we've been allowed to come in to this country and make a living and survive and that's the way I look at it."

Professor's remark did not defame Michaud, court rules

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Jewish community organizations reacted with satisfaction to the news that Yves Michaud, the one-time MNA who triggered an uproar 15 months ago over his comments about Jews, lost a defamation lawsuit earlier this month against an academic who called Michaud's words anti-Semitic.

"We're clearly very happy, very satisfied," said Saulie Zajdel, B'nai Brith, Quebec region's executive director. "Clearly Michaud will have to be more prudent in the comments he makes for public consumption."

In December, 2000, Michaud singled out the virtually all-No voting pattern in referendums of minorities in the provincial riding of D'Arcy McGee, which was taken as a clear allusion to the riding's predominantly Jewish population.

Michaud also said Jews "aren't the only people in the world to have suffered in the history of humanity."

Michaud's suit was against Marc Angenot, a professor of French literature at McGill University, who in an interview with Radio-Canada in the fall of 2001 said Michaud "has the right to make anti-Semitic statements and I have the right to find them contemptible."

Quebec Court Judge Antonio De Michele ruled on May 2 – four months after the case was heard – that even if it wasn't Michaud's intention to say anything anti-Semitic, "a portion of Quebec society perceived and qualified them as such."

De Michele characterized Angenot's remarks as "fair comment in light of the previous remarks made by the plaintiff." Angenot's remarks were "severe," but not slanderous, the judge ruled.

Michaud's original comments, which also included a harsh characterization of B'nai Brith as "anti-Quebec," resulted in his condemnation by the National Assembly in January 2001 in a bipartisan motion put forward by Liberal MNA Lawrence Bergman and PQ MNA André Boulerice. A subsequent effort by Michaud to have the assembly withdraw the denunciation failed.

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She is the author of "More Precious Than Pearls" and "This Way Up," and is a weekly contributor to the English edition of Hamodiya.

aish THORNHILL
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Youth Search Committee,
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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

אַ בריוו פֿון דער מאָנטרעאָלער ייִדישער פּאָלקס ביבליאָטעק

צוליב טעכנישע סיבות וועט דער בריוו נעדרוקט מיט אַ פֿאַרשפּעטיקונג. מיר בעטן אַנטשולדיקונג פֿון מחבר.

חשובער הער סילווער —

איך האָב געלייענט אייער אַרטיקל אין דעם ייִדיש־ווינקל פֿון 25סטן אָקטאָבער, 2001. איך שרייב דאָרט, אַז די טאָראָנטאָ ייִדישע פּאָלקס ביבליאָטעק האָלט אידע ייִדישע ביכער אין קעסטלעך און איר האָט באַמערקט (איך ציטיר): „,אגב, האָט מען מיר געלאָזט וויסן, אַז אין דער ייִדישער ביבליאָטעק אין מאָנטרעאָל איז די זעלבע סיטואַציע". סע וואָלט גיוווען בעסער, איידער איר שרייבט אַן די דאָזיקע ווערטער, אַריינגיין אין דער ביבליאָטעק אין מאָנטרעאָל און זיך איבערצייגן ווו די ייִדישע ביכער געפינען זיך. אגב, זיי זיינען גיוווען פֿאַרפּאַקט אין קעסטלעך צוזאַמען מיט ענגלישע, פֿראַנצויזישע און העברעישע ביכער אומגעפֿער מיט צווי יאָר צוריק, וועגן מען האָט רעמאָנטירט אונדזער בנין.

אָט איז שוין איבער צווי יאָר ווי די קאָלעקציע פון איבער 30 טויזנט ביכער אַן צייטשריפטן אויף ייִדיש שטייען בכבודיק אויף די פּאָלצעס אַון זיינע צוטריטלעך פֿאַר יעדן ליינער. חוץ דעם האָבן מיר אַ גרויסע קאָלעקציע פֿון ייִדיש־רעדנדיקע ביכער, וועלכע איז גישאַפֿן גיוואָרן אַ דאַנק דער איבערגעגעבענער אַרבעט פֿון ייִדיש־רעדנדיקע וואָלונטירן. אונדזער וויידעאָ קאָלעקציע האָט פּלמען אין ייִדיש. מיר האָבן הונדערטער קאַסעטן פֿון ייִדישע אויספֿירער וויי אויך רעקאָרדירטע לעקציעס פֿון גוט באַקאַנטע ייִדיש־רעדנדיקע לעקטאָרן, וועלכע טרעטן אַרויס פֿאַרן ייִדיש־רעדנדיקן עולם אין דער ייִדישער פּאָלקס ביבליאָטעק.

די ייִדישע פּאָלקס ביבליאָטעק איז מאָנטרעאָל האָט אַ גרויסן אַרכיוו, ווו עס געפינען זיך זעלטענע אויס־גאַבעס פֿון ביכער אויף ייִדיש, ווי אויך מאָטעריאַלן פֿון ייִדישע שרייבער, וועלכע האָבן געלעבט אין מאָנטרעאָל, ווי י. י. סיגאַל, רחל קאַרן אַון אַנדערע. יעדן יאָר האָבן מיר אַ קלאַס פֿון דער ייִדישער שפּראַך. דער ייִדישער קולטור קאָמיטעט אַרגאַניזירט אונטערנעמונגען אויס־שליסלעך אויף ייִדיש, ניט נאָר אין דער צייט פֿון חודש פֿון ייִדישן בוך, נאָר אין משך פֿון דעם גאַנצן יאָר.

מיר זיינען פּינאַנציעל געשטיצט פֿון Federation CJA ווייל אונדזער ביבליאָטעק דינט דער גאַנצער ייִדישער קהילה פֿון מאָנטרעאָל. מיר האָבן ביכער, צייטשריפטן אַון קאַסעטן מיט וועלכע אונדזערע ליינער באַנוצן זיך. אונדזער פּליכט איז אַנהאַלטן אַון פֿאַרבייטערן די קאַ־לעקציעס, וואָס פֿאַרשפּריטן ייִדישקייט אויף ייִדיש, העברעיש, ענגליש, פֿראַנצויזיש אַון רוסיש. מיר געדענ־קען, אַז די ביבליאָטעק איז געשאַפֿן גיוואָרן פֿון ייִדיש־רעדנדיקע אימיגראַנטן, וואָס האָבן מיט לעבן אַון איבער־געגעבנקייט אויפֿגעשטעלט די דאָזיקע אינסטיטוציע. די פונדאַציעס פֿאַר ייִדישער קולטור אַרבעט גיבן אונדז די מעגלעכקייט צו רעאַליזירן די ייִדישע טעטקייטן.

איבערלייענעדיק דעם בריוו, האָף איך, וועט איר פֿאַרשטיין, אַז די פֿראַגע פֿון ייִדישקייט אַון ייִדישער קול־טור אַון שפֿראַך איז זייער וויכטיק פֿאַר אונדז אַון די קול־טור אַרבעט שטייט אין אונדזער ביבליאָטעק אויף אַ הויכן ניווא.

מיט דרך ארץ,

אייוא ראסקעס ראבי, עקזעקוטיוו דירעקטאָר

פון רעד.: ביז איצט האָבן מיר נאָך נישט דערהאַלטן קיין שום ענטפער, שרייבסלעך אַדער טעלעפֿאָניש, פֿון דער מאָנטרעאָלער ייִדישער פּאָלקס ביבליאָטעק. פֿאַר וואָס נישט? . . . מיר זיינען באַרעכטיקט צו אַן ענטפער.

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Bush 'interfering' in Palestinian leadership: PA

By ALUF BENN and NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Senior Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat accused U.S. President George W. Bush Sunday of "interfering in the elected Palestinian leadership;" following comments by Bush that were critical of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Bush expressed hope earlier in the day that scrutiny of Arafat's leadership by fellow Palestinians could lead to changes in the Palestinian Authority (PA), which White House advisers say is rife with division.

"There's a new attitude emerging. You're beginning to see talk of reform," Bush said outside a synagogue he visited in St. Petersburg, Russia, before departing for Paris.

"People are beginning to question out loud as to why there hasn't been a success" under Arafat, he said. "Evidently, there's a new attitude emerging among the new leadership in the Palestinian Authority.

"I'm beginning to hear – publicly, I'm beginning to hear, I might add – discussion about, 'Well maybe we ought to reassess how to make the Palestinian Authority more accountable,'" Bush said.

The president's comments followed a report in the *New York Times* on Sunday that an internal debate in the PA administration over whether to seek Arafat's removal was holding up Middle East peace moves.

One senior official close to Bush argued that casting the advisers into camps oversimplifies the situation. While some are more anti-Arafat than others, there is a consensus that Arab pressure requires Bush to leave the door open in case Arafat backs reform, while working on the assumption that Arafat won't. That means encouraging others to support reform, the official said.

Appearing on CNN's *Late Edition* Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Palestinian leaders are "suggesting that there is a need for reform within the authority in order for them to do a better job."

Bush did not cite any evidence of discontent, but U.S. officials noted that Arafat has been pressed from inside his organization to schedule elections.

"He hasn't delivered," Bush said. "He had a chance to secure peace as a result of the hard work of President [Bill] Clinton, and he didn't. He had a chance to fight terror and he hasn't."

Later, in a Paris news conference with French President Jacques Chirac, Bush said he was sending U.S. officials to the Middle East next week. CIA Director George Tenet and Assistant Secretary of State William Burns will work with officials willing to push for reforms, U.S. officials said.

Powell, who is travelling with Bush, told CNN's *Late Edition* he expected Tenet would "be heading there before the week is out." Burns also is scheduled to go there this week.

Condoleeza Rice, Bush's national security advisor, said Sunday that the United States is not trying to choose the leader of the PA but believes the issue is now under intense review among Palestinians.

"There is indeed a lot of ferment and a lot of talk about reform in the Palestinian Authority," Rice told the Fox *News Sunday* program, from Russia where she was travelling with the president.

"It is a process and perhaps it's a process that is beginning with discussions among the Palestinians themselves about why they have not had the kind of leadership that is going to bring them security and prosperity and peace with their Israeli neighbour."

Neither Rice nor Powell said Arafat needed to be replaced, as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has urged, if the peace talks are to go forward.

"Chairman Arafat is the head of the Palestinian Authority, and he is the leader of the Palestinian people," Powell said. "Now, we believe he could be a better leader and could lead the Palestinian Authority in a more effective way."

In related developments, Mossad head Ephraim Halevy visited Washington last week for talks with Tenet on reforms in the PA. On his return to Israel Thursday, Halevy briefed Sharon on the outcome of his discussions in the United States.

Halevy made the trip at the request of Tenet, who also invited intelligence chiefs from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, as well as Palestinian representatives. Halevy presented Israel's position that the Palestinian security services should be unified, and that a transparent governing body be set up.

It is not clear if Halevy met with officials from the Arab states.

Israel is demanding that reform of the PA security services run parallel with changes to the Palestinian political, financial and judicial systems. Sharon hopes that the reforms will lead to the marginalization of Arafat.

In recent weeks, Halevy has become Sharon's key contact with the American administration. Halevy has already visited Washington three times as the prime minister's envoy. He has a mandate from the prime minister to discuss Palestinian security reforms with Tenet.

Bush has instructed Tenet to formulate a plan for a unified Palestinian security force, but has delayed the CIA chief's mission to the Middle East until it becomes clear that there is a move towards elections in the PA.

Queen's UNIVERSITY
PROGRAMME IN JEWISH STUDIES

Course Offerings 2002/03

JWST 135/1.0 - The Jewish World
Fall/Winter, Slot 124
Tues. 2:30-5:30
Instructor: Elliott Malamet

A study of the faith, the institutions, and the way of life of the Jews, as shaped in their collective experience in history.

JWST 245*/0.5 Jewish Biblical Commentary
Fall, Slot 122
Wed 2:30-5:30
Instructor: Diane Kriger

Analysis of major medieval commentators illustrative of the Jewish interpretive tradition. Their problems, methods, and doctrines related to the medieval period.

JWST 265*/0.5 - Judaism in the Modern Age
Fall, Slot
Tuesday Evening 7:00-10:00pm
Instructor: Elliot Malamet

The development of modern Jewish thought and practice: Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist. The consequences of the Holocaust and the establishment of the modern state of Israel.

JWST 301*/0.5 - Topics in Jewish Studies 1 (Women and Judaism)
Winter, Slot 52
Mon 4, Wed 2:30
Instructor: Jackie Davies

An exploration of the diversity of Jewish women's experience, past and present. Topics include identity issues (considering, e.g., differences of generation, ethnicity, politics, sexuality, religion); the impact of historical crises (e.g., European emancipation; forced migrations; conflict in Israel); culture and its transmission; religion; and the impact of Jewish feminists on Judaism and feminism.

English Language and Literature

ENGL 210*X/0.5 - Jewish Tradition in Literature in English
Winter
Wed 7-10
Instructor: Roxanne Harde

This course aims to study questions of Jewish heritage, history, and identity in literary texts written in English. We will explore some of the major themes in Jewish literature by considering the influence of key biblical episodes on subsequent Jewish writing, and, as one of the world centers of Jewish culture, we will focus on Jewish literature from the United States.

German Language and Literature

GRMN 080*/0.5 - Classics of Yiddish Literature in Translation
Thurs 1:30-4:30
Instructor: Janie Respitz

This course will provide an opportunity to read, analyse, and compare the writings of the great Yiddish classicists. The prime focus will be on the Classical Period 1860-1915, including Mendele Moykher Sforim, Sholem Aleichem, and Y.L. Peretz, the three most outstanding and influential writers of this period. We will examine their personal biographies and social, political, and religious climates in which they worked and lived. All literary works will be read and discussed in English.

Hebrew Language and Literature

HEBR 191/1.0 - Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
Fall/Winter, Slot 52
Mon 4:00-5 30, Wed 2:30-4:00
Instructor: Bill Morrow

Provides a basic understanding of the Hebrew language as vehicle of meaning for the message of the Hebrew Bible.

HEBR 391*/0.5 - Study of the Talmud and its Commentators
Winter, Slot 122
Wed 2:30-5:30
Instructor: Diane Kriger

Study of major themes in the Babylonian Talmud and introduction to talmudic languages. Emphasis on literary and linguistic features of the Talmud as the major text of the Jewish religion.

History

HIST 293*/0.5 - The History of the Polish Jewry
Fall Slot 102
Wed 8:30-11:30
Instructor: Magda Opalski

History of what was, at one time, the largest Jewish community in the world, with a vivid culture of its own, which has completely vanished. The topics will include the beginnings and growth of the Polish Jewry, its social and economic function in Polish society; the problems of multinational state, the growth of a Yiddish culture, the clash of anti-semitism and deomcracy in inter-war Poland, and the destruction of the Jews in Poland.

HIST 294*/0.5 - Arab-Israeli Relations
Fall, Slot 103
Fri 8:30-11:30
Instructor: Houchang Hassan-Yari

The history of violence and attempts at peacemaking in the Arab-Israel conflict, from its beginnings in the twilight years of the Ottoman Empire to the "Oslo (1993) peace process" and the outbreaks of autumn 2000.

HIST 327/1.0 - The Jewish Experience in North America
Fall/Winter, Slot 125
Thurs 2:30-5:30
Instructor: Gordon Dueck

A study of the social, cultural, political and economic history of the Jewish people in the United States and Canada from the 1650s to the 1960s.

Philosophy

PHIL 267*/0.5 - Jewish Philosophy from Ancient to Modern Times
Fall, Slot 41
Mon 11:30, Thurs 1:00
Instructor Jackie Davies

This lecture/seminar course proceeds with an examination of key Jewish thinkers from ancient to contemporary times, including such figures as Philo of Alexandria, Saadya Gaon, Maimonides, Spinoza, Moses Mendelssohn, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, Emil Fackenheim, Hannah Arendt, and Emmanuel Levinas.

**Please note that JWST 135 and HEBR 191 are full year courses.

For further information, please consult the Arts & Science Calendar or call Professor G. Tulchinsky, Director of the Programme in Jewish Studies at 1-613-533-6000 ext. 74368
E-mail: tulchins@post.queensu.ca

Israeli embassy in Paris gutted by fire

By DANIEL BEN-SIMON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — Israeli embassy staff in Paris were woken early last Thursday morning by calls from the embassy's security officers telling them not to come in to work because the building was on fire and there was "nothing left of it."

Because of the tight security around the building, both the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the French interior ministry believe the fire was not caused by arson. In recent months, restoration work was being carried out on the building and preliminary investigations by the Paris police indicate the fire broke out as a result of work done in the building, perhaps due to a short circuit.

At about 2 a.m. Thursday, a fire broke out and quickly spread throughout the building. It took firefighters more than 10 hours to get it under control by Thursday afternoon.

Embassy staff who entered the building were shocked to discover that all that was left was a gutted outer structure and the staircase.

"I was woken by a call at two in the morning," said the embassy's public relations attache, Yigal Palmor. "They told me, Yigal, the embassy's burning. I turned on my television and saw the shocking pictures. I saw the giant flames consuming the building from all directions. I asked the security officer what was left of the building and he said not much."

Firefighters unroll hoses as they fight a blaze at the Israeli embassy in Paris, which was destroyed by fire early May 23. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Many of the staff couldn't sleep after receiving the news and spent the night outside the embassy. "It's a terrible situation," said the head of the Foreign Ministry's European desk, Danny Shek, who was in touch with embassy staff throughout the night. "The staff stood in the street and saw the building being consumed. The flames destroyed floor after floor. The inside of the building was all made from wood and that's why it went up like a match box."

It isn't clear who owned the stylish building on Rue Rabelais before it was purchased by Israel 25 years ago. Israeli Foreign Ministry legend has it that the owner was well known for his anti-Semitic tendencies and ministry staff joked that had he known what purpose the building served, he would have turned in his grave.

The Paris embassy was considered the most beautiful and the oldest of Israel's embassy buildings. Its first floor was designated a historic site because of the rare pictures and adornments on its walls. Visitors never failed to be impressed by its interior. The first floor served as a reception hall where thousands gathered for Israel's Independence Day celebrations.

The offices, where more than 100 staff worked, were on the upper floors.

Some years ago, after terror attacks against Israeli targets overseas, Rue Rabelais was closed to traffic. Police officers and security agents manned both entrances to the street and day and night checked those coming into the street. Even the embassy's staff had to undergo the checks every day.

"There isn't a chance that anyone could have come into the street without being checked," said a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official. "Certainly not into the building itself. In order to set fire to such a heavily guarded building, one has to get inside. I served there for many years and I can't see how anyone could do that."

Embassy staff are having a hard time recovering from the blow. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the ministry would begin looking for a new location within the next few days and that until then the staff would be spread at locations around the city.

Short circuit cited as possible cause

The mayor of Paris, Bernard Delanoe, spent the night by the embassy with the staff and promised that the municipality would allocate one of its buildings to be used in the meantime by the embassy. The French prime minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, and his interior minister, Nicholas Sarkozy, also visited the scene. President Jacques Chirac called Ambassador Eli Bar-Navi to express his sorrow.

But things will not be as they were. Years of history have been lost.

"Everything has gone," said Shek, who in the past served as the embassy's spokesperson. "It's difficult to believe but people have lost all their contact numbers. Everything that was on computer has been destroyed. There is partial backup in Israel, but the written infrastructure of Israeli-French relations has disappeared in the blink of an eye, not to mention authentic documents of enormous historical value."

Palmor concurred with Shek, saying that it was not only the historic building that had been lost, but all the embassy's work. "There are no files, no archives, no names, no lists, no addresses, no connections... We simply have to start from scratch."

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Closing date for applications: Tuesday, June 4, 2002. Interviews will be conducted in Toronto during the last week in June.

The Week in Israel

May 20

• Arkady Wiselman, 40, one of three Israelis killed in a suicide bombing in the Netanya market May 19, was identified as a survivor of the Passover suicide bombing at a seder in Netanya's Park Hotel.

• Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer ordered a 225-mile long security fence to be built between Israel and the West Bank. It will have cameras and electronic detection devices and will be finished within six months.

• Jihad Jibril, 40, son of radical Palestinian leader Ahmed Jibril, was killed in Beirut by a bomb placed in his car. Israel denied involvement.

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon fired four cabinet ministers from the Shas party after they helped defeat his emergency austerity plan in the Knesset.

May 21

• The Palestinian Authority dropped charges against Fuad Shubaki, its chief finance officer and alleged mastermind behind a shipload of arms intercepted by Israel in January, despite documents found by Israel linking him to the ship.

May 22

• Two Israelis were killed and 41 injured in a suicide bombing in Rishon Lezion.

• Marwan Barghouti, the leader of West Bank Fatah militias who was arrested in April by Israel, issued a statement from jail urging Palestinians to keep fighting Israel.

May 23

• The Pi Glilot fuel depot, just off the Tel Aviv-Haifa Highway, was ordered closed after a terrorist bomb exploding under a tanker loading diesel fuel at the site. No one was injured and the fire was put out.

May 24

• Five people were injured after a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb outside a Tel Aviv nightclub.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Graham endorses IDF move into Bethlehem

Continued from page 1

"When I spoke of withdrawal from the cities and making the lives of the Palestinians easier, I was talking about the second part."

After visiting Yad Vashem on Sunday, Graham met Sharon at his office in Jerusalem.

"We believe the ultimate security of Israel does lie in the establishment of a Palestinian state which operates in conditions which will enable Palestinians to live in dignity and be able to be partners with Israel in the search for peace," Graham told Sharon.

He said the pair "were arguing with one another" over the need to lift the Israeli siege on Palestinian cities, which Israel imposed in an effort to hinder the movement of weapons and suicide bombers.

Graham said it would be "extremely difficult" for Palestinians to hold elections under such conditions.

On Monday, Graham also met with Israeli President Moshe Katsav. They discussed the international community's repeated efforts to bring security to the region.

According to Katsav's office, the president made it clear to Graham that while transforming the Palestinian Authority (PA) into a democracy is vital, it would be useless unless it is accompanied by actions to wipe out terror.

On Sunday, Graham met with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. Graham was reported to have called for an end to violence on both sides and said peace could only be achieved through negotiations.

"There is no military solution to this problem," Graham said, as reported by Canadian Press.

"We assert the right of Israel and Israelis to live in peace and security, just as we believe that the people in the Palestinian areas should be able to live in peace and security," he added in calling for creation of a Palestinian state.

Graham said Canada has "constantly urged Israel to respect international law" regarding the occupation of Palestinian territories, but called on Palestinians to recognize that "the Israeli population lives in fear of their lives on a daily basis."

Graham also said he would urge the Israeli government to "ease the burden on the life of the Palestinian people" so that normal economic activity can be re-established.

"Without prosperity and growth in the area, people are desperate," he said, adding that "with the end of violence I am confident that [a] new environment can be made to prevail."

Graham was concluding a week-long Mideast visit, during which he also met with Egyptian and Jordanian officials.

Marie-Christine Lilkoff, a spokesperson from Graham's office told *The CJN* the minister conveyed Canada's support for the pursuit of a negotiated settlement to the Middle East conflict and Canada's commitment to a search for a just and lasting peace.

As friendly nations, she said, "Canada and Israel are able to discuss a range of issues in which we have different points of view, and the minister's visit provided the opportunity to have a productive and wide-ranging discussion."

Launch of satellite due soon

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Final preparations are under way for the launch of the Israeli spy satellite Ofek 5, by the Israeli satellite launcher, Shavit. Ofek 5 will replace its predecessor, Ofek 3, which burned up in space after five full years of service.

The next generation of satellites is slated to have a life-span of eight years.

Ofek 5 is expected to be launched sometime soon, a Defence Ministry spokesperson said.

When released, it will orbit the earth at a height of 400 to 600 kilometres. The satellite was developed by Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), as was the Shavit launcher. Two of the three launcher's engines were developed by Israel Military Industries.

Among the equipment to be carried by Ofek 5 is a telescopic camera designed by Elbit Systems.

The success of the satellite, however, depends on its launcher. According to reports, the Shavit is an offshoot of the Jericho surface-to-surface missile. Because of the sensitivity of the systems installed in the satellite and its mission, it was decided to launch it in Israel, from an Israeli launcher. However, due to problems of space, it will be launched from east to west, against the earth's rotation, so that should there be any problems, it will land in the sea, rather than in enemy territory.

Ofek 3 went out of action more than a year and a half ago, and since then, the Defence Ministry has mostly made use of photographs taken by the commercial satellite Eros, also developed by IAI. Elbit and private investors are currently working on the second in the series of commercial satellites, which is expected to be launched at the end of next week.

Israel's spy satellite program experienced a setback in November 1998 when the launch of the Ofek 4 satellite failed because of a problem with the Shavit launcher.

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Wiesel's journey home a remarkable documentary

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Elie Wiesel Goes Home provides some of the most haunting images and moving narration I have ever experienced. This film, finally available on video, documents Elie Wiesel's return to his home town of Sighet in Transylvania. The village is now part of Romania, but before the War, was ruled by Hungary.

It was not Wiesel's first trip back, but in the past he had only been there for a day or a night. This time he spent a little more time in the village in an attempt to find some connection to his childhood.

It was the 50th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Sighet, at which time Wiesel and his entire family were shipped out to Auschwitz.

In his past journeys, Wiesel had noted that the town was still there, the houses were still there, everything remained the same, only the Jews were gone. On this trip, even most of the houses were gone and there was little left of the flourishing Jewish community Wiesel remembered from his childhood.

The film does show one person that Wiesel found – a 91 year old Jewish man who had escaped into the forest and had thus survived the War. This man, Erno Fische, was the brother of the Wiesel family doctor and gives Wiesel a number of papers and documents, including a farewell letter written by members of the Fische family the day they were deported to Auschwitz.

In an ironic twist, the town council of Sighet makes Wiesel an honorary citizen of the town, although Wiesel had been born there and had lived his first 15 years there.

Following his sojourn in Sighet, Wiesel visits Auschwitz. Slowly, somberly, with only one friend accompanying him, Wiesel walks through the roadways and fields of the death camp where he was imprisoned. There is no talk or discussion. Both men are lost in their thoughts and their memories, especially as they approach the remains of the crematorium.

As all this is taking place, Filmmaker Judit Elet intersperses the scenes of Wiesel with archival film and still photos. At the same time, actor William Hurt reads from some of Wiesel's most striking passages from his first book *Night* and other of his writings.

The effect is almost like walking with ghosts, not only in Auschwitz, but also in Sighet. From the shots of Wiesel's face one gets the impression that he has the weight of six million souls on his shoulders. And so he does. No other writer has come closer to expressing the anguish and pain of living with the kinds of memories that reside in every survivor's mind.

This extraordinary film received some limited theatrical release in the United States and was shown at a number of film festivals under the title *To Speak the Unspeakable: The Message of Elie Wiesel*.

Now everyone has the opportunity to see it for themselves. Choices Inc. has released it on VHS and DVD formats which can be purchased for $29.95 (US) at www.ChoicesVideo.net, by calling (888) 570-5400, by fax at (310) 360-8501 or by mail at 369 S. Doheny Dr., PMB #1105, Beverly Hills, Ca., 90211. There is a $4.50 charge for shipping and handling for mailed and faxed orders. You can also order through www.amazon.com.

Elie Wiesel visiting Auschwitz in 1994

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

EMMA RICHLER TO TAKE FICTION PRIZE AT JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

Emma Richler, daughter of the late **Mordecai**, has been named winner of the coveted Beatrice and Martin Fischer fiction prize in the 14th annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards, next week at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

Emma Richler

Richler's book *Sister Crazy*, published last year by Knopf Canada, "is remarkable for a first novel," said the awards founding chair, **Adam Fuerstenberg**. "Part of it is an inner struggle for identity… it's really a coming of age novel with interesting stylistic devices, even some experimentation."

According to Fuerstenberg, Emma's brother **Noah**, a writer-editor at the *National Post*, will accept the award for Emma, who lives in London. Like each of the nine awards to be handed out this year, the fiction prize comes with an honorarium of between $500 and $1,000.

Eleanor Wachtel, host of the popular CBC radio show *Writers & Company*, is slated to read a passage from *Sister Crazy* during the awards ceremony.

Other winners include **William Weintraub**, whose book *Getting Started* (McClelland & Stewart) has merited the award for biography/memoir. The book contains a delightful account of Weintraub's friendships with **Mordecai Richler**, **Mavis Gallant** and **Brian Moore** in the 1950s.

Toronto novelist **Cary Fagan** was named winner in the children's literature category for *The Market Wedding*, while **Rabbi Erwin Schild** receives the prize for Holocaust literature for *The Very Narrow Bridge*. **Eric Lawee** takes the award for biblical-rabbinic scholarship for **Isaac Abarbanel's** *Stance Toward Tradition*; **Morton Weinfeld** receives the prize for scholarship on a Canadian Jewish theme for *Like Everyone Else… But Different*; **Simcha Simchovitch** takes the Yiddish translation prize for *The Song That Never Died*; **Janine Stingel** receives the prize in Canadian history for *Social Discredit*; and **Joseph Sherman** takes the poetry award for *American Standard*.

The 14th annual awards ceremony takes place Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. A reception follows; the public is cordially invited and there is no charge for admission.

* * *

Joseph Sherman Reading: Noted P.E.I. poet **Joseph Sherman**, winner of the poetry award at this year's Jewish Book Awards, is scheduled to read and discuss his poetry the day after the awards ceremony.

Sherman, who lives in Charlottetown, is the author of five books of poetry; the most recent is *American Standard*, published by Oberon Press. Sherman's visit is made possible through the generosity of the League of Canadian Poets. Hear him read in the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., room 423, Wednesday, June 5, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

* * *

Cinematheque's June Offerings: Some amazing films are part of Cinematheque Ontario's June season. **Andrzej Munk's** *Passenger* (1963), which focuses on a reunion of a Nazi guard and a concentration camp inmate aboard an ocean liner, was regarded as the Polish filmmaker's pinnacle achievement; he died in a car crash near Auschwitz during its filming. Three more films by Munk are also included.

The films of cinematic explorers **Yervant Gianikian** and **Angela Ricci Lucchi**, as well as **Joris Ivens**, **Budd Boetticher** and others, are also being shown. There is also going to be a screening of one of my favourite films, **Billy Wilder's** *The Apartment*. May 30 to June 29. 416-968-FILM or www.bell.ca/filmfest.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir** presents Music Meets Canvas, a performance of **Leonard Bernstein's** *Kaddish Symphony* that features **Joseph Drapell** painting a canvas live on stage while choir and orchestra perform. Roy Thomson Hall, Oct. 25. 416-598-0422.

• Toronto photographer **David Latchman**, who recently had a showing at the Holy Blossom Temple, specializes in documentary, landscape and portrait photography. See samples of his work at the Web site, www.thewondernetwork.com

* * *

At the Galleries

• Quilts, wall hangings, watercolours and photographs by textile artist **Linda R. Goldman** are on view at the Yorkville Library, 22 Yorkville Ave. June 1 to 30. 416-393-7647.

• Sixty new paintings from the Wilowdale Group of Artists in a variety of mediums are on display at the Link Art Gallery, Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. June 4 to 17. Free.

CUBAN PHOTOS: Glimpsed Through the Interstices, a photography exhibition about Cuba by Beverley Abramson runs until June 8 at Prince Arthur Fine Arts, 33 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto.

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Israeli band creating a real buzz, man

By JOSEPH SERGE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — If you think the best rock 'n'roll came out of San Francisco and London in the late '60s, this hot Israeli band will throw you for a loop.

Sounding at times like The Beatles and early Pink Floyd and at times like The Byrds, The Hollies and The Beach Boys, RockFour has recently released its first international CD – *Another Beginning*.

The group – based in Tel Aviv – will be playing three concerts in Ontario as part of a North American tour.

Another Beginning is a compilation of two CDs released earlier in Israel, *Supermarket* and *One Fantastic Day*. The songs are all throwbacks to the pre-disco era, with strong melodies, harmonies and guitar licks right out of The Beatles' *Rubber Soul*. They even use a mellotron, an early kind of synthesizer – how cool is that?

RockFour: Spacey Pink Floyd-like effects and harmonies

But there is a unique sound to RockFour that's unmistakably its own. "We grew up listening to The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Byrds and The Hollies," says drummer Issar Tennenbaum, 34, on the phone from Israel. His parents are both Canadian immigrants to Israel.

"But especially since we started touring America, we've become open-minded. We are open to everything contemporary like Radiohead or REM. There's nothing wrong being influenced by newer things; otherwise we would sound like a cover band."

RockFour was formed in 1990 in Holon, just outside Tel-Aviv, and has since garnered a large following.

"We're considered the leading band in Israel in the rock scene," Tennenbaum says. "We've sold 30 to 40,000 albums. In Israel, that's big."

The band's first two albums were recorded in Hebrew, but in the late '90s, a decision was made to switch to English – a wise decision if they are to spread their fame worldwide.

"We lost a few fans [when we made the switch]," Tennenbaum admits, "but we have a much stronger support now, especially abroad."

More importantly, the members of the group are more comfortable speaking English. "We actually started singing in English but then translated the songs into Hebrew. We always knew we'd eventually be singing in English."

Tennenbaum is hoping this tour will open many doors. "We're hoping to get lots of exposure. We would like to meet a producer as we would love to do our next album outside of Israel. We're also hoping to be signed by a major label."

He says their show – which still includes some Hebrew songs – is highly energetic, and their sound is different live.

"We bring something different to the show – it's important to see us live," he says. "A lot of people come to see us after hearing the CD – and we blow them away."

He says that while RockFour's sound is "retro," he believes there is a market for it. "In North America and Japan there's a market for everything," he says. "I've been to festivals where many bands sound the same. A lot of people like to hear something different – we're a little more daring."

Right from the opening track *Government*, with its Byrds-like jangly guitar and melodies and early-Floyd-like spacey effects and harmonies, this album is full of psychedelic rock influences.

"Our music needs time to be absorbed," Tennenbaum says. "I think our our songs as the great classics of the future."

Their Web site, www.rockfour.com, has a forum section where you can read positive comments from the band's fans. "We built our fan base in Israel through word of mouth and it's happening now in America. Our forum keeps growing. People say we're creating a real 'buzz'!"

RockFour are playing at Clinton's in Toronto on June 7, Call the Office in London on June 8 and The Raven in Hamilton on June 9. Their CD *Another Beginning* is distributed domestically by Rainbow Quartz.

Film explores extreme fanaticism

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Religious or ideological fanatics are a dangerous breed, whether they're Palestinian suicide bombers, Islamic hijackers or even Jewish extremists such as Yigal Amir, who shot and killed Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Israeli movie *Time of Favor* – which won six Israeli Academy Awards – deals with the issue of Jewish extremism by focussing on an Orthodox soldier serving in a West Bank settlement.

Pini is part of a newly formed unit composed entirely of Orthodox soldiers from a yeshiva run by Rabbi Meltzer, a dedicated, spiritual man who believes in war as a just cause.

It was Meltzer's idea to form this unit and his motives are treated with suspicion by some in the military who regard him as a fanatic.

Pini is Meltzer's prize pupil, a strong disciple of the rabbi's right-wing ideology. He is thrilled when Meltzer invites him to his house for Shabbat as a pretext for introducing him to his daughter Michal. But Michal, suspicious that she is being offered as a prize to a top student, defies her father and refuses Pini.

When Pini finds out that instead she has fallen in love with Menachem, his unit commander and bunk mate, he feels betrayed by both. Motivated by the teachings of his beloved rabbi, he hatches a shocking scheme that if successful could change history – and possibly lead to a major Mideast conflagration.

Ultimately, the movie becomes a search-and-rescue operation with the Israel Defence Forces, the Mossad, Menachem and Michal hot on the trail of the disturbed yeshiva student.

The movie moves slowly, taking its time to develop its characters. There is a sense as the plot unfolds, amidst a straightforward love triangle, of something terrible bubbling to the surface. Unlike Hollywood films that are action-driven, *Time of Favor* is character-driven, and the end result is satisfying.

Time of Favor opens in Toronto at Canada Square Theatre May 31. It is written and directed by American-born Joseph Cedar. It won best picture, best screenplay, best actor and best actress at the Israeli Academy Awards. It is in Hebrew with English subtitles.

Capturing street life in Israel

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Anyone visiting Israel with half an eye for the wonderful absurdities of life can't help but stop every few minutes and wish they had a camera.

Israeli-born Alex Levac had that camera and managed to capture the daily paradoxes found in Israeli street life.

By juxtaposing different images – such as a tired Orthodox woman sitting indifferently in an amusement park in Jerusalem next to a billboard of a seductive Marilyn Monroe – Levac's photos reveal many of the physical and spiritual contrasts in Israel today.

One of his photos, from a collection called *Our Country* that is currently on display at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, portrays bikini-clad women (Israelis, German tourists, does it matter?) dancing around a fully clad Arab woman sitting in the waters of the Sachna, with Middle Eastern men in bathing trunks looking on from the rocks behind.

In another shot, a large group of Chassidic Jews are walking pensively down a narrow Jerusalem street. At the centre of the photo is a kippah-wearing black man.

Many of Levac's photos contain elements of irony and humour that seem to go beyond everyday life occurrences. Those who have never been to Israel can't help but wonder whether the pictures weren't in fact posed.

But anyone who has been to Israel knows that you only have to stop, pause and look – and there will be that woman pulling her sofa across King George Street.

Photographs from *Our Country* will be on view at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre until June 5.

Alex Levac's photos contain elements of irony and humour.

India's vast, open spaces are alluring

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

RISHIKESH, India — A Canadian in India, whose population exceeds one billion, is immediately struck by its overflowing jumble of humanity.

After a few days in India's incredibly congested and polluted cities, a traveller aches for the solitude of vast, open, sparsely-populated spaces.

If you're game, there are a number of possibilities to consider.

You can raft down the rapids of the Ganges River. You can visit two peaceful towns in the foothills of the Himalyas, Nainital and Rishikesh. Or you can join a safari in Corbett National Park.

In the table-flat plains, the Ganges, sacred to Hindus, is muddy and filthy. But high in the mountains of the picturesque Kumaon region, the river is clear and fast-flowing, lending itself to the thrills – and occasional spills – of whitewater rafting.

At the Mercury Adventure Village and Beach Camp near Rishikesh, six of us, outfitted with orange life vests and black helmets, piled into a red and black rubber raft.

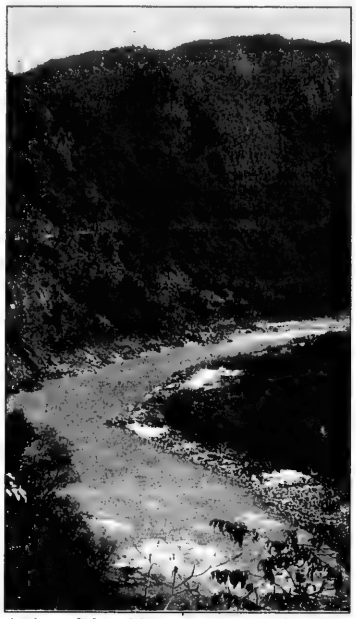
Before we set off on the 16-kilometre route downstream to Rishikesh, our Nepalese oarsman instructed us in basic rowing techniques.

We learned two easy commands, forward and backward, so as to assist him in safely navigating the rapids that lay ahead.

Having conquered the grade four rapids of British Columbia's turbulent Kicking Horse River eight years ago, I confidently assumed that the Ganges' grade two and three currents would be a pushover.

I was wrong.

As we thundered down the first rapid, rowing forward furiously, we were soaked to the skin by an implacable wall of cold water. Luckily, the day was warm and sunny.



A view of the white water rapids of India's Ganges River. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

For several minutes after that bone-chilling initiation, we floated quietly and serenely, catching our breaths and summoning up our collective courage.

The second, third and fourth rapids were quite turbulent, tossing us around like a bobbing cork.

As we approached the final rapid, a long and churning descent, we changed left-right rowing positions.

Then, crashing head-on into the foaming current, the Nepalese oarsman momentarily lost control.

Jolted violently by the force of the waves, the raft suddenly tipped leftward, throwing three of us into the Ganges.

I held on for dear life, having no desire to test the effectiveness of my lifejacket or my lame swimming strokes.

Jeff, a retired Australian teacher who had sat opposite me in the front of the raft, looked stricken as he struggled to keep his head above water.

Stephanie, our plucky tour leader from New Zealand, and Mary-Ann, a lawyer from southern California, were sucked under the raft for a few terrifying seconds.

Acting with dispatch, the Nepalese oarsman pulled them in by grabbing the top of their life vests.

The crisis having passed, we floated gently into Rishikesh, a pleasant town of gayly-coloured Hindu temples, tranquil ashrams, souvenir stores and a scattering of herbal medicinal shops.

Several days later, we headed for Corbett National Park, established in 1936 by Jim Corbett, the legendary British game hunter, writer and photographer.

Before reaching the reserve, we drove to Nainital, passing dusty, forgettable towns, sugar cane and wheat fields and herds of black water buffaloes.

Founded as a hill station by the British colonial authorities, Nainital, 1900 metres above sea level, is India's honeymoon capital.

Hugging the shores of a small crater lake, Nainital is relatively cool in the summer months, when the rest of India swelters under a broiling sun. On crisp mornings, you can hear birds chirping, chickens squawking and church bells pealing.

Like so many Indian towns, Nainital swarms with rickshaws, the pollution-free transportation of choice throughout this country.

There are no shortage of activities. You can stroll up and down the main street, dotted with cafés, restaurants and shops. If you're in a lazy mood, you can take a restful boat ride on the placid lake. And if you enjoy fine scenery, hop on the cable car to the Snow View, which is higher up in the thickly forested mountains.

The Snow View is spectacular, offering panoramic views of the perpetually snow-clad Himalayas, 300 kilometres in the distance.

Nanda Devi, India's highest peak (7,816 metres), dominates the foreboding, majestic mountain range. China is to the far left, Tibet is somewhere in the middle and Nepal is on the extreme right.

Corbett National Park, which is 1,318 square kilometres in size, was founded to save India's endangered tigers.

At one point, as many as 20,000 tigers roamed the forests of India, but during the pre-1947 colonial era, they were almost wiped out by rapacious hunters and poachers.

Although we never spotted the elusive tiger, the park's chief attraction, we saw langur monkeys, several varieties of deer, wild boars, peacocks, crocodiles and elephants, all of which were worth the price of admission.

And, of course, Corbett National Park transported us far, far away from India's madding crowds.

* * *

Gap Adventures, based in Toronto, offers a three-week tour of northern India, Sacred India, packaged by an Australian company, Intrepid Travel (www.intrepidtravel.com/asia).

Lonely Planet's guidebook on India, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, brims with concise and practical information.

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New group caters to 'in-between generation'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – A new group that began as an initiative of Kolel: the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning caters to the "in-between generation."

Made up of young adults in their early 20s, Reviving Eden is for those who are in a transition between post-secondary school education and the "real world."

"Our mandate is to offer comfortable, non-threatening, accessible programs that speak to people in their 20s and 30s," said Gail Gould, executive director of Kolel.

The group focuses on both in-reach – to Jews who are affiliated in some way – and outreach, to those who have, on some level, become disenfranchised, she said.

The core group of eight young adults met while taking a Kolel course on Judaism and Spirituality.

"We discovered we tended to lean towards tradition and religion during our time of change and flux," said Jodi Kovitz, who met with *The CJN* along with Sam Stone, Amy Schnoll, Leah Gitterman, and Gould.

"We shared the belief that one of the few solid rocks in our lives was religion. We all wanted to lean on [Judaism] as a vehicle for introspection to help ease our transition," said Kovitz, who is entering Osgoode Hall law school in the fall.

Gitterman, a research assistant at Princess Margaret Hospital who is headed for medical school, said, "W are looking for [our own] Judaism, rather than one that is being dictated by our parents. That is what brought this all about."

They approached Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director of Kolel, with their idea, "and she was all for it. She introduced us to people who fit our demographics and we had our first planning meeting in November," said Kovitz.

The idea was so well-received, she said, that the group was able to get a three-year grant from the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies.

Rabbi Goldstein said that Reviving Eden is proof that this generation of Jews is not indifferent to its Judaism.

"On the contrary, they are willing and able to imagine a new way of being Jewish for themselves, but it has to be in the right place, at the right time, geared to their needs and interests. I think Reviving Eden is exactly that right place at the right time."

Kovitz said the goal is "to create an inclusive opportunity for people to explore Judaism in their own generation, so they can go forward and build a strong Jewish community in Toronto."

People in her age group belong "to a demographic that has been overlooked," Gitterman said.

"This is when we create our own philosophy and ideas. If there is no guidance, instead of tending towards Judaism, we will get lost."

About 400 people turned out for Reviving Eden's initial program, which featured two bands, Bais Groove and Unclefty, at the Capitol Event Theatre.

Other programs have included a seminar on Jewish sexual ethics and a wine and cheese reception with Rabbi Goldstein, held before a community event sponsored by Kolel and the Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

Upcoming events include a three-week course titled Finding Meaning in Your Work. Topics include exploring the career puzzle, examining personal style and ways to bring meaning to work, as well as Jewish thoughts on tzedakah and career.

In January 2003, Stone said, Reviving Eden is planning to take part in a Birthright Israel trip, in which the group will have its own bus. "We can customize the trip to accommodate the age group," he said.

For information on Reviving Eden, call Kolel at 416-485-7007.

Retirement fails to slow engineer

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Ben Etkin, who was Canada's first Jewish dean of engineering, is working on projects to improve our quality of life, almost 20 years after his official retirement.

Etkin, 83, is a member of an Environment Canada team studying the particles emitted in the exhaust of cars and trucks, so small they cannot be seen under a microscope. He is also doing research on geophysical prospecting – mapping rock structures by methods of experimental physics – from the air, using his specialized knowledge of how aircraft behave in turbulent weather. This will provide a cheaper way of finding of oil, gas or mineral deposits than methods currently used.

An expert in aerodynamics, Etkin retired from the U of T faculty of science and engineering in 1983 at the age of 65. He had already built a formidable reputation in his field, and was one of a group that, on short notice, gave advice on how to bring Apollo 13 back to earth safely in 1970.

"It was a Friday afternoon when we got a call," he said. "They wanted, in a few hours, recommendations on what range of pressure to apply to safely eject the lunar module and bring the Apollo astronauts to earth. They took our advice, and the rest is history."

Etkin dropped out of Oakwood Collegiate before graduation to take a job, but he later got his high school diploma at night school, with honours in mathematics and physics, a prerequisite for engineering.

But his goal was a career in aeronautic engineering, even though he entered university in 1937 during the Depression and friends advised him "that nobody will hire a Jewish engineer."

He was to become the first Jewish chair and later the first Jewish dean of science and engineering in the university's history.

During World War II and after, Etkin worked in the aircraft industry during the summer, assigned to projects that led to the building of the historic Canadian Avro Arrow. He helped design the Tiger Moth, the CF-100, the Harvard Trainer, the Avro Anson, the Mosquito and Lancaster bombers.

There was a special urgency in that period to produce planes for the war effort, and Etkin was among those who worked to solve the problems associated with components made in other countries, such as Swedish ball bearings.

Etkin began an association with Ben-Gurion University (BGU) in Israel after his retirement from U of T, when two of his former students became deans of their faculties in Israel. For a period, he was a member of the BGU board of governors and of a committee established to review BGU's science curriculum.

Though he does his research at his home in North York, he still has an office, which he visits about once a week, at the U of T Institute for Aerospace Studies on Dufferin Street south of Steeles Avenue.

He is endowing two medals in perpetuity, one a gold medal for a graduate student at the institute and another for a third-year undergraduate in engineering. His attitude to lifelong learning was summed up in his declaration to the audience at a recent meeting at the university: "I visualize knowledge as a finite domain embedded in an infinite sea of ignorance."

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493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HX
HARVEY KALLES
• REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR •

LYTTON/ALEXANDRA WOOD LOT - $1,250,000
Exquisite ravine-like South view in quiet cul-de-sac. Unique opportunity near zillion dollar homes to build your dream home in 50 x 170 dream lot. Jeffrey Joseph** Ext. #519

14 MEADOW HEIGHTS - NEW PRICE!
$1,249,999. Yonge & Uplands modern stucco 2-stry home backing onto golf/ski resort. 5+2 bdrms, 6 baths, 2 kit. Designer kit w/granite & hdwd. flooring, loads of upgrades, outdoor pool. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

28 OLD ENGLISH LANE - $2,125,000
1.3 Acre ravine lot w/magnif. landscaping, outdoor tennis courts & indoor pool. 4+2 bdrms, 6 baths, designer kit, 2-stry great rm w/20' clngs. Granite & oak flooring, marble, natural stone & mosaic glass are only some of the beautiful finishes in this 5000+ s.f. home. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

17 SEINECLIFFE ROAD - $1,390,000
Contemp. 5+1 bdrm on a mature, treed lot. Designer kit, hdwd. & slate flooring, formal LR & DR. Mn flr study, fin'd bsmnt w/nanny's rm, 3 pce. bath, oak wet bar, gas frplce, flagstone patio, 3 car gar. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

210 ARNOLD AVENUE - $1,890,000
Best part of Arnold, within walking distance of private schools + Synagogues. Approx. 10,000 sf. of lux. liv. Features "Damiani" Kosher kit, full Passover, grand 2-stry library, 12' ceilings, 7+2 bdrms, 9 baths. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

AN ARMOUR HEIGHTS DREAM
$399,900. Delhi Ave. 45' frontage. Total renovation! 3+1 bedrooms, new kitchens & baths, prof. finished in-law suite. Carole Lazer* Ext. #348

COUNTRY LIVING IN THE CITY
The perfect family home! Sprawling ranch bungalow w/6 br + 2 private attached sitting rms. This magnif. lot is just under an acre and is very private. Stunning pool…Great home for ent & fam liv. $1,350,000. Elise Kalles** & Corinne Kalles* Ext. #555

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HOMES

Bathurst/Clark – Completely renovated family home, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, finished basement with kitchen, lovely corner, maple kitchen, great value, asking $439,000.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Excellent starter home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 50' x 120' lot, great potential for doctor/dentist office, asking $279,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Luxury 2-storey home, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, basement finished with 8 ft ceilings, main floor laundry, 46' x 133' lot, asking $729,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – solid bungalow, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 43' x 161' lot, attractive area, asking $299,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Custom Home to be built in fall, plans are ready, buy now and save money!! Asking $749,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Steeles – Exclusive, Primrose III, 2 bedrooms, approx. 1,300 sq. ft., main floor bright and spacious, asking $249,900.

Bathurst/Clark – Conservatory, 2 bdrm, approx. 1,200 sq. ft., split bedrooms, large solarium, asking $302,900.

For more info., call Michael Harari at 416-630-0111 or visit my website: www.hararihomes.com

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

1" AD! STRATHEARN RAVINE! "AS NEW!"
Exemplary 4+1 bdrm, 2 family rooms, den, gorgeous kitchen & master. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

21 BROOKVIEW DRIVE! THE ULTIMATE!
$1,349K! Bathurst/Lawrence Gem! Exec 5+1 bdrm, 4 bath! Exquisite finishes! Fab 106x134'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

29 VIEWMOUNT AVENUE! 5+2 BDRM, 5 BATH!
$895K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! Fab 56x140'! Impeccable cond! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS NEW & BEAUTIFUL SOLD
Approx 3300 sq. ft. 5 bdrm, 5 bath. Choice 50x137' lot. Perfect design. Prime street. $889,000. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

217 VIEWMOUNT AVE "ON THE PARK!"
$745,900! Bathurst/Glencairn! Value packed 4+2 bdrm, 6 bath! Nanny ste! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

NEW LISTING! 74 LATIMER AVENUE
Approx 15 years. 3 bedroom, 4 bath. Finished lower level. Private drive & garage. Reesa Sud* 416-488-2875

56 BLUE FOREST DRIVE! 60 X 200'!
$649K! Bathurst N/Sheppard! Rare ravine lot! 4+1 bdrm, 4 bath S/S! Vendor says sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - CUSTOM BUILT 3600 S.F.
4 bdrm, 4 bath, fireplaces. Fab mstr retreat. 2 car garage w/direct entry. $649,000. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

16 CHATER COURT! CUL-DE-SAC!
$579,900! Bathurst/Glencairn! Seldom available! 4+1 bdrm, 3 bath S/S! Gorg'us 81x153'! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - BREATHTAKING CUL-DE-SAC
Outstanding 55x148' building lot with plans & permits for 4,000 sq. ft. home. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

607 CASTLEFIELD AVE $549,000
Between Chaplin Cr & Avenue Rd. Renovated main floor family room, deck, 3 baths & more! Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - BEST VALUE $489,000
Spacious 3 bdrm, 3 bath. Great family room & study addition. Mag 40x155' lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

AVENUE RD/N. OF EGLINTON $429,000
Charming 2 bedroom bungalow. Plans available for 2200 sq. ft. home. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CHAPLIN/N. EGLINTON JUST $429,000
Charming bungalow, 3 bedroom, 2 baths. Plans available for 2200 sq. ft. home. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BATHURST/WILSON - TOTAL RENO $385,000
Spacious & spotless 4 bdrm. Fab walk-up basement with separate entrance. Huge income potential. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - CONVENIENT LOCALE
3 bedroom, 2 storey, hardwoods, reno'd bath, walk-out to deck from kitchen. $1,700 per month. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

OLDE THORNHILL - 1 ACRE ON POND
Modern luxury multi level design. Dramatic foyer, exquisite finishes. $2,475,000. Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

187 ELMWOOD AVENUE! 146 X 44' LOT!
$399K! Bayview/Sheppard! Rare find! Prime S/E corner Willowdale! Vendor says sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

304 RAYMERVILLE DRIVE! $359,900!
McCowan/Hwy 7! Reno 5 bdrm, 3 bath! Fab 50x113'! Move right in! Motivated Vendor! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

3000 BATHURST IMMED. POSS - MOVE IN
1 bdrm, Lease requirements – credit reference. Long term possible. East View. Lillian Cooper* 416-488-2875

FOR LEASE - 65 HARBOUR SQ. $2850/MO
Luxurious 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1500 sq. ft. Lake view from all rooms. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

3000 BATHURST - 1 BDRM RENTAL
Reno'd ground flr with walk-out to terrace. Hardwood floors. Bonnie Singer** 416-488-2875

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

YONGE-STEELES - REDUCED TO SELL!
Gorgeous 5 bdrm home, hardwood flrs, 9 ft ceilings, jacuzzi, fully loaded. Immaculate! Must be seen! Call *Lora Yakobson

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"ROSEDALE NORTH" PRICED TO SELL!
Large corner lot at Bathurst-Centre, outdoor hot tub, main floor laundry & entry to garage, $419,900. *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-CENTRE NEW LISTING!
4 bdrms, fin bsmt, great lot, main floor family room & library, 3 car garage, late closing! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-CENTRE ON QUIET STREET
$385,000 for 4 bdrm detached home, eat-in kitchen, large living & dining, 2 car garage. *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

RICHMOND HILL FREEHOLD TOWNHOME $299,900
Yonge/Hwy 7, end unit, shows like model home! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BAYVIEW & MULOCK $249,900
3 bedroom freehold townhome, $$ spent in extras! Deep lot! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

BATHURST-STEELES ONLY $359,000
Fabulous 4 bdrm bungalow, finished lower level, potential in-law suite, separate side entry, 2 piece ensuite. *Helen Winer

• • •

FINCH-GRANTBROOK - CLOSE TO EVERYTHING!
1½ storey with sep entry to basement apartment, on super size lot, close to all amenities. *M. Waxman

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

YONGE-CLARK 2 STOREY PENTHOUSE!
Unbelievable value for this builder's model! Hardwood, granite, balconies, sauna, 2 bdrms, +++ now $644,900! *Lora Yakobson

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BATHURST-STEELES - A MUST SEE!!
Luxury 2 bdrm condo, 2nd largest unit in bldg, 2 parking spots, locker, indoor pool, sauna, great layout. *Carey Rosenzweig

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BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Lux 2 bdrm, about 1500 sf, on ground floor! Call *Larry Wronzberg

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60 ANTIBES - PENTHOUSE!
Beautiful 2 bdrm, 2 baths, bright eat-in kitchen with solarium, park setting, close to TTC, shops, schools & shuls! *Susan Shainhouse

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LES AARON
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Charming 4 bedroom, Allenby, 30' x 132', family room, 2 baths, hardwood floor. SOLD **$549,000.**

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Hoggs Hollow Oasis, 4 bedroom, magnificent landscape, main floor family room and den, large foyer, Betz Pool. **$1,395,000.**

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BATHURST / GLENCAIRN
Rare opportunity! E. side of Bathurst, spacious 4 + 1 bdrm. bung. on gorgeous 45.5 x 136.5 ft. lot, prestigious location. Huge living room/dining room combo, ideal for entertaining, family size kit. Sep. entrance to in-law suite. **ACT NOW** — Only $469,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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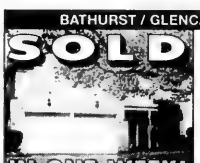
Prestigious executive home on gorgeous 67 x 432 ft. lot. **THAT'S RIGHT – FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO FEET DEEP!** Tennis court, sauna, amenities galore. Unique setting. **REDUCED TO SELL NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — NEW LISTING!



Unique opportunity! Prestigious location **BACKING ONTO RAVINE!** Spacious 5 + 1 bdrm. executive home, modern eat-in kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplaces. Loaded with character! Offered at $1,345,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

HOME RENTALS
Three homes available: 2 + 1 bdrm. bungalow at $1,650.; 5 bdrm., 1 1/2 storey at $2,500; exec. home on ravine lot, $4,500. For details call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Rare opportunity! Bright & spacious corner unit. 3 bdrms., 2 baths, [illegible] laundry, N.E. exposure, shows very well. Only $[illegible] Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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FINCH WILMINGTON
Spacious 3 bdrm bungalow, 2 baths, L-shaped living & dining, updated kitchen, appliances, fin bsmt with private entrance, dble drive garage, Great Location!!

BATHURST SHEPPARD
3 bdrm, 3 baths, good size liv & din, fin. bsmt, gar, Don't miss!!

WILMINGTON OVERBROOK
Triplex 2-3 bedroom + 1 bdrm, balconies, SOLD in suite, garages + parking, fully rented.

COURTLAND CONDO $174,900
Lrg 2 bdrm, huge living & dining, solarium, 2 baths, laundry in suite, no waiting for elevators, Steps to everything!!

PRIMROSE CONDO $229,900
2 bedroom, 2 baths, solarium, laundry in suite, 5 appliances, A1 location, Don't miss!!

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Dream of a palace! You have it! 6 bedroom + finished basement, walk-out to ravine with pool & Jacuzzi. Gorgeous!

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BATHURST & PRIMROSE
Large spacious 2 bedroom rental condo with den, 2 baths, great location.

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GLORIA KLINE
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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Clark. Stunning 4 bed. fin. bsmnt., walk to shuls, avail. August 1st. 905-707-5452.

CARVILLE/BATHURST
3 bdrms., 2 baths, backsplit for rent or lease. Large kitchen, dbl. garage. Main & lower floors occupied by Country Shul. Upper floors available. $1600/mo. Call...
EZRA BAR-NAHOR
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65 ACCOMMODATION SWAP/EXCHANGE

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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bathurst/Eglinton, 1 bed. bsmnt. sep. entr. a/c, c/vac, laundry, no smkng or pets, nr. subway, June 1. $900. 416-819-5004.

Bath./Clark, 1 bdrm. basement apt. Renovated. Avail. immed. Near Synagogue. Non smoker. Laundry. 416-560-6186.

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-787-9451.

Bathurst/Sheppard, unfurn bsmt apt., bdrm, liv, kitch, bath, parking, cable, no pets, 1 adult, $500/mo. Call 416-223-1351.

Bath./Glencairn bsmt. apt. Lg. unfurn. rm. + kosher kit, n/smoke, suit single. 416-783-3831.

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631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

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Belle Ewart 4 bedroom, furnished, walk to shul. 416-633-3151.

Cottage for rent, Bel Ewart, lakefront, 4 bdrm., lrg. kitch., 2 fridge, 1 stove. 905-763-7581.

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RAKHMILOVA, Elena – on May 13, 2002.

KAPLUN, Zelman – on May 14, 2002, late of 6030 Bathurst St.

RICH, Donald Harold – on May 13, 2002, late of 7825 Bayview Ave..

VAINBERG, Inna – on May 14, 2002.

ROMOV, Yakov – on May 14, 2002.

ALTMAN, Bernard Daniel – on May 15, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

BRONFMAN, Diane – on May 3, 2002, late of 9 Dur Dor Vendorshav St.

NAD, Susan – on May 2, 2002, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd., #716.

GROSBERG, Earl – on May 4, 2002 4266 Bathurst St., #716.

FRISCHOFF, Butch – on May 4, 2002, late of 1166 Bay St., #304.

NEUBERGER, Sarah – on May 6, 2002, late of 3 Bowring Walk.

ROCKLIN, Gertrude – on May 5, 2002, late of 55 Ameer.

SPORN, Pauline – on May 6, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St., P.H. #5.

SHUSTER, Leah – on May 7, 2002, late of 598 Bedford Park Ave.

SELIGMAN, Jeanette – on May 7, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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will take place

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Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Workman's Circle Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MANNIE FRIEDBERG ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 9th, 12:00 noon

Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ARNOLD GROSS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shomray Shabot Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

JAY LIPSEY ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

PEARL MILLER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 9th, 1:00 p.m.

Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Lubavitch Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the beloved memory of the late

MICHAL KOHN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2nd at 12:00 noon

Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section Phase IV
Family and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

HELENE (Hindy) LAVINE ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2, at 12:00 noon

Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LEBO (Irving) LEBOVICI ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 9, at 11:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Labour Zionist Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

JACK SZMEISER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2nd, 10:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie Dr
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

FANNY URA ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

Dawes Road Cemetery
Keltzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

DOLORES YARMO ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, June 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

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women seeking men

HOME COOKIN'
Jeanette enjoys the outdoors, sports, hiking, swimming, kayaking and traveling. She seeks someone with similar interests and can talk to about the situation in Middle East. If you enjoy children, dining, and Cecily home cooking, please leave me a message. **AD#1050**

PLEASURE & OPTIMISM
A self employed Jewish female, 60 yrs, would love to meet someone who greets each day with pleasure & optimism. Someone who's not afraid to speak his mind, and loves classical music & the opera. Ideally creative, and has a deep love for Israel, but is not religiously observant. Please call **AD#1437**

PERKY WIDOW
Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people. Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70s. Give her a call **AD#1066**

men seeking women

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 2", from Woodbridge. He's employed, enjoys walking and running. He's interested in conservation, has never been married, is a non-smoker and social drinker. He's also serious & shy, a nice guy, and a seeks female with similar interests. Leave him a message **AD#1335**

LOTS OF FUN
Dave is 36 yrs, slim and handsome. He's outgoing and enjoys movie going, dining, concerts and shopping. Looking for a single Jewish female, who is slim, 30-37 yrs, tall and reasonably attractive. If you like what you hear please leave him a message **AD#1436**

HEART OF GOLD
A unique Jewish female, 5' 5", with beautiful brown hair & eyes seeks a Jewish gentleman. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lost of fun to be with. She seeks a man with strong morals, who's over 45yrs, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoking, and financially stable **AD#1462**

GREEN EYES
She's a pretty, 5' 4", blonde w/ green eyes. Fun, very positive, caring & sharing. She enjoys theatre, music, movies, dancing, swimming, and seeks a sincere, established, non-smoking gentleman, with sense of humour, good outlook on life, who's between 60-70, for mutually enjoyable relationship **AD#1471**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Ruth is sassy gong, a bit naughty, but very nice. She loves going out, dancing, dining, travelling and romance. It is essential that she be able to communicate with her companion. If you are as naughty and nice as her, please leave her a message **AD#1133**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

LET'S MEET
Martin, 49 yrs, enjoys dancing, long walks flea markets, nice restaurants and weekend country drives. He looks for a good natured, friendly individual, a nice person to be with and converse with. Feel free to reply and he will get back to you **AD#1393**

FUN LOVING LARRY
Larry is 50 yrs and new in town. He likes horses and any outdoor activities. He's looking for a nice lady with a good sense of humour and lots of love. If this fits your description, please reply **AD#1397**

LONG WALKS
Single Jewish male, in his mid 40's, is an attractive, intelligent, ambitious, professional gentleman. He seeks an attractive Jewish female, 32-44 yrs old for casual dating leading to long term relationship, someone who enjoys dining, movies, good music, dancing, nearby travel and romantic long walks. **AD#1254**

ENJOYS LIFE
Single female, 50 yrs, loves to laugh, likes to have fun, is warm friendly, have a child, 2 dogs. She's 5' 6", thin, blonde hair, attractive, nice person, likes dining, movies, travelling, reading, quiet walks, and drives in the country **AD#1064**

"C" ALL ME
Single, attractive female, slim, 50 yrs young. She seeks a male between 55-70 yrs, someone who is young at heart and not afraid of "C" words, such as card, cuddling, compassion and confiding. She's looking for friendship, fun and to share the wonders of life. **AD#1150**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
Single female, interested in meeting a trustworthy, loyal, caring, intelligent, professional Jewish male. She's a non smoker, lives in Toronto, has a great sense of humour. She has many interests and would like to share them with someone for a friendship first relationship **AD#1366**

LIFE PARTNER
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, intelligent, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established male, who's over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable, and over 6 feet **AD#1181**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys **AD#1179**

CALL ME
Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends. Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family. **AD#1222**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee **AD#1224**

CALL ME
Single female from Montreal, 50'ish, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, sense of humour, conservadox, enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, beach, seeks male, 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests **AD#1034**

LET'S TALK
Loving, warm, giving very affectionate, outgoing and friendly. She has a great sense of humour and likes to make people laugh. Compassionate, passionate and sensuous. Loves art galleries, museums, travelling, swimming, walks, and musicals **AD#1385**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Loves movies, theatre, dining, dancing, has great circle of friends, enjoys sports, hockey, scrabble, backgammon, majong, cards, great sense of humour, good soul, looking for the same in a male: funny, charming, good sense of humour, who's willing to give more than 2 minutes **AD#1396**

CALL ME
Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others **AD#1030**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

DYNAMIC
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative, seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys **AD#1253**

LOVING & CARING
Single Jewish female, 63 yrs, sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, enjoys a wide variety of interests, seeks male Jewish, 65-70 yrs, spontaneous, honest and romantic, for a long term relationship **AD#1033**

LONG TERM LOVE
Single female, classy, smart, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, kind, seeks Jewish male, 65-70 yrs, active, thoughtful, loving, romantic, ready for a committed relationship **AD#1441**

LOVER & BEST FRIEND
Single female, warm, caring, intelligent, passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, skiing, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight, successful and ready for romance. **AD#1131**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes Exterior Tall, handsome, good body Interior. Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded **AD#1252**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with **AD#1049**

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HUMOUR & HONESTY
Single male, 56 yrs, non smoker, enjoys sports, dining out, long walks, movies, rides in the country, medium weight, 5' 4", divorced, short brown hair, two grown children, strong sense of integrity, great sense of humour, searching for a single white male 60-65 yrs, with a great sense of humour and honesty **AD#1209**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of a six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5'5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, seeks male, 65-75 yrs active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship **AD#1135**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

SEEKS A FUN PERSON
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Smashnova nears tennis top 20

By ARIK LUBETZKY
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — At the end of last year, Israeli tennis star Anna Smashnova was at a crossroads in her career. A series of consecutive defeats saw her drop like a stone in the world rankings. At 25 – an advanced age for a female professional tennis player – there were plenty of reasons for her to call it a day.

Instead of retiring, Smashnova decided to take the bull by the horns. She upped her training regimen to a gruelling pace and concentrated on the strong aspects of her game – her gritty determination and excellent footwork. The results were not long in coming.

The first sign of success came at the Auckland WTA event in New Zealand in early January, when Smashnova won the tournament without dropping a set. She went on to win the following tournament in Canberra, Australia.

The success was tempered somewhat by an early exit at the Australian Open, but she picked up the pace again as the tour moved to balmy California, where she reached the quarterfinals of the event at Indian Wells. At the big event in Miami a week later, she reached the third round.

Her recent success at the German Open in Berlin, where she reached the semi-finals by beating current world No. 4 Kim Klijsters of Belgium before being knocked out by the eventual winner, Serena Williams, was embellished by a straight-sets win in the Italian Open in Rome over home player Adriana Sera-Zanetti 6-2, 6-1. That was followed by a tough meeting against Jelen Dokic of Yugoslavia.

Smashnova, who was born in the former Soviet Union, has moved into the top 30 and she is vying for entry into the top 20 (she is currently 24th). If so, that will close in on the all-time high ranking by an Israeli, which was achieved by Amos Mansdorf, who was ranked 18th in the ATP rankings in 1987 before finishing the year in 21st place.

Smashnova's surge can be attributed to her unwillingness to quit, a maturity of mind and a close personal relationship with her boyfriend and coach, Italian Claudio Pistolesi. All these factors have allowed her to play the best tennis of her life, free of the pressures of the past and complimented by years of experience.

Pistolesi, himself a former professional and Italian Davis Cup player, was Monica Seles' coach.

He and Smashnova met in Tokyo in 2000 when Smashnova's career was at one of its frequent lows. The meeting between the two was the turning point in the Smashnova's life. The loneliness and the stress, a regular part of her touring life, were replaced with optimism and a rekindled vivacious attitude toward tennis.

Pistolesi says the change has come about because of Smashnova's hard work and minor adjustments to various aspects of her game, such as footwork and improvement in her relatively weak serve.

A change of racket has also made a difference and Pistolesi thinks his charge can improve even further, although every step becomes more difficult as the competition gets tougher.

Israel's Davis Cup men's coach and captain of the women's Federation Cup team, Oded Yaakov, was largely responsible for the linkup between Smashnova and Pistolesi. As one of the people who has known her best over her years in Israel, Yaakov pushed Smashnova to persevere despite the drop in her form.

Yaakov says he told Smashnova not to quit as long as she was earning a living on the tour, and last year, when she returned home to her family in Herzliyah from an intensive training camp, he saw a great change.

The improved form soon manifested itself in the results, and it also aided Israel's Federation Cup team which last month earned the right to play off against the United States for a place in the World Group, the elite 16-nation division of women's tennis.

At 5 feet, 2 inches tall, Smashnova – who was always slight of stature in comparison to her colleagues on the tour – is at a great disadvantage.

Men's tennis entered a new world with the introduction of the power game when Boris Becker entered the fray in the mid-1980s. In the past five years, a similar situation has developed in the women's game, as big serving and big hitting has begun to be a dominant factor among almost all the top players.

Smashnova is at a disadvantage against power players such as the Williams sisters, Jennifer Capriati or Lindsay Davenport. But what she lacks in strength and a weak serve, Smashnova tries to make up for with exceptional footwork and movement around the court and great accuracy from the baseline.

"Anna is like a moving wall, she gets every ball back," says Yaakov.

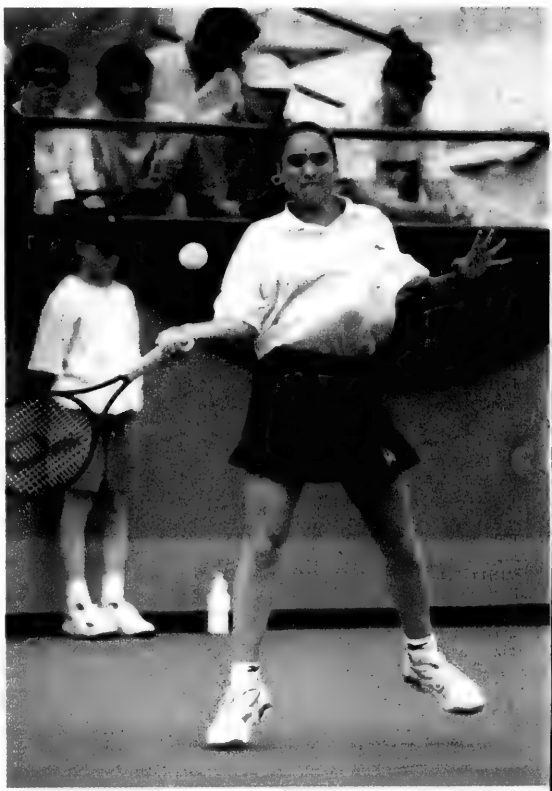
Smashnova will face several challenges in the coming weeks and months.

She is currently competing in the French Open, which runs until June 9, as the first Israeli ever to be seeded in a Grand Slam event (21st).

Afterward she will move on to the brief grass court part of the tour in England at various tournaments that culminate at Wimbledon.

In July, Smashnova will lead Israel's Federation Cup team against the United States on U.S. soil, where the Israelis are complete no-hopers, but her matches of late have provided much drama and excitement, and she is earning a name for herself on the world stage.

Unfortunately, there has been very little TV coverage of Smashnova's matches and one of the great sporting success stories in Israel this year is going almost unnoticed at home.



Anna Smashnova

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Parrish: a thought

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

It's official: the Hon. Carolyn Parrish, Liberal member of Parliament for Mississauga Centre, member of the Standing Committee on Health, member of the Standing Committee on Procedures and House Affairs, chair of the NATO parliamentary association, former writer and teacher, is breathtakingly naive.

And her naiveté, expressed in her recent remarks about Israel on her Palestinian-sponsored trip to the region, works on so many levels.

For starters, it should be noted that Palestine House, sponsor of the trip for nine MPs to the Palestinian territories, is in Parrish's riding. It seems to have found, in the august member, a perfect, if painfully inarticulate, mouthpiece. A few weeks ago, Parrish's colleague, Toronto MP Joe Volpe, warned that participants on this trip would be used as propaganda pawns of the Palestinians. He wasn't far off.

Our doe-eyed Parrish, who sounds as though she's never been east of Scarborough, tells the *Toronto Star* (naturally) that it hadn't taken her long to figure out who the underdog is in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. After all of two days of talks and a brief tour of the West Bank, Parrish said she's convinced that Israel has "trounced" the human dignity of Palestinians with its military might.

"It's a very sad thing that a big, tough, strong and amazing people like the Israelis can, with a fairly cold shoulder, treat these [Palestinian] people so badly," the intrepid MP boldly asserted. Thanks for the simplistic David-and-Goliath analogy, but when human bombs blow pregnant women, senior citizens and children to smithereens at a Passover seder, or transform those armed and dangerous billiards players into fine, pink mists, or when a five-year-old can be murdered in her own bed, all bets are off.

Memo to Ms. Parrish: The Palestinian people, and only they, are responsible for being treated "so badly." It is their own venal and pathetic leadership they have to blame for their misery. It is the barbarism of the militants they support, often openly, that has led them to this sad place. It is their one missed opportunity for peace after another that has resulted in this human tragedy.

Touring Jerusalem's downtown Zion Square, Parrish reacts with child-like innocence: "There's definitely a tension in the air." (Tension? In Israel?) "It overwhelmed me that there could be a bomber right there." Yes, Israel's reality can be overwhelming.

And later: "I think the Israelis are coming down very, very hard on a large part of a very vulnerable population for the crimes of a very few... It's very tough not to feel very sorry for the underdog." Very.

It all sounds like the punchline to a dumb blonde joke.

The worst thing Parrish witnessed? Palestinian women with babies in their arms forced to take long detours around Israeli military roadblocks. The horror. The mind boggles as to how Parrish would react to seeing human innards splattered on the walls of a freshly-bombed pizza parlour.

And in an analytical coup-de-grace, Parrish went on to draw an utterly baffling comparison, saying Israel, the size of Lake Ontario, spends as much on its military as Canada. What her point is, I don't know, but it's not true: Canada spends $9 billion a year on defence, and Israel, $9 billion *American*. The comparison further falls apart when one considers that Canada's defence expenditure comes to 1.3 per cent of its gross domestic product (and results, as we have seen recently, in the purchase of used, dented submarines), while Israel's is a burdensome 10 per cent (and worth every penny).

Memo, part II: Canada is at peace. Israel has never known a second's peace.

As Parrish might say, *whatever*.

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3/4 cup light sour cream	1-1/2 tblsp. grated fresh ginger
1 tblsp. vinegar	1 tsp. soy sauce
1 tblsp. orange juice	1/2 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. grated orange zest	salt & pepper, to taste

Makes 8 appetizer servings.

Snap tough ends off asparagus. Peel stalks, if desired.

Steam asparagus in microwave 4-5 minutes.

Combine all remaining ingredients in medium mixing bowl. Serve over asparagus spears.

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Epi on Education

The horse that ran for Jewish education

Seymour Epstein

Very few people have heard of the Saul S. Wagman Fund for Jewish Education, but each year several hundred thousand dollars are generated by this fund and dedicated to the Jewish educational needs of the Toronto community.

In 1980, two respected members of our community, Sam Gotfrid and Ronnie Appleby (this year's co-chair of the 2003 Israel Emergency Campaign) assisted Saul Wagman with his estate planning and convinced him to leave a considerable legacy to Jewish schooling. When Wagman died in 1989, his executors, Gotfrid and Appleby were surprised to learn that a thoroughbred race horse was among his assets.

The plan was to sell the horse as soon as possible in order to settle the estate. The horse's trainer, however, wanted to run the horse in one last race. The executors agreed, and (as Dave Barry says, I'm not making this up!) the horse won. As a consequence, its sale price increased considerably.

The estate of Saul S. Wagman was made that much richer, and ever since, Toronto Jewish education has been the recipient of annual funding in perpetuity.

These funds have been used, inter alia, to enhance teacher training, to create Israel-based programs, to provide more Hebrew language instruction and to fund much-needed research.

There are, of course, two lessons in this story. First, a legacy donation to Jewish education is a long-term investment in the quality of Jewish life. We are, as a people and a religion, completely dependent on our ability to transmit the richness of our heritage from one generation to the next. Second, even a horse can be motivated by a great cause!

I see the makings of a great children's book...

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news

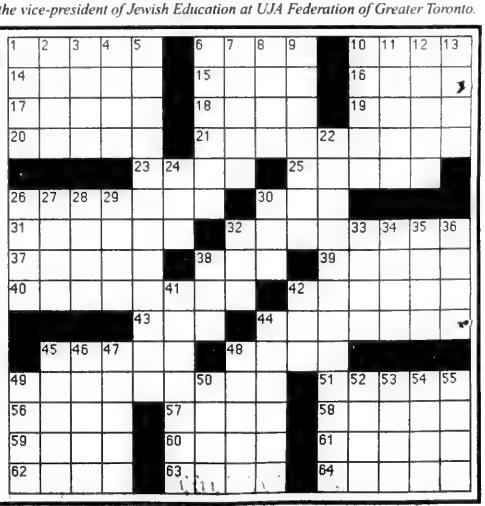
Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Solving for Solomon
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Good mold
6. Voting group
10. What our subject was
14. Cadaver
15. Itchy thing
16. Draft classification
17. Labored, poetically
18. South central Texas univ.
19. " ____ as a day in June"
20. Befuddled
21. His concubines, and more
23. U.N. Secretary-General Syngman
25. These make ice-cream manageable
26. Make-shift shelters
30. Toothpaste may take this form
31. Homophone for Elaine
32. Later, foe of 40 across
37. Gets you up
38. Smack sound
39. Football great Olsen
40. Later, foe of 32 across
42. Northern
43. You can lend it
44. Converted into active electronic state
45. These hopefully mesh
48. Lodgings in his Jerusalem
49. What his masons prepared
51. His most illustrious guest
56. Vowel count for throng
57. Prefix meaning change
58. Grain descriptor
59. Palace shields made of this
60. Gadite warrior, with father
61. Caricaturist Hirshfield's daughter (2)
62. Fire or garage
63. Gare de ____
64. They may be freed in June

Down
1. Laws
2. Fireplace carbon
3. Past participle of prendre
4. Piece of fast land
5. Ordered these from Hiram
6. Gentlemen? Certainly not!
7. Use this to turn wood
8. ____ bocca, Italian dish
9. Pioneering English writer
10. Islam's book of the faith
11. Without sense
12. Computer brains
13. Goes about on the braes
22. Book attributed to him
24. "___, I'm home!"
26. King modeled on Job
27. Magazine des femmes
28. Hebrew for "went up"
29. Emperor, or "his candle" in Hebrew
30. Garnet, generically
32. Condiment
33. Doubled, it's a nutritional deficiency
34. Rice, in Rehovot
35. Seed wings
36. Merge
38. Lawyers must pass it
41. Kiln workers
42. ___ vivant
44. I approached, poetically
45. Italian port
46. Broadway Tom
47. Battery pole
48. Bury
49. Discourteous drivers
50. Turkish anise-flavored liquor
52. This doomed Uncle Absalom
53. Volcano
54. Little thing, may be glass
55. Replies to quests.



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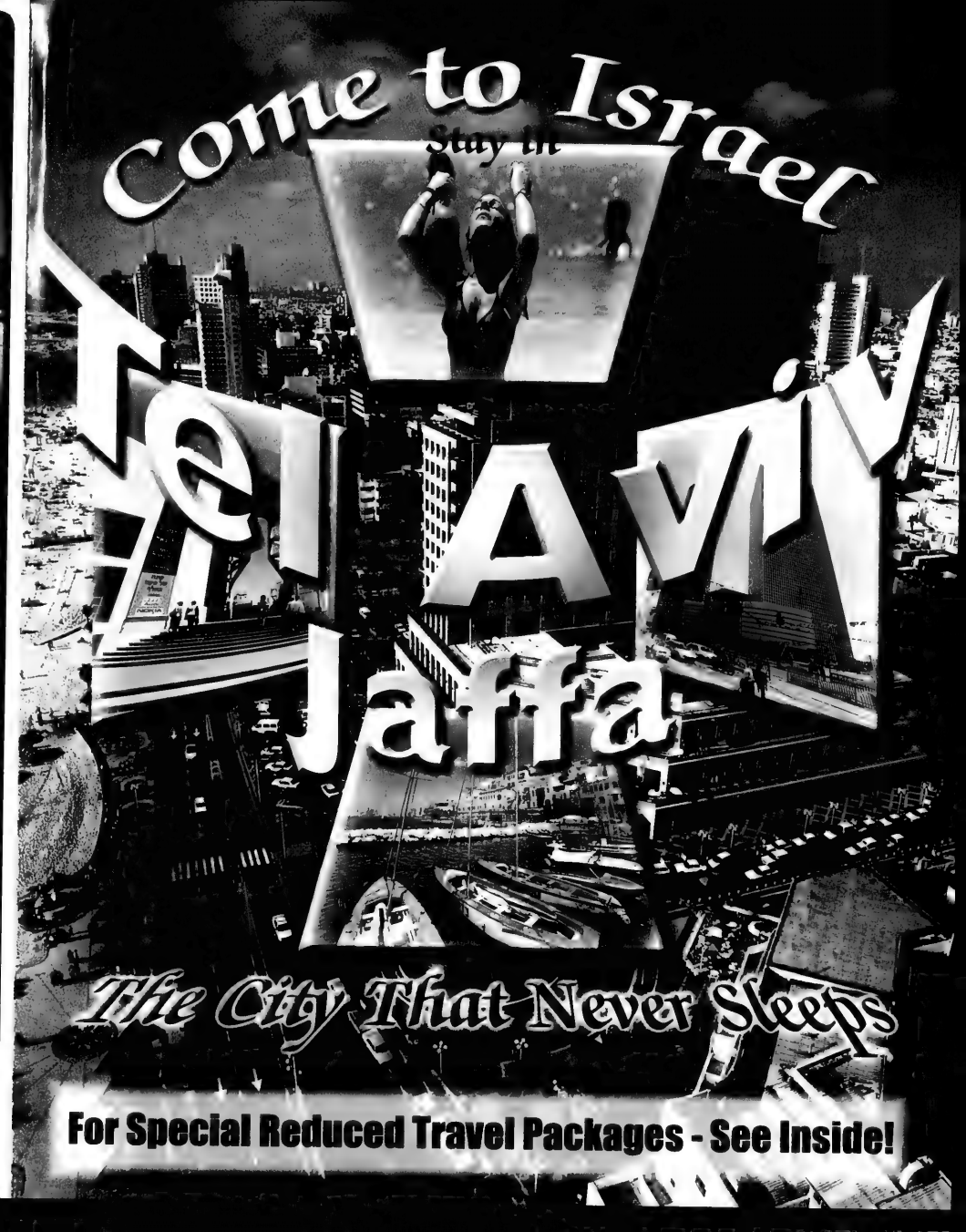
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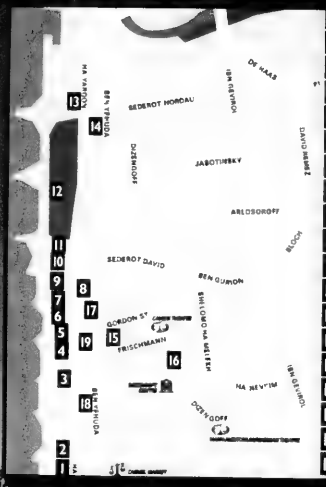

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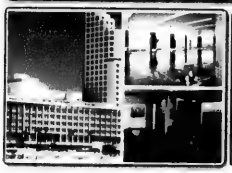

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Single
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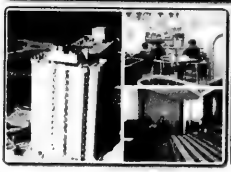
Extra Night
174

Dan Panorama



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Single
2224
Extra Night
128

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Single
2435
Extra Night
159

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1389
Single
1639
Extra Night
71

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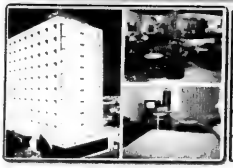

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Extra Night
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Extra Night
62

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109

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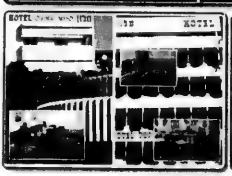

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This Week

National

Threat from radical Islam here to stay, expert says. *Page 3*

Doors open on three Toronto synagogues. *Page 26*

Party Planner

Special supplement offering advice on planning your party. *Pages B1-B52*

Arts & Travel

AGO hosts Arturo Schwarz's art collection. *Page 40*

Business Profile

Nyman Ink. knows the secrets to success. *Business Profile.* *Pages 44*

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Missionaries lose menorah logo battle

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Chosen People Ministries (CPM), a Jews-for-Jesus type group, is not entitled to use a menorah as a legally protected logo, the Federal Court of Canada has ruled.

Last week's ruling against CPM, whose 100 or so followers in Toronto and Montreal hold Jesus to be the Jewish messiah, reverses a decision by Canada's Registrar of Trademarks that granted the group's semi-circular menorah official mark status in 1999.

"The menorah is a distinctly Jewish symbol. According to the Jewish Bible, the menorah... was given to the Jewish people by God himself," the court found.

Canadian Jewish Congress went to court last month to seek a judicial review of the registrar's decision. It argued that allowing a group whose views are antithetical to Judaism, and which targets Jews for conversion, to use a menorah as a protected symbol would be "scandalous and immoral."

Official mark status, which offers protection that is superior to a trademark, would have permitted CPM to use its menorah on all its wares and services and potentially prevented others from using the same or a similar symbol for commercial purposes. Congress was pleased with the Federal Court ruling.

Continued on page 20

AN IMPORTANT ANNIVERSARY: 35 years ago, Israel fought and won the Six Day War. Perhaps more than any other, this photo by David Rubinger has become associated with that war. In this week's issue we recall and commemorate that historic event. ***For related coverage please see pages 4, 8 and 9.***

Israel's eye in the sky

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Analysis

Israel's independent intelligence capabilities to locate long-distance threats was raised a notch last week when the advanced cameras and sensors aboard the newly launched Ofek 5 spy satellite began to operate. This capability is particularly important at a time when countries such as Iran are developing long-range missiles and unconventional weapons.

Ofek 5 launch
[Isranet photo]

Above all else what stands out in comparison to the Ofek 3 satellite, which supplied important information from April 1995 to the end of 1999, is Ofek 5's new camera. The camera was developed in Rehovot at El-Op and constitutes an important technological achievement for the Israeli defence industry.

The satellite itself was built by Mabat and the launch rocket that sent the satellite into orbit was built by Malam, both of which are divisions of Israel Aircraft Industries.

Not all the details of the new camera can be published, but the main advancement compared to the previous satellite's camera is in its resolution, which is considered high even in relation to cameras aboard state-of-the art French satellites.

Continued on page 23

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Shlach
Candlelighting: 8:38
Havdallah: 9:43

Israel and China renew defence ties — please see page 24

The News in Brief

CANADA

Chair in Israel Studies

CALGARY — A new chair in Israeli studies has been established at the University of Calgary. Endowed by the Kahanoff Foundation, which funds a variety of projects in Canada and Israel, the chair, within the university's social science faculty, will promote understanding of Israeli society and culture. Officials hope the position will be filled by next July.

ISRAEL

Extremists Charged

JERUSALEM — Three Israeli extremists have been charged with attempting to carry out an attack on an Arab girls' school in eastern Jerusalem. The three, all residents of the settlement of Bat Ayin, are suspected of belonging to a Jewish terror cell. Meantime, a leader of the outlawed Kach movement, Noam Federman, was charged last week with supplying the cell with explosives. A fifth Israeli was expected to be indicted in coming days.

Barak Scandal

JERUSALEM — Israeli police have recommended filing charges against four advisers to former prime minister Ehud Barak for alleged campaign finance violations. The four are suspected of illegally setting up fictitious nonprofit organizations to channel funds raised abroad for Barak's 1999 election bid. The police did not recommend charging Barak and recommended the case against him be closed. The four charged are former cabinet secretary Yitzhak Herzog, campaign manager Tal Zilberstein, Barak's brother-in-law Doron Cohen and Labour MK Wiezman Shiri.

Water Crisis

JERUSALEM — An Israeli panel has recommended declaring a "state of water emergency" for the next two years. The recommendations were contained in a 300-page report on Israel's growing water crisis. Other recommendations included moving responsibility for the nation's water to the Prime Minister's Office and establishing an independent water authority.

WORLD

Another Mistrial

PITTSBURGH — A mistrial has been declared in the case of a murdered Canadian rabbi. A jury could not decide whether Steven Tielsch killed Rabbi Neal Rosenblum of Toronto as he left a Pittsburgh synagogue in 1986. The May 23 deadlock was the third mistrial in the case. Several of Tielsch's former cellmates said he had made anti-Semitic comments and bragged that he killed Rabbi Rosenblum, who had been visiting Pittsburgh to spend Passover with his in-laws when he was shot by a stranger in what appeared to be a random thrill-killing. It is unclear whether the case will be tried again.

Cannes Do

CANNES — A Holocaust-themed film has won the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. *The Pianist*, directed by Roman Polanski, is based on the memoirs of Wladislaw Szpilman, a Jewish musician who survived World War II in the Warsaw Ghetto. Judges awarded the festival's Jury Prize to *Divine Intervention*, an absurdist look at Palestinian life.

Chassid Sentenced

NEW YORK — A man who illegally diverted funds to a chassidic community in New York has been sentenced to six years in jail. Chaim Berger, 76, was also ordered to pay more than $11 million (US) for devising a scheme to illegally obtain millions of dollars in government funds. Berger, who apologized in court, had fled to Israel and fought extradition for three years before returning to the United States to face charges. Before leaving office, former U.S. president Bill Clinton reduced the sentences of four other leaders of the chassidic community of New Square, N.Y., who had been convicted for participation in the scheme.

New Synagogue

BERLIN — A new synagogue was inaugurated last week in the eastern German city of Chemnitz. The building replaces a synagogue destroyed by the Nazis. It also houses a library and centre for the city's 500-member Jewish community.

Jerusalem, We Have a Problem

LONDON — Col. Ilan Ramon, who will become the first Israeli to leave Earth as part of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia in July, has asked an out-of-this-world question: How – or more precisely, when – does one observe the Sabbath in space?

Ramon will orbit the Earth every 90 minutes, with each orbit counting technically as a day because from his perspective, the sun will rise and set.

Ramon has asked his local rabbi in Florida, Zvi Konikov, for guidance. The rabbi, in turn, has consulted rabbinical scholars across the world.

"We are told to observe Shabbat every seventh day, but if you are orbiting the Earth every 90 minutes, do you do it every seventh orbit?" Rabbi Konikov wondered.

One scholar has already ruled that Ramon should be relieved of his obligations because he will not be experiencing Earth time.

However, another rabbi disagreed.

"My view is that, as you can't exist in space without recreating Earth-like conditions – using oxygen, for example – you should observe the same routine as you would on Earth," responded Rabbi Jonathan Romain.

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Threat from radical Islam here to stay: expert

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Steven Emerson has been studying Islamic terrorism for years, he's had more than his share of death threats and he now believes he has come upon a surefire – if unorthodox – method of determining just when the threat from Muslim radicalism will be over.

The danger will recede when "an Islamic reformation" takes place and "when we see a lot of Islamic comedians with the ability to poke fun at themselves," Emerson said last week.

But, he added, don't count on that happening anytime soon: "At no point in your lives will you say the war is over. Certain rounds may be over."

Emerson offered that rather bleak assessment at a media briefing last week that was part of a lengthy day of appearances and meetings organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Emerson later served as keynote speaker at a UJA Federation dinner for leading donors.

A consultant on terrorism for NBC TV, Emerson is also author of *American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us* and producer of an award-winning television documentary, *Jihad in America*. He also serves as executive director of the Washington D.C.-based Investigative Project, an intelligence and data-gathering centre on militant Islamic activities, and he has briefed the U.S. Congress on radical Islam.

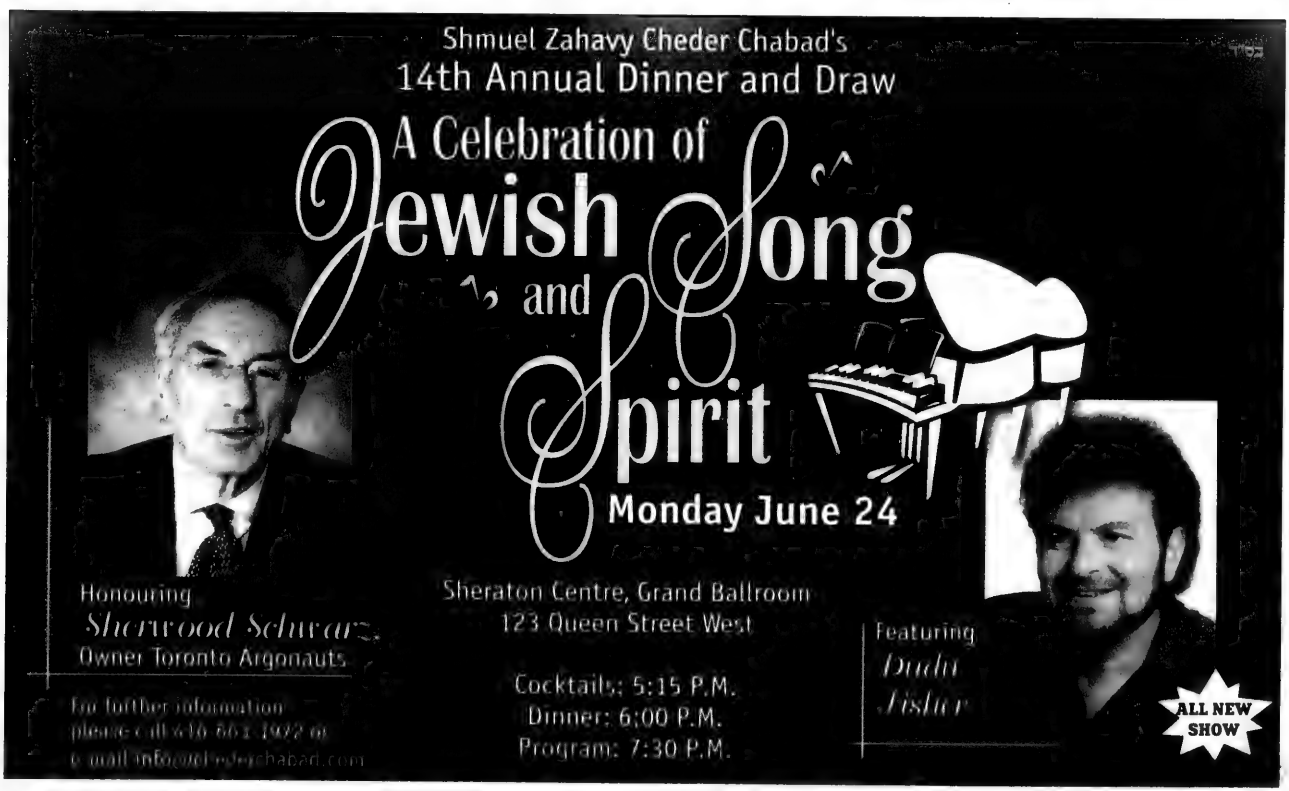
Emerson has also come under fire from Muslim groups, which accuse him of an anti-Islamic bias. Responding to his critics, National Public Radio (NPR), a publicly funded U.S. network, banned Emerson.

Canada is far from immune to the penetration of dangerous Islamic groups, Emerson told a small group of reporters. Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Al Qaeda, Hamas, the Algerian Armed Islamic Group and the International Islamic Relief Organization have all operated in Canada, he said.

Canada's Jewish community ought to be particularly concerned about the presence of these organizations. "I think the Jewish com-

Continued on page 32

Steven Emerson visited Toronto last week to discuss Islamic terrorism.
[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photo]



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Greater Toronto Area

'A pathos hard to bear'

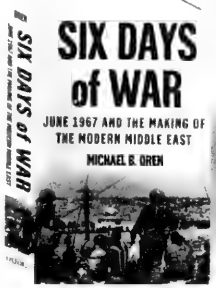
Nineteen years after Israel survived the attempts of five Arab armies to destroy it at its birth, Israel once again was fighting for its life.

The war would be recorded in history as the Six Day War.

Thirty-five years later, some historians debate the national, military, political and even theological aspects of that war. But what they never debate is the sense of total apprehension and woe that gripped the Jewish world in the wake of the military manoeuvring of Israel's neighbouring Arab armies and the bloodcurdling cries by Arab masses and political leaders for the annihilation of the Jewish state.

From the editor's desk

Thirty-five years later, it is important that we recall the days that led to Israel's decision to fight back and to those fateful six days in which the defence forces of the Jewish state did fight back.



One of the Israelis who was at the centre of events then was Abba Eban, Israel's foreign minister at the time. In his autobiography, he recorded the following: "Once we voted [on June 4, to allow the defence minister, in consultation with the prime minister, to resist the Egyptian aggression], we knew that we had expressed our people's will, for amid the alarms and fears of mid-May, our nation gave birth to new impulses within itself. All the conditions which divide us from each other and give our society a deceptive air of fragmentation, all the deeply rooted Jewish recalcitrance toward authority, now seemed to have been transmuted into a new metal which few of us had felt before.

"There had, of course, been some fear, as was natural for a people which had endured unendurable things. Many in the world were afraid that a great massacre was sweeping down upon us. And in many places in Israel there was talk of Auschwitz and Maidanek. The anxiety expressed by friends outside told us that our apprehension was not vain. Yet, as the last days of May were passing into the haze of memory, the people were gripped by a spirit of union and resolve. Men of military age silently laid down their work in factory, office and farm, took up their files of reservist papers and disappeared toward the south.

"Hospital beds by the hundreds were made ready with a quiet and almost macabre efficiency. Trenches and shelters had been dug all over the land. Industrialists, noted in better days for their hard-headed thrift, donated legendary sums for the national defense. As the days of suspense rolled on, the radio brought touching messages exchanged between soldiers at the front and their young wives at home. There were homely references to children about to be born, or anxious allusions to the oven having been left burning in the haste of departure. The simplicity of these exchanges held a pathos hard to bear. There had been a sudden rearrangement of values with human affections rising to the top.

"On Monday, June 5, I awakened early... The morning heat [in Tel Aviv] lay heavy on the streets. At seven-fifty, while I was driving the short distance to the Ministry of Defense, the air-raid sirens set up an unfamiliar howl. Men and women going to work and children hurrying to their schools gave no immediate attention to the sound. Only when policemen began to move tensely among them did they sense that something more was afoot than the familiar testing of the warning system...

"The action to which Nasser had been goading us for three intolerable weeks had now erupted. Israel was hitting back."

To better recall and understand those eventful days in May and June 1967, I recommend the recently published *Six Days of War* by Michael B. Oren.

Oren's book is a work of history but reads, at times, like a political thriller. It features a crisp, uncluttered narrative, carefully assembled archival detail and a steady, relentlessly pounding pace of real-life tension and drama.

The content is arranged chronologically and flows like a river, inexorably gaining momentum and force as the story moves along, until, with the description of the first day of the war, it surges over the dam of controlled emotion.

"It started at 7:10 in the morning, Israel time, when 16 Magister Fouga jets... took off from the airfield at Hatzor...

"By 7:30, close to 200 planes were aloft. With them went the orders issued that morning by Air Force Commander Motti Hod: 'The spirit of Israel's heroes accompany us to battle... Fly soar at the enemy, destroy him and scatter him throughout the desert so that Israel may live, secure in its land, for generations."

Oren, currently a senior fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, is well qualified to write about his subject in light of his expertise on Middle Eastern history and diplomatic affairs.

His use of archival material is masterful, bringing to life from the authentic pages of the historical record voluminous references from the many key conversations, meetings and debates that engaged the vastly diverse panoply of the central figures of the crisis.

Apart from those people who also see the hand of God sweeping through the affairs of mankind, Oren poignantly reminds us how the far-reaching, even epochal events of history are, after all, the results of decisions by individuals so human, so frail, so fallible and so great.

—MBD

SeeJN

SELDOM SCENE IN THE WEST:

An IDF soldier accompanies a Palestinian girl to her school in Ramallah.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Israel Emergency Campaign Report

Emerson Offers Terrorism Update

International terrorism expert **Steven Emerson**, speaking to last week's UJA Federation Top Gifts Dinner, described Israel as the most scrutinized country on earth. "Israel is subjected to a double standard," he told a packed crowd of UJA Federation's leading donors.

While the world, he pointed out, criticizes Israel for checkpoints that slow down Palestinian travel, immigration delays from Mexico to the United States can sometimes last five hours. And, while Israel's battle against terrorism is subjected to condemnation, "not one decree," he said, "has been issued by Islamic clerics to say that martyrdom is prohibited."

"If we were to look at the odds of defeating Islamic terrorism," he warned, "it doesn't look good."

Ronnie Appleby, the chair of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, with **Howard Sokolowski**, praised participants for their commitment to Israel. "You understand that Israel, but for the United States and the Jewish people is alone," he said. "Our entire community is emulating, through its generosity, Israel's remarkable capacity for optimism, despite the poison of suicide bombings," added Sokolowski.

Calling for Israel

The second round of telethons for **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** last week raised $1 million, bringing the value of increased gifts for Israel to $15 million out of a total of $40 million. Overall campaign gift increases exceed 60%.

All additional donations and new gifts will be designated for social services in Israel, which are under enormous financial pressure as the government shifts billions of dollars to defense and security.

Hundreds of volunteers, including students, seniors and professionals from across the community, came out to raise funds for Israel's emergency needs.

Come join us for next month's telethons, June 23-27. To help us show Israel how much you care, call 416.631.5692.

Leading Political Journalist Believes Israel Will Prevail

The will of the Israeli people is strong, and their desire to live is mightier than that of their enemies to die.

This was the message from **David Makovsky**, a leading political correspondent, recently addressing UJA Federation donors.

"One American official once pointed out to Arafat that more Palestinians are dying in this conflict than Israelis," said Makovsky. "Arafat shrugged his shoulders and said '1,000 martyrs or 10,000 martyrs – they're martyrs.' That's very different from the Israeli perspective."

Makovsky was one of several expert presenters at UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Speaker Series. Others were Middle East analyst **Daniel Pipes**, **Ra'anan Gissin**, a close advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, Israeli journalist **David Horovitz** and Middle East media commentator, **Shira Herzog**.

Gift increases to UJA Federation Emergency Campaign 2003 will be designated for the following needs in Israel:

- Assistance to victims of terror and their families
- Increased security for children in day cares, kindergartens and other facilities for children
- Increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by the crisis, particularly the poor, the elderly and new immigrants

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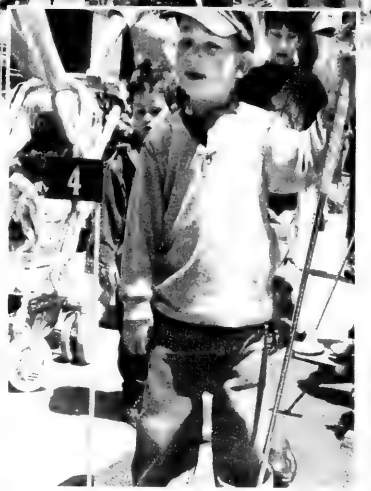
Israel Day Festival



Sunday's Israel Day Festival featured entertainment and children's activities, Israeli food and merchandise. The Canadian Zionist Federation event was held at Mel Lastman Square, where CZF Jerusalem Awards were presented to Rabbis John Moscowitz, Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Moshe Shulman and to the *National Post* for their support of Israel over the past year. Participants in the formal program included the BJC Chai Dancers, above, and the Associated Hebrew Day School Choir, top left.

[Frances Kraft photos]

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Greater Toronto Area

Terror victims help each other in Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Sometimes we forget that terror victims in Israel are actual people whose lives have been changed forever, says the public relations director of a volunteer organization that helps terror victims and their families.

Sheina Carlebach Berkowitz, who is with the Israel-based Terror Victims Association (TVA), told the stories of some of those people at a recent breakfast meeting at the offices of B'nai Brith Canada, as part of a North American fund-raising tour.

Sheina Carlebach Berkowitz

Her organization (www.terrorvictims.com) was founded in Israel in 1986 by its current director Meir Indor, after he was stabbed and in a separate incident badly injured by a hand grenade. He placed a small newspaper ad to determine interest in a support group for people who'd been injured by Arabs and received hundreds of replies, Carlebach Berkowitz said. Today, she said, there is a mailing list of 3,000, with about 600 "regulars."

Most recently, TVA instituted a 24-hour hotline. Some callers don't know how to go about getting help from Israel's national insurance plan; others just want to talk or cry, Carlebach Berkowitz said. Some were injured themselves; others have family members who were wounded or killed.

An American teenager whose mother had spoken to Carlebach Berkowitz, witnessed a suicide bomb attack and couldn't speak for a year. "She wasn't physically damaged in any way…This is what we call the walking wounded. They make up about seven per cent of the hotline."

A native of Newark and grandmother of six who has lived in Israel for the past two years, Carlebach Berkowitz said the Israeli government helps terror victims financially, but they are still in pain emotionally and spiritually.

The organization, which has 10 staff and a corps of volunteers, all of whom have suffered from terrorism themselves, staff the hotline, take food and offer support to waiting families in hospital, and even babysit children on an emergency basis. There is no charge to the victims.

One volunteer and her husband are raising their own children and two younger grandchildren because their daughter and son-in-law were shot and killed about six years ago.

"They're the lucky ones," said Carlebach Berkowitz. "As of now, 13 couples have been murdered. It doesn't often work out that one set of grandparents gets to take care of the children, with no fights. In this case, the other grandparents live nearby and have access whenever they want." Often, TVA is involved in mediating family situations, she said.

A Machane Yehuda market stall owner, who was injured so severely in a suicide bomb attack that medical personnel thought he was dead, hopes to get to the point where he can help others too, said Carlebach Berkowitz. Although he's had 20 operations and faces at least one more, he says the nightmares are worse than any of the medical procedures, she reported.

"Israel has no time to mourn," she said. "We help [victims] get on with their lives and deal with this tragedy."

HELPING OUT ZAREINU: Bialik Hebrew Day School and the Bernard Betel Centre have been participating in an inter-generational program involving grade 8 students and seniors at the centre. As part of the program, participants created gift baskets with items donated by both the students and the seniors. These baskets were raffled off and the proceeds went to Zareinu Educational Centre. Seen here at the cheque presentation are (from left) Beverley Young, Bialik senior division coordinator; Shaindy Cohen Goldstein, Zareinu; Adina Strom, William Raskin, Daryl Gold, Zareinu.

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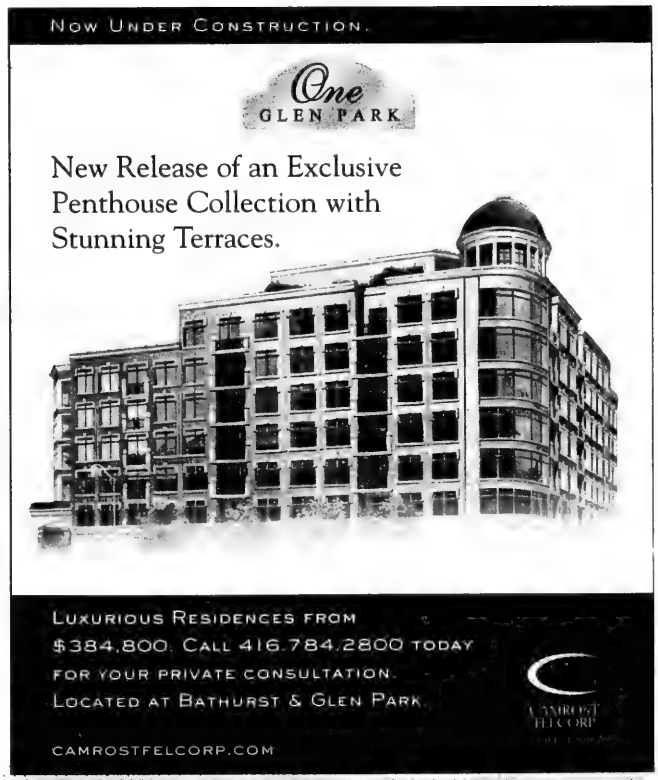

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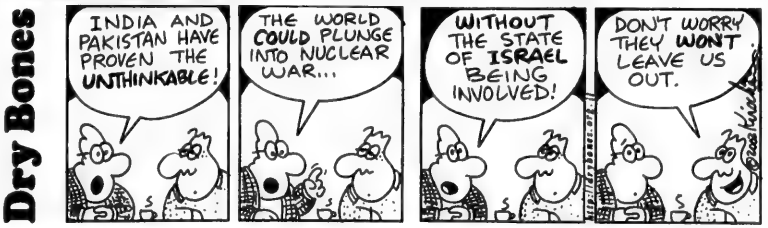
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An example for today

How unbelievable it must seem today to a generation and a half of Jews around the world! Yet 35 years ago, Israel's very existence seemed to hang in the balance. Through bluster, guile, malevolence, deceit and in the end, incompetence too, Egypt and Syria, egged on by their sponsor, the former Soviet Union, were poised to launch a war upon the Jewish state, the objective of which was "Israel's destruction."

Many of us old enough to have lived through those anxious days in May 1967 may have already forgotten the extent of the fear that gripped the Jewish world then. For time can dull even the sharpest of edges.

However, in the powerful book *Six Days of War*, Michael B. Oren reminds us how we felt then. "The scope and intensity of Egypt's buildup, together with the mobilization of virtually every Arab army, was observed with near-panic in Israel. 'We had seen photographs of the victims of Egyptian gas attacks in Yemen,' recalled Lt. Yossi Peled, a Holocaust survivor and future general... 'We had already started thinking in terms of annihilation, both national and personal."

After weeks of agonizing, failed diplomacy, the realization was inescapable that Israel stood alone among the nations. It would survive by dint only of its own arms, resources, will, courage and faith. Thus, on June 5, rather than await the deadly first blow from the Arab armies, Israel struck at its enemies. The war lasted six days.

No one expected so lightning swift a result; in truth, no one knew what to expect. And Israelis were not the only ones in "near panic." In the Diaspora, Jews mobilized resources in every conceivable way to help Israel. Oren writes: "The sole bright spot in these otherwise morbid preparations [for the impending war] was the unprecedented outpouring of sympathy from around the Jewish world. Volunteers arrived in numbers greater than Israel could absorb... and donations exceeded all forecasts... 'For the first time in history, European Jewry *is acting as one for Israel*. All moral, political and economic support is being mobilized,' French Jewish leader Edmund de Rothschild wrote [Israeli Finance Minister] Pinchas Sapir."

Thirty-five years after the Six Day War, Israel faces a new peril, more diabolical and sinister than the one it confronted on the fields of battle in those frantic June days in 1967. Fanatic, rabid Palestinian suicide bombers may not pose a strategic threat to the very existence of the state, but they are the vanguard of an uncompromising, hate-filled, extremist, anti-western, anti-democratic, supra-national Islamic force that includes the terrorist-supporting states of Iraq, Iran and Syria, which does indeed pose a strategic threat to the Jewish state.

Today, many Diaspora Jews hardly know of the dark void that Israel faced in 1967, nor of the way in which their grandparents, parents or older siblings responded at that precipice.

The streets of Israel today are virtually empty of Jewish tourists. Diaspora Jews, in effect, have joined in the boycott and in the isolation of the Jewish state that is the aim of Israel's enemies. We appear to have forgotten how to act as one for Israel, the example that was set for us so movingly 35 years ago.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Israel, Jews and the left

Jordy Cummings' recent commentary (*CJN*, May 23) was nothing but a list of excuses for the left wing group's hostility to Israel. Cummings – with the unbelievable chutzpah of comparing himself to Baruch Spinoza – fails in his thesis. While he prefaces his piece by stating that no one on the left questions Israel's right to a secure existence, the left's relentless criticism and blindness to the surrounding geopolitics of the region guarantees to keep Israel in existential danger. Cumming's pseudo-intellectualism is just empty words while violence as well as economic and diplomatic pressure are kept on that tiny promised land.

Jonathan Wexler
Montreal

* * *

Anti-globalization, environmentalism, human rights and labour movements are noble causes, misguided or idealistic perhaps, but noble. Support for anti-Semites is not. By demonizing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Jordy Cummings justifies anti-Semitism and provides an excuse for Arab terrorism. It was Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat who destroyed the Oslo peace process, not Sharon. There could have been peace and so many lives saved on both sides if Arafat had accepted former prime minister Barak's offer of a peace settlement at Camp David over 18 months ago.

Over the past year, we have seen tremendous growth in anti-Semitism. Synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, schools and religious Jews in Europe and even Canada have become the object of more frequent attacks. The Ottawa Jewish community has just been warned of a possible assault on a synagogue or other Jewish institution this month. We hear of Arafat-appointed, Muslim religious leaders broadcasting on PA television: "They must be butchered and killed... Have no mercy on the Jews... Wherever you meet them, kill them." Arafat sends suicide bombers to kill innocent Israeli civilians in restaurants, shopping centres and at religious celebrations. The left does not notice or care. The "Jewish left" offers support to murderers of their own people. They are more concerned about "a tremendous growth of openly expressed Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism" than the anti-Semitism that is right before their eyes.

Jordy Cummings lives in a fantasy world. This is not Vietnam in the '60s. This is not 17th-century Amsterdam and Cummings is no Baruch Spinoza. We are not talking about a global corporate agenda; it has nothing to do with Enron. Israel and the five million Jews who live there are fighting for their survival. Perhaps some day Cummings' vision of utopia will come to pass. But the time is now and Israel needs the support of every Jew, left and right.

Harold Pomerantz
Dundas, Ont.

* * *

Thanks to Jordy Cummings for his Guest Voice column. He worries about the "knee-jerk" responses he may get; well, not all knees move the same way!

Cummings seems to be but one of a growing number of Jews in Montreal and elsewhere in North America and Israel who, because they are committed to non-violence and social justice and to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, do not – and cannot – support the current policies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the Israeli government.

It is because of our deep commitment to human rights and to a sustainable peace that will ensure security and integrity for two separate and sovereign states that we condemn all acts of extremism and terror that harm innocent civilians; the latter can only move us away from a lasting solution that will ensure safety and dignity for all. And it is this commitment, one that reflects basic Jewish values, that infuses criticism of Sharon from the left and that turns away from war.

I hope *The CJN* will invite other guest voices to your pages so that we can maintain a dialogue within the Jewish community that parallels the current dialogues between Jewish and Palestinian women here and in Israel, dialogues that can lead to creative and supportive ways to make peace.

Abby Lippman
Montreal

* * *

Sar-El volunteers unique

The deplorable isolation of Israel by the rest of the world, the increasing frequency of terrorist acts in Israel and the worldwide growth in anti-Semitism moved us to travel to Israel recently as part of a group of Canadian Sar-El volunteers for Israel. Sar-El recruits volunteers to relieve Israeli army reservists from duties that would require them to be away from home and job. Our group included 32 English-speaking volunteers from the United States, Norway, Germany, England and New Zealand.

Our tasks included the testing and maintenance of electronic communications equipment, baking, food preparation and refurbishing contents of army duffel bags. The soldiers we worked with voiced their appreciation again and again, not only for our help with these tasks, but also for just being there alongside them.

Especially meaningful was our participation in Yom Hazikaron ceremonies with the soldiers and huge contingents of volunteers from France and the former Soviet Union, followed immediately by Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities.

Israel needs our support. If not now, when?

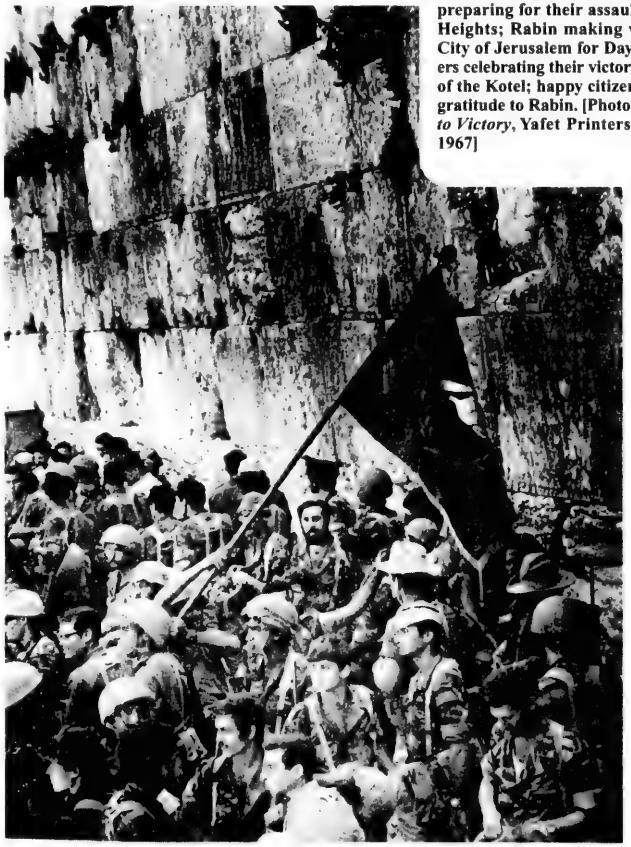
Sol and Anna Mae Belmont
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The Six Day War: A pictorial essay

Scenes and faces from 35 years ago:

(Clockwise from left) David (Dado) Elazar, Commander of the Northern Front; Uzi Narkis, Commander of the Central Front; Mordechai (Moti) Hod, Commander of the Air Force; Yitzhak Rabin, Chief of Staff; Moshe Dayan, Minister of Defence; Prime Minister Levi Eshkol; Egyptian prisoners surrendering in the Sinai; IDF soldiers preparing for their assault on the Golan Heights; Rabin making way in the Old City of Jerusalem for Dayan; paratroopers celebrating their victory of the capture of the Kotel; happy citizens express their gratitude to Rabin. [Photos from *Six Days to Victory*, Yafet Printers Ltd., Tel Aviv, 1967]



Tragedy in the form of a bitter joke

When the United Nations was founded in 1945, it was assumed that it would be a staunch guardian of human rights. Unfortunately, the expectation has not been fulfilled. On more than one occasion, the organization's Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) has pursued the opposite objective.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This tragic reversal becomes evident when one looks at some of the commission's current member nations that are committed to all but human rights, especially in their own countries. To have nations like Cuba, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and others like them sitting on the UNCHR as "guardians of human rights" is a sad contradiction in terms. Their inclusion as UNCHR members was once compared to describing an executioner as "a preserver of life." To say that may appear a bit strong, but it does convey a basic truth.

Human rights find their greatest support not in declarations and documents that speak highly of them, but in the way human rights are made part of the very structure of a nation. The bitter joke of having countries such as Sudan and Syria serving on the UNCHR means simply that these rights are not being taken seriously. Not surprisingly, therefore, there has been little progress in this most important area of safeguarding human rights as an essential building block of humanity's democratic future.

Alas, recent history has shown that there are nations that consider the restriction of human rights to be the best way to safeguard society – making it possible for a determined minority to rule it for its own purposes.

The commission's infamous World Conference Against Racism last year in Durban was ostensibly about human rights, but had it not been for alert and devoted defenders of truly human rights, the conference would have ended up as a tragedy in the form of a bitter joke.

There are, unfortunately, a number of influential nations that consider anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism to be proper building blocks of an ideal society. In their distorted view, Israel-bashing is the best way to build the future.

Fortunately, however, there are nations – Canada amongst them – that have no hesitation to call this policy what it is: destructive of human rights. We often criticize our own Canadian government for not being vigorous enough when Israel needs to be defended against international calumny. But, in a recent speech, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien spoke very warmly of "the enduring kinship between Canada and Israel, one enriched by unbreakable bonds of family, of shared values of freedom and democracy and of common causes."

Good for us!

Finding likeable people in the city

A few months back, I wrote a column inquiring about where the "nice Jewish males" were in Toronto. Much to my surprise and delight, my e-mail inbox was inundated with all sorts of responses. As a result, I feel compelled to report further and hopefully generate more responses... so here goes:

Darcie Richler in Halifax

I am pleased to advise that since the column appeared, I have come into contact with many nice Jewish males from Toronto (well, at least they claim to be). I was most impressed by their taking the initiative to e-mail me and being honest about who they were and what they were looking for.

Interestingly, most of these guys made similar comments towards the females of Toronto. They alleged, complained and insisted that the breed of the "nice Jewish girl" was all but extinct in the large city of T.O. The general theme was that the women of Toronto declare that they are looking for "nice guys," when in fact, they are seeking out the opposite.

It was almost embarrassing for me to read the observations made by some of these guys, as I knew exactly who they were talking about. For example, one gentleman stated that he is that nice Jewish boy that any girl should love to introduce to her family, but he is not often given a chance by most of the girls that he comes into contact with for a variety of reasons, one of which, he said, is his physical appearance. Another guy believed that Toronto girls do not share the same values that he does. And another rather poignantly asserted that the girls he has met, both at Jewish student events like Shabbat dinners or at bars, are just way too materialistic. The list went on and on.

(Of course, these men were all interested in meeting my fabulous female friends. Let me just repeat that I use a rigorous screening process before I play yente!)

I have a real problem making generalizations in situations like this. It is, however, quite difficult to solve such a conundrum when both sides make such blanket statements about members of the opposite sex. I will do my best to not do that.

But this is where things get a little unclear. I am confused, perplexed, and honestly, slightly amused. While I was slowly but surely assembling my "blue and white" pages of the nice Jewish guys of Toronto, I started thinking about who I could find for them. It makes me happy to know that these guys exist, and now I feel obligated to keep my word to introduce my friends to them. The only thing is, I wonder now whether my friends are the girls they were describing? I love my girlfriends, but could it be possible that they are seeking out the not-so-nice Jewish men? The thought has bothered me for the past few days.

I have come to the conclusion that my friends want and deserve the fantastic. They are looking for that person who is kind and sweet, but also charming and maybe a little mysterious. They are not willing to settle for anything less, and who can blame them – they deserve it. The question is, does he exist in Toronto? I still do not know.

As for the men, I am still not sold either way. I have seen the girls that you say you want to meet, yet you gravitate to something else. Do you know what you want?

So this is the deal. I want to hear more from both sides. Where are you rarities? I am so curious to really see how many of you are out there. Just to avoid any confusion, I am looking for the "nice Jewish singles" of Toronto (and surrounding areas, as something tells me that this inquiry goes beyond the borders of the GTA) who are looking to meet someone. The criteria for inclusion on my list, which would take pages to fully articulate, are, mainly: kindness, intelligence, honesty – and whether you are truly looking for someone with similar traits.

I am going to fill the gap in the soulmate search of Toronto. Consider me your ambassador, the mediator, the one who will find the middle ground. Please give me your input. You can e-mail me at drichler@is2.dal.ca.

History for the future

We all know the famous photograph of Israel, of the Kotel and the Dome of the Rock placed peacefully in the heart of Jerusalem. We all remember the pictures of the desolate stares of Holocaust survivors peering through barbed wire and we all have photo albums teeming with pictures of zaides, bubbies, parents and kids. These pictures share one common bond: Jewish history.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

A very intriguing history of the Jewish people is compiled in a book written by Winnipeg author Allan Levine, called *Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Ten Portraits* (McClelland & Stewart, 2002). Levine chronicles 10 eras in 10 cities in Jewish history, detailing the way the Jews in those communities lived and the way they were treated by the cities' other inhabitants. A famous quote, "To know where you're going is to know where you've been," rings true when it comes to looking at the history of the Jews, and readers of this book will understand with greater depth the challenges facing Jews today.

Levine writes about the Jews in Seville, during the Spanish Inquisition of 1492. He also writes about the Jews of Venice, 1516; the Jews of Constantinople, 1666; the Jews of Amsterdam, 1700; the Jews of Vienna, 1730; the Jews of St. Petersburg, 1881; the Dreyfus Affair in France in the 1890s; the Jews of New York, 1913; the Jews of Vilna, 1944; and the Jews of Kiev, 1967. The author describes the anti-Semitism Diaspora Jews faced during these times.

The story begins in Spain in 1492, where Jews were killed and forced to convert to Christianity. Even community leaders and sages such as Don Issac Abravanel (1437-1508), who had worked his way into the inner circle of some of the highest members of Spanish society, becoming financial adviser to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, were expelled along with the rest of the community.

By the end of the book, we see that Jews have long been favoured by royalty and government to carry out their business transactions, raise money for wars and participate in other commerce-related endeavours. But we also come to see a history of persecution, anti-Semitism and hatred toward the Jewish people.

It's interesting to apply what is happening now to what has happened in the past. There is a cycle in Jewish history that keeps repeating itself. In the "first" generation, you have practicing Jews. "Second" and "third" generation Jews practice less and less. While this does not apply to all Jews, it has been a general pattern throughout Jewish history. Jews have always tried to assimilate into the culture of their country, but as Levine shows, this assimilation often ended with "anti-anti-Semitism." For example, Levine writes about Jews in France in 1895, who considered themselves French people first and "Israelites" second. While they saw no difference between themselves and the larger society, others were not so accepting. The Dreyfuss Affair shook France and fuelled anti-Semitism, which disturbed and shocked many French Jews. It is these anti-Semitic events that bring the assimilated Jewish population to realize that they are Jewish and then the cycle begins again.

I am a part of that "third" generation. How many of your grandparents went to synagogue every week and kept kosher? I look at myself and my friends and can see how synagogue attendance and other Jewish traditions have fallen by the wayside. Then I read the paper and see synagogues being destroyed and I can't help but think back to the Jews of generations past who thought things were fine and that they always would be.

Yet the world today is different in some key ways. In the past, Jews had a tendency to shy away from bringing attention to anti-Semitic attacks in fear of adding fuel to an already scorching fire. Today, speaking out, holding rallies and supporting Israel is an important part of combating the world's increasingly anti-Semitic views.

Another obvious difference is that today Jews have a homeland that did not exist during previous anti-Semitic events and eras.

What we are facing now is not on the scale of the portraits that Levine writes about, but it is worth knowing what has happened in the past so we can be prepared for the future.

E-mail: cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Hong Kong will mark a special centenary

One hundred years ago this month, Sir Jacob Sassoon, a wealthy Iraqi Jewish merchant who had made a fortune in Hong Kong, a British crown colony, was given pride of place in a ceremony that marked the Jewish community's coming of age. On June 9, 1902, Ohel Leah Synagogue, which had been named in honour of his mother, was officially dedicated. Sassoon had donated the land and had hired the architect. Now, finally, the Jews of Hong Kong had a synagogue.

Sheldon Kirshner in Hong Kong

Today the oldest shul in Hong Kong, Ohel Leah is an elegant, cream-coloured structure designated by the United Nations as a special heritage site, one of only two such buildings in this bustling, dynamic city. With its graceful exterior, marble floors, mahogany bimah and stained-glass windows, Ohel Leah, in Hong Kong's posh Mid-Levels district, is indeed an architectural marvel.

Later this week, on June 9, Ohel Leah will mark its centenary at festivities presided over by Yaakov Kermaier, an American who has been its rabbi for the past five years.

The synagogue, near Mosque Street, is located in a fairly spacious compound housing the Jewish Community Centre. It, in turn, accommodates an array of communal offices, a day school, two kosher restaurants, a kosher grocery store, a Judaica shop, a library, an indoor swimming pool and other recreational and social facilities.

When it was inaugurated a century ago, Ohel Leah stood on a lush hill surrounded by tropical gardens with a grand view of Hong Kong's impressive harbour, and served about 165 individuals, the vast majority of whom were Sephardim from the Middle East.

One hundred years on, Ohel Leah is hemmed in by a typical Hong Kong urban vista of high-rise apartments – the only affordable real estate here – and caters to a community whose size has since multiplied.

Jews have lived in Hong Kong since the early 1840s, when, with the imposition of the 155-year British colonial occupation, it was radically transformed from a sleepy fishing village into an international port, entrepot and financial centre. By the 1842 Treaty of Nanking, Britain took over the island of Hong Kong, an enclave in mainland China called Kowloon and some 235 islands in the South China Sea. In 1898, the British leased the New Territories, a large, fan-shaped parcel of land to the north. As a territorial unit, they formed the entity known as Hong Kong.

In July 1997, Britain ceded Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China. And in keeping with its "one country, two systems" policy, Hong Kong, with a population of 6.9 million, became a special administrative region of China.

Among the first Jews to stream into the region were the Sassoons – the Rothschilds of Southeast Asia – and the Kadoories, the Baghdadi family that would appropriate their title as the Sassoons faded into obscurity.

Now probably Hong Kong's most prominent Jewish family, the Kadoories are a formidable force, having developed the legendary Star Ferry, which links Hong Kong to Kowloon; the Peak Tram, which climbs to Hong Kong's highest mountain; the China Light & Power Company, which supplies residents with electricity; and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotels Ltd., which owns, among other properties, the five-star Peninsula Hotel, a landmark at the tip of Kowloon.

In addition, the Kadoories established agricultural schools in Mandate Palestine, one for Jews and another for Arabs.

Michael Kadoorie, born in 1941 and the family's current patriarch, is a trustee of Ohel Leah, a modern Orthodox synagogue and Hong Kong's only shul housed in permanent quarters.

Like all Jews here, the Kadoories hold foreign passports and are not citizens of China, according to Rabbi Kermaier, a 32-year-old graduate of Yeshiva University who resided in California, Maryland and Israel before arriving here with his wife.

"It seemed like a fascinating city," he explained.

Three-quarters of Hong Kong's Jews, whose numbers run anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000, depending on your source of information, are transients who can be expected to move on within about three to five years.

"They are mostly bankers and lawyers," said Rabbi Kermaier, the father of two young children.

The rest, such as the Kadoories, are permanent residents, with the right to vote in local elections and to apply for a Hong Kong travel document.

Some of the permanent residents have been here for well over 100 years. Shortly after his arrival, Rabbi Kermaier officiated at the funeral of Moselle Gatton, a native of Hong Kong who died at 101.

"We probably have the most diverse Jewish community in the world," he added. "We have Jews from the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, Israel, Zaire, Zimbabwe, India, China, Afghanistan, Egypt, Italy, France, Denmark. You can be sitting around a Shabbat table with 10 people from eight different countries. They get on remarkably well."

But, he admitted, diversity can be problematic.

"Given the high turnover, our challenge is to maintain a sense of community and rootedness. It can be tough."

Eli Avidar, Israel's consul general in Hong Kong and adjacent Macau, claims there are something like 1,500 Israelis here, many of whom are representatives of Israeli hi-tech companies.

"Israelis blend into the Jewish community, unlike in some Diaspora communities," said Avidar, who headed Israel's mission in Doha, Qatar, before being posted to Hong Kong last year. "It's an extremely well organized community."

Eli Avidar

By his reckoning, Hong Kong's community is the largest in Southeast Asia, with the region's sole Jewish day school.

For decades, Hong Kong was the preserve primarily of Sephardim. But with the influx of Russian Jews after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and of German Jews after the rise of Adolf Hitler in 1933, the demographics gradually changed. By Rabbi Kermaier's estimate, three-quarters of the Jews living here today are Ashkenazim.

As elsewhere, the incidence of mixed marriage is quite high, and not surprisingly, most interfaith couples who belong to or identify with the community are members of the Reform congregation.

The community maintains good relations with the Hong Kong government, and if there is a general perception of Jews, it is a positive one, Rabbi Kermaier said. The Chinese generally regard Jews as smart and rich.

"It may be an anti-Semitic stereotype, but in Hong Kong it's a positive assessment," he observed.

Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier

Anti-Semitism, which is virtually non-existent here and alien to Chinese culture and history, is an imported phenomenon, usually propagated by Pakistani Muslims or Westerners.

Several years ago, the rabbi said, local teenage girls, buying into the latest fashion fad, sported T-shirts emblazoned with a swastika. They were definitely not making a bold political statement.

"It was a function of ignorance rather than support of neo-Nazism," said Rabbi Kermaier.

* * *

Israel has had a consulate in Hong Kong, the major gateway to China, since 1986. Israel used it, in part, to build bridges with China before the establishment of formal diplomatic relations in 1992. Since then, the Hong Kong consulate has been an invaluable facilitator of commerce.

Last year, Israel's volume of trade with Hong Kong reached the $2 billion (US) mark.

"Hong Kong is Israel's largest trade partner in Southeast Asia," said Avidar.

Upwards of 45 Israeli hi-tech firms maintain offices here, and in the past few years, Chinese entrepreneurs have invested some $2 billion (US) in Israel's hi-tech sector.

"Hong Kong will play a major role in southern China's economic development and, therefore, Israel will have a continuing interest in Hong Kong," said Avidar.

Jewish businessmen in Hong Kong, he elaborated, have factories in China, which produce goods ranging from jewelry to toys.

Attuned to the increasingly lucrative China market, El Al has two flights per week from Tel Aviv to Hong Kong. Yet El Al cannot depend on Hong Kong's booming tourist trade.

"There's very little of that," said Avidar, referring to the dearth of Hong Kong Chinese tourists to Israel.

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Jewish Life

Anne Roiphe on marriage: 'I do'

***Married: A Fine Predicament*, by Anne Roiphe, Perseus Books, 2002, $37.95.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Cynics have always had a field-day with the notion of marriage. Heinrich Heine wrote, "The music at a wedding procession reminds me of the music of soldiers going into battle." George Bernard Shaw cautioned that it was most unwise for people in love to marry. A philosophical gambler lamented that marriage is a lottery in which if you lose, you can't tear up the ticket.

Such barbs, and others like them, seem directed at a moribund institution. Divorce is rampant, new life-styles abound, and astonishingly, one- third of babies in North America are now born out of wedlock.

But neither the critics, nor the baleful statistics deter Roiphe from a refreshingly optimistic outlook on marriage. Twice married, a mother of three, and a stepmother to two children, Roiphe approaches the slippery, sometimes messy, and always soul-shaping experience of marriage with deftness and grace. She rejects the notion that the institution is terminally ill.

Married offers a many sided, eloquent defence of married life from the wry perspective of one who survived the turbulent '50s and '60s, the sexual revolution and the feminist movement. Drawing on her experience – and the wisdom and suggestions of others – Roiphe explores such questions as the vagaries and pitfalls of romantic love; how setbacks and tribulations can bury a marriage; the need, if all else fails, for divorce; the joys and stresses of parenthood; the widespread nature of infidelity and something of its causes; and the roles of men and women in a rapidly changing society where the traditional rules of right and wrong no longer seem to apply.

For Roiphe, a marriage answers two basic human needs better than any other solution yet divined. In the first place, it can assuage loneliness. The twoness of marriage provides companionship through the years. None of our social organizations are able, or even seem interested, in providing emotional security.

It is disheartening to have the day begin and end without a helpful word from someone who knows what matters to you, without a caress from someone who knows what place on your spine needs rubbing and what part of your ego needs massaging.

Secondly, marriage creates the best workable arrangements in which to raise and nurture children. But, Roiphe confides, if parents are counting on children to bring them peace of mind, self-confidence or an unfailing sense of happiness, they are in for a bad shock. What children do is "complicate, implicate, give plot line to the story, colour to the picture."

The joys of parenthood are alloyed by concern and responsibility. Parenting can be a life sentence without parole. But the family unit, in the long run, is the nucleus of society and its constant hope for the future.

Are carefully arranged marriages such a bad idea? Roiphe gives them measured approval. She regards romantic love as a hydra-headed monster that should be approached with caution, which is exactly what is thrown to the wind when love enters. If free choice is the rule in affairs of the heart and considered the only legitimate reason for a marriage, then we endure all its ravages, its hidden meanings and its habit of so frequently savaging our happiness.

Filled with Roiphe's trademark blend of wit and sagacity, and replete with many references to Jewish tradition and practice, *Married* is bound to win widespread acceptance. Roiphe's response to the question, "Do you think marriage is worth it?" is a resounding "I do."

The art of the interview

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

It is a truism of family tree research that you can visit libraries and archives any time you like, but you must not delay interviewing elderly relatives as they will not be around forever.

The greatest regret of many genealogists is that they didn't ask the right questions of the right people at the right time. Tombstones often have stories to tell, but they're not nearly as articulate as people.

The interview is the first, and possibly the most important, stage of genealogical research. Good interviewing skills are essential to unlocking the secrets and mysteries on a family tree.

As a journalist, I've been conducting interviews for many years, but I have yet to find one good interviewing technique or formula that works in all situations.

The secret to a good interview is that there is no secret. Each one is different, and depends upon the person being interviewed.

In preparing for an interview, keep in mind the type of information you wish to acquire. Prepare for the interview by devising a list of questions.

The ideal subject is a raconteur with a sharp memory who is old enough to remember important family events of long ago.

Remember that a genealogical interview, especially with a new-found relative, can be an intense and even bewildering experience. Don't tire out an elderly relative by asking too many questions in one visit.

* * *

My great-aunt Sophie was 90 years old the first time I met her. She was the youngest and only remaining sibling in her family of 13 children. She admitted her memory wasn't good – she couldn't recall her own Hebrew name, for example, or list all of her siblings in chronological order – but she graciously attempted to answer my questions.

At first she couldn't tell me much about her father, who had died in 1929. I knew he had been born some place in Russia-Poland, but the earliest document I had for him pertained to his marriage in London in 1880.

I gave her copies of some old family photos, and she couldn't have been more grateful and delighted; she spoke as if they had helped her reconnect with a missing part of her soul. After that, the more we spoke about family matters, the more she seemed to remember.

"Dad came from Scotland, you know," she offered one day.

"Really? Are you certain?"

"Oh, yes. Dad was from Scotland. He told me so."

It emerged that she thought her father had been born in or around Warsaw and had gone to Glasgow as a child.

"He spoke with a Scottish accent, you know."

"Really? There was no Polish? No Russian?"

"Oh God no, nothing like that. He was very Scottish. He wore the Fraser tartan."

"You mean he wore a kilt?"

"Yes. Sometimes he did."

This amazed me and forever shattered my notion that my great-grandfather had been a typical Yiddish-speaking "Zaide" from Russia-Poland.

Over time, Sophie imparted numerous other genealogical nuggets to me that I could not possibly have acquired from anyone else. She died in 1997. I doubt there's another living soul anywhere who could have told me some of the things I learned from her.

She was a kind, graceful, soft-spoken lady who reminded me of my own dear grandmother. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to get to know her. I like to think that our conversations enriched both of our lives.

Jewish Life

What you can do to help Israel

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

What can I do to help? As Jews watch the violence in Israel and the damage to the country's economy, we wonder what we can do to make a difference in the lives of Israelis.

As it turns out, we can do a lot.

The Internet provides you with a wealth of resources that allow you to reach out and help. McGill University professor Gil Troy, a regular contributor to these pages, recently wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* that helping Israeli victims of terror will send a crucial message, just as the massive outpouring of good wishes and money did in the aftermath of Sept. 11. "The message to the victims [of Sept. 11] was: 'You are not alone.' The message to the terrorists was: 'Your tactics are so barbaric, they obscure – and damage – whatever cause you were trying to advance.'"

Troy adds that "Support for the victims of these atrocities need not be political. Donating to the Israeli victims' fund does not have to constitute an endorsement of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon nor a rejection of Palestinian nationalism. It is the tactic – terrorism – and the idea – anti-Semitism – that must be repudiated." **[http://www.walk4israel.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=article3]**

Here is what you can do:

1) Help a victim of terror

One of the organizations that Troy praises is the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund–One Family, which runs several programs to help victims of violence. The fund organizes walkathons, learn-a-thons and other fund-raising activities along with its Adopt-A-Family program. In that program, synagogues, schools or individuals outside of Israel are "twinned" with Israeli terror victims in order to provide them with long-term financial and emotional support. Foreign sponsors and Israeli families are matched according to such factors as need, knowledge of Hebrew and English and whether the foreign sponsors are planning to visit Israel. Beyond financial assistance, Adopt-A-Family encourages international friendship and understanding. You can read some moving case studies on their Web site **[http://www.walk4israel.com/]**.

2) Stay informed

Many excellent Israeli news organizations provide extensive coverage in English of the latest events in the Middle East, including Ha'aretz **[http://www.haaretzdaily.com]**, the Jerusalem Post **[http://jpost.com]** and Israeli radio and television **[http://www.israelradio.org/english.html]**.

Honestreporting.com "monitors the international media for biased reports against Israel" **[http://honestreporting.com/]**. Visit the UJA's "Things You can do to Help Israel" page for links to media monitoring sites and for analysis of current events in the Middle East **[http://www.ujc.org/content_display.html?ArticleID=37977]**. Palestine Media Watch will give you insight into how the conflict is viewed from a Palestinian perspective **[http://pmwatch.org/]**.

3) Send best wishes to an Israeli child in hospital

Soaringwords was created to be an online support network for sick children and their families **[http://www.soaringwords.org/]**. One section of the Web site is called "SoaringBridges to Israel" where children from abroad can submit artwork and messages which will be forwarded to decorate hospitals and schools in Israel. You can view samples of the gorgeous drawings on the Web site and read the inspiring messages of encouragement like this one:

"Hello friend, Let me introduce myself. I am a 9-year-old with a few hobbies such as rollerblading, bike riding, skateboarding, reading and playing baseball and football. How are you? I hope you feel better. How is Israel? Nice, right? Is it hot? I'm glad you are going to be okay. I've been to the hospital too. Best wishes.

"P.S. There will always be Israel."

Next time, I'll highlight more ways you can use the Web to help Israel.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

The Sephardi kolel

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

A community kolel is an educational/religious institution. Unlike a yeshiva, it consists of married men, usually at least 10. As in a yeshiva, the men commit themselves to spend their entire days, from morning till evening, seven days a week, in advanced Torah study. The individual members bring with them extensive experience and background, in Torah study, teaching and communal work. In order to do this, they are given nominal financial support. The system is not unlike a university fellowship, in which fellows are paid to pursue their research and publish results.

It was in the early 1970s when the first community kolel, Kolel Avreichim, came to Toronto. Arguably, this was the beginning of a revolution, one that continues to this day. Certainly in those days, Orthodoxy existed in Toronto, but with nowhere near the level of sophistication – in terms of scope of choice, numbers, intensity and vibrancy – that it has today. The catalytic effect of importing a nucleus of a dozen rabbis and their families into the community cannot be overstated. Their mere presence challenged as much as it changed the status quo – from kashrut to education, standards were elevated. Organizations also changed for the better, but most notably people's lives changed.

Subsequently, there have been other kolelim. There have even been organizations, that, while having little resemblance to the conventional term, have nevertheless chosen to call themselves a kolel.

This spring, for the first time in Toronto, if not in all of Canada, a Sephardi kolel, Kollel Yismach Moshe, was inaugurated on Bathurst Street in the heart of the Jewish community. It distinguishes itself by its mandate to inspire the Sephardi community. Under the capable leadership of the Rosh Kolel Rabbi Eliyahou Attias, a compatible group of families were identified and invited to be its first members. Their level of commitment and calibre of scholarship had to be top notch. Furthermore, all of them had to be of Sephardi background, as well as fluent in English.

A kolel is open all day to those who are willing to consecrate set times, to make use of it as a resource library, or to attend regular classes. In fact, the understanding is that fellows should be available for study during the evening session. While a kolel is primarily a learning venue for men, classes are offered for women as well.

The very word kolel means "grouping" or "fellowship" in Hebrew. But the word kolel also means "inclusive," as if one is stating a hope or desire that through the Sephardi kolel, the Sephardi community as a whole will find unity of purpose in the study and observance of the mitzvot. Having said that, it must be emphasized that the kolel welcomes all, Sephardi or Ashkenazi – anyone wishing to delve into the classical sacred texts and discourses of learning.

The Sephardi kolel then, is not just one more organization, but rather one with the potential to alter all others in the realm of observance and Torah study.

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בס"ד

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Saturday, June 8, 2002

Place	Speaker	Time
B.A.Y.T.	Dr. Esther Libman	5:00 p.m.
Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz	Mama Ginz	6:00 p.m.
Congregation B'nai Torah	Lori Greysman	6:15 p.m.
Shaarei Shomayim Cong.	Nechama Motzen	5:15 p.m.
Shaarei Tefillah Cong.	Sorric Sussman	5:30 p.m.
	& Family of the late Reb Phyllis Weinberg	
Yeshivat Or Chaim	Dr. Marc Shapiro & Naomi Yoram	5:30 p.m.

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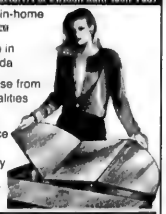
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A lecture presentation

Greater Toronto Area

Young journalist sees glimmers of peace in next generation

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

When Naomi Lightman's editor asked the young journalist to cover a press conference in New York City hosted by Al-Haq, a Palestinian human rights organization, she was less than thrilled.

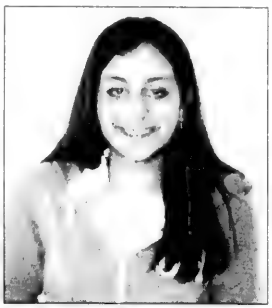
On May 7, the night before the Al-Haq event, a suicide bombing at a pool hall in Rishon Lezion killed 15 Israelis and injured about 60 others.

The 17-year-old Lightman, who says she has a strong Jewish identity, was upset by the attack.

"It was very emotional for me. I did not want to go," said Lightman, a Grade 11 student at Northern Secondary School.

But her pro-Palestinian assignment editor at Young People's Press (YPP), a Toronto-based organization that trains and works with young journalists, insisted that she attend. He said he wanted a story written from a different perspective and chose Lightman, who was doing a co-op term with YPP, specifically because she is Jewish and has lived in Israel.

Lightman was asked to cover the Al-Haq press conference as part of her coverage of a United Nations conference at the beginning of May – the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children. Young delegates from around the world examined issues such as child soldiers and child abuse, and discussed proposed solutions to these problems.


Naomi Lightman, 17, is a Grade 11 student at Northern Secondary School in Toronto.

She reluctantly agreed to cover the press conference, which was part of the UN event. She says it was the hardest part of her stay in New York.

Lightman remembers being horrified by the personal accounts of Palestinian children. One girl, who lives in Ramallah, spoke about seeing five children shot during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"She was really young and she was cute. It was horrible," Lightman said.

A boy who lives in the Jebalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip described being held at check points for hours, being unable to attend school and living in filthy conditions. He spoke of how Israeli soldiers shot at civilians "for fun." But the words that will remain seared in Lightman's memory are the boy's description of the Israeli soldiers as having "animal-like voices."

"It was clear that he was saying these are barbaric, crazy people. For a young kid, he said it really bitterly and angrily," Lightman said.

She found it sickening that a boy this young – she estimates he was 10 or 11 years old – already harbours such feelings of hatred.

"It shows how he is going to grow up hating Israelis and probably hating Jews."

While the boy's words left Lightman heavy-hearted, what happened next filled her with hope. Sitting at the back of the room, she overheard a group of young people speaking Hebrew and learned that they were Israelis. Filled with curiosity, she leaned over and asked why they were at the conference.

"We want to hear what they have to say," said one of the boys. "It is difficult but what else is there to do but try and listen?"

In an article Lightman wrote for *On the Record for Children*, a newsletter of nongovernmental organizations that work with UNICEF, titled *Viewpoint: Listening to Both Sides of the Story*, she wrote that this Israeli boy's words filled her with "a renewed sense of purpose and expectation."

"Despite everything going on, [the young Israelis] were there and they were listening," she said in an interview. "And that is what needs to happen... there needs to be discussion and there needs to be listening."

Evening to mark 30 years of women as rabbis

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

An evening is planned to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women rabbis, June 10, 8 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein

A panel will feature Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati campus, in 1972; Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, the first woman ordained as a Reconstructionist rabbi from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1974; and Rabbi Amy Eilberg, first woman ordained as a Conservative rabbi from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1985.

The rabbis, who will be speaking together publicly for the first time, will explore how women in the highest leadership positions have profoundly influenced our synagogues and communal organizations.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director of Kolel: The Adul Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, one of the evening's sponsors, said the rabbis will examine how the role of women has changed and developed, and whether having women in the rabbinate has changed Jewish life.

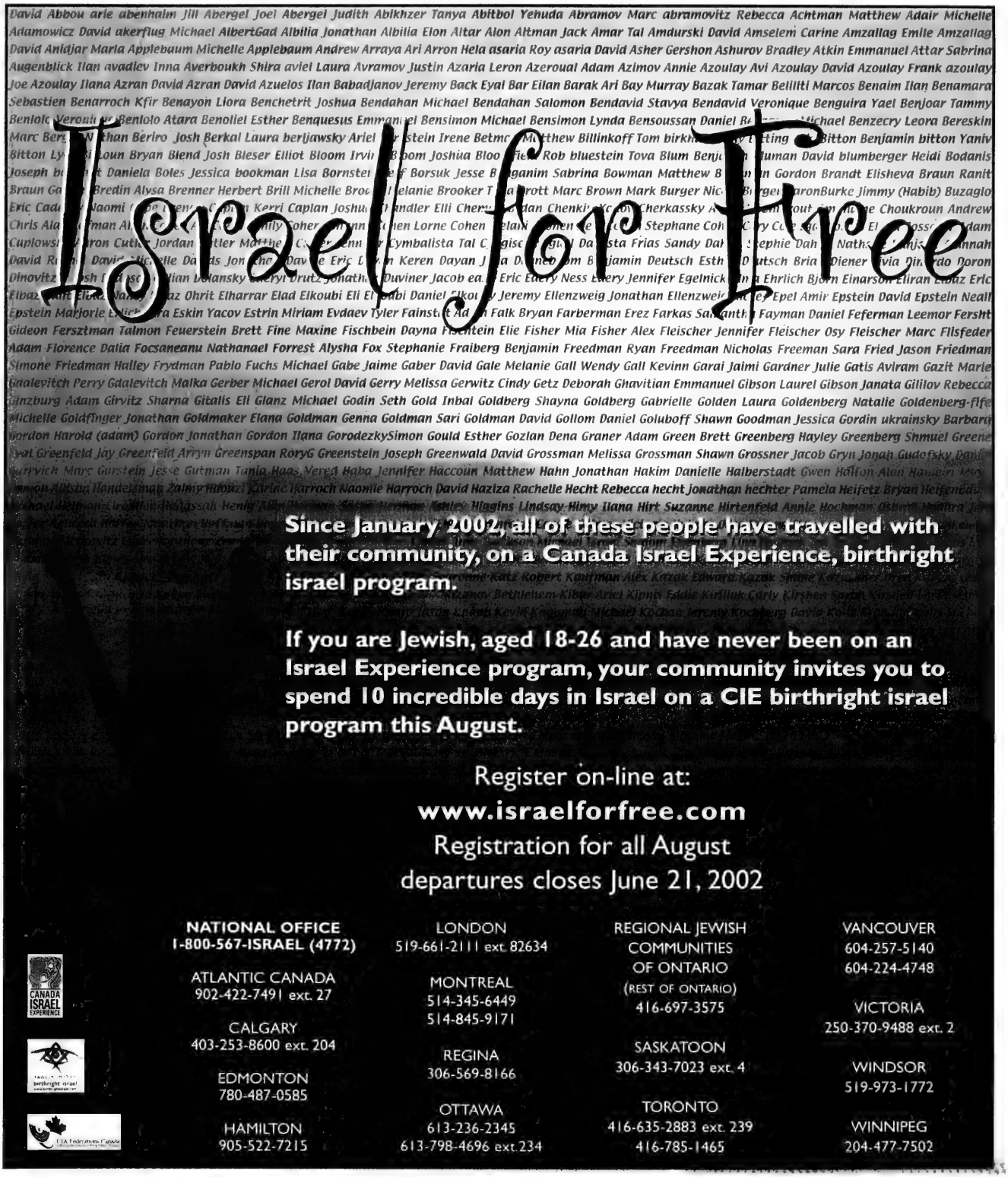
"These women have a historic perspective that few of us have, because they were ordained before the others," Rabbi Goldstein said.

The evening is also sponsored by Na'amat; National Council of Jewish Women; UJA Federation Women's Campaign and Advocacy; Jewish Women International of Canada; Canadian Women for Reform Judaism; Women's League for Conservative Judaism/Canadian Seaway Branch; and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

For ticket information call Kolel at 416-485-7007 or e-mail learn@kolel.org.

CLARIFICATION

A story in last week's paper titled *Prof studies environmental politics at U of T* left the impression that Prof. Steven Bernstein is the only researcher at the University of Toronto sharing in a $3.8 million grant to study globalization. In fact, Bernstein is one of about 10 researchers at U of T, out of a total of 40 in Canada and elsewhere, who have received part of the grant.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Interdenominational panel a celebration of diversity: rabbi

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A recent panel that featured rabbis of three denominations exploring Torah texts on revelation was a celebration of diversity, said Rabbi Howard Morrison, spiritual leader of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Congregation.

"Part of the spirit of the Torah is that Jews are one people; they should come together to share and learn," he said.

The panel, sponsored by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, also featured Rabbi Jay Kelman, spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Synagogue and Rabbi Michael Dolgin, spiritual leader of Temple Sinai.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director of Kolel called the rabbis trailblazers because it is one of few times that rabbis from these three ordaining denominations have sat together on a panel.

"Jews have always had diversity religiously and politically, and our challenge is to bridge the gaps and have open, non-judgmental sharing with each other," Rabbi Morrison said.

Rabbi Kelman said the panel gave him a good opportunity to teach Torah to a varied and serious group of students.

"It was wonderful to present and discuss traditional views on divine revelation to people who might otherwise might not be exposed to such a position," he said.

From the questions he was asked, Rabbi Kelman said, it was evident that people found the panel educational. "I felt a very positive feeling in the room."

Rabbi Dolgin said his only disappointment was that this type of panel is so unusual. "More opportunity for dialogue would strengthen the unity of Toronto Jews."

Any time people get together and study Torah, it is a successful event, he said. "It makes people proud of the choices they have already made. The purpose of the panel was not to win people over, but to increase each Jew's commitment to their own synagogue and their own Jewish practice."

Rabbi Morrison said that he did not speak for his denomination. "I spoke for myself. My denomination is Klal Israel. It was important for me to start out saying that."

He stressed the need for more such panels. "It should not take Israel to be in crisis to bring Jews together. In Pirkei Avot it says that a wise person learns from any person. I learned from the rabbis and from the audience, and I feel enriched."

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שיעור היומי

גידי קורן

המפה הפוליטית נכון לעכשיו

המאבקים האחרונים בשתי המפלגות הגדולות- הליכוד והמערך- נותנים לנו אפשרות למפות את הדיעות השונות בשאלת השאלות: עתיד היחסים בין ישראל לפלשתינאים. והיום מתחילים להווצר הבדלים מעניינים שיש להם השפעה פוטנציאלית גדולה על מה שיקרה בארץ.

בליכוד מתכסחים שרון ונתניהו על המשך השליטה ומביעים דיעות מאוד שונות: נתניהו מדבר בגלוי על התנגדות למדינה פלשתינאית בכל קונטקסט. הוא הצליח לסחוף את מרכז הליכוד להצבעה בעניין והתוצאות היכו גלים בכל העולם. אבל מעז יצא מתוך: זה אילץ את שרון, שמנסה להיות מעורפל ככל האפשר כדי לשמור על הקואליציה שלו, לאמר לאמריקנים בגלוי שהוא כראש ממשלה אינו מייצג את הדיעה הזו. רוצה לאמר: בתנאים מתאימים ואם יופסק הטרור הוא יסכים למדינה פלשתינאית. בפורומים אחרים אמר שרון שהוא, כראש ממשלה לא יוריד ישובים יהודים בגדה ובעזה- יענו- להישאר מעורפל ולהגיד דברים הפוכים. באותו סוף שבוע הראה משאל דעת קהל שרוב עצום של מצביעי הליכוד תומך בדיעה זו של שרון ולא בעמדת נתניהו ומרכז הליכוד.

גם במפלגת העבודה נקבעים בימים אלה הקוים חברורים. בן-אליעזר בעד מדינה פלשתינית בתנאים המתאימים. הוא אינו ספציפי לגמרי איך יפתור את הבעיה האנושית של הזזת ישובים. ועל כן אין דיעותיו שונות ממש מאלו של שרון.

לעומתו, חיים רמון שהכריז על הצטרפותו למירוץ, אומר מאוד ברור: הזזת ישובים יהודים שמכשילים את השלום ושאין הגיון להחזיקם. רמון מבטא את העמדות של ברק שהתקבלו על ידי הקהילה הבין לאומית. רמון גם קובע שההפרדה תחד צדדית חייבת לקרות גם אם לא יהיה שלום, כדבר הכרחי להצלת ישראל. נכון לעכשיו לא ראיתי שום משאל דעת קהל איפה עומד המצביע הישראלי בשאלה הזו. אבל לפחות יצביעו על אופציות ברורות. אבל שישאר בינינו.

מכתב למערכת

"אני מניי על עיתונכם מזה שנים רבות. בכתבה שפירסמתם בגיליון הקודם הופיע המשפט"חדיסונגס הקוגניטיבי בין הפוויטיביזם הקולקטיבי לנטביזם הדטרמיניסטית היא מהרעות החולות של הציונות". ורציתי לשאול-מה זה, לעזאזל, ציונות? "

איך אפשר לעזור- אהבת חינם

הרב לנדא ממרכז חב"ד יצא בקריאה לכל הישראלים לתת יד ולעזור לקבוצות שנפגעות מאוד מן מצב בארץ. כדרכו תמיד-יזדע הרב לזהות מטרות אישיות שיכולות לדבר לכל אחד מאיתנו. אנא התקשרו 7770 709 905 וזהו את המטרה לשמה אתם מבקשים לתרום:

1) חיילים ממשפחות מצוקה שאינם מנצלים את ימי חופשתם בבדי לא להיות מעמסה על משפחותיהם. באמצעות קשר ישיר עם מפקדיהם- להעניק להם שוברי קניה ברשתות מזון.

2) יחידה שאיבדה בג'נין מפקד וחברים - לעזור במימון סופשבוע במלון.

3) עידוד קניית תוצרת הארץ- עזרה בהוצאת דף פרסום צבעוני.

4)עזרה בשליחת ספר תורה ליחידות קרביות כדי שיוכלו החיילים להתפלל בתנאי שדה.

זה בעניין של לעבור מדיבורים למעשים.

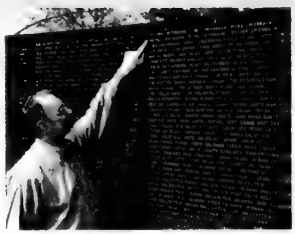
וביום הששי

היגה קטע ששלח לי יורם סורוקין מדטרויט:

וביום הששי אמר אלוהים למלאכיו:" היום אני יוצר מדינה ושמה ישראל. יהיה שם מכל טוב- אדמה עשירה ואנשים פקחים ואוצרות טבע, ארץ זבת חלב ודבש". אמרו לו מלאכיו:" אתה לא חושב שאתה מיקי נדיב לאנשים האלה?"

ענה להם אלוהים: "בכלל לא! חכו ותראו איזה שכנים אני חולק להם"....

"Unto Every Person There is a Name"



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LCHEL GREENBAUM · PESHA GRE
KA GREENBAUM · YANKEL GREE
VI DWOSH · LEAH DWOSH · CHAV
DISHE DWOSH LUKOW, POLAND JO
ARLOTTE BRENNER NOWA WIES,
TEDA WEISSENBERG · KLAUS WE

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem invites the community to attend the official Dedication of the Holocaust Wall of Remembrance on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at 11:00 am at Earl Bales Park, Toronto

(Bathurst Street south of Sheppard Avenue)

Canadian Society for
YAD VASHEM
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority
זכור

For further information about the Holocaust Wall of Remembrance or to engrave names on the wall, please contact: Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at 416-785-1333 or 1-888-494-7999.

Walk with Israel...

Thank you to the more than 25,000 participants, sponsors, and volunteers who took part in this year's Walk with Israel on May 20th - the largest Israel Solidarity Day in the history of Toronto.

Kol Hakavod to our CHAI Walkers.

Each raised a minimum $1800 in sponsorship.

Geoffrey Aharon • Stephanie Aharon
Jamie Filer • Michael Florence
David Gasch • Alix Gropper
Samuel Hershenhorn • Jonah Himelfarb
Rebecca Himelfarb • Richie Himelfarb
Rachel Kanner • Noah Lewis
Samara Lewis • Michael Rumanek Sheps
Stephen Rumanek Sheps

DomePoem Contest Winner

UJA Walk For Peace

The location does not matter,
Nor does the weather.
What matters is that we are walking together.

With each and every forward stride,
We are a symbol of peace and hope inside.
As we walk and leave each mile behind,
We keep our brothers and sisters in Israel in mind.

We march safely in Canada,
For our brothers and sisters cannot.
We are all one family,
We must share what we've got.

We donate what we can,
Even small amounts are a start.
And with each donation,
Comes a prayer from the heart.

In memory of our fallen loved ones,
Let us sadly shed a tear
Long live Israel,
May we one day march without fear.

Winning Poem By:
Danielle Miller
Grade 8
Thornhill

Congratulations to runner up:
Carly Waisglass
Grade 2
Leo Baeck Day School

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Photo's: Eve Marks

...was historic!

Missionaries lose menorah logo battle

Continued from page 1

"The menorah, the ancient seven-branched candelabrum, is one of the most hallowed emblems of the Jewish faith and the shared symbol of Jews around the world," said Jonathan Kroft, vice-chair of CJC's national community relations committee. "The court ruling ensures that no single organization can claim the menorah as its exclusive property and that the menorah's use most certainly cannot be denied to synagogues, Jewish organizations and Jewish persons."

In his 23-page decision, Mr. Justice Pierre Blais of the Federal Court wrote that he found CJC's evidence showing that the menorah is used by several Jewish organizations and synagogues to be "purely circumstantial."

Rather, "it is the historical and religious evidence that illustrates the menorah as being the official emblem of the Jewish faith and its people since antiquity," Blais wrote.

The court cited CJC's evidence that the menorah is as universal a symbol to Jews as the cross is to Christians.

Part of CJC's argument was that the granting of legal protection to CPM's menorah would prevent Jewish groups from using similar designs on commercial wares. The judge agreed, saying "it would be counterproductive to prohibit Jewish organizations and associations from using and adopting a mark such as the menorah, since it has always been historically associated with the Jewish culture."

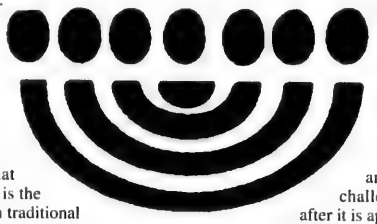
While CJC argued that CPM "is for born-again Christians" who must accept "the deity of Jesus Christ," the judge did not pronounce on the theological differences between Jews and so-called Hebrew Christians. He noted only that CPM is a "messianic Jewish religious organization whose members and adherents believe that Yeshua (Jesus Christ) is the Messiah prophesied in traditional Jewish teachings and scripture."

The U.S.-based CPM's "sole objective," Blais added, "is to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ among the Jews in the United States of America and in all parts of the world."

This custody battle over an ancient symbol began in 1997 when CPM applied to the Canadian Intellectual Property Office to register the menorah it had been using for years on its stationery as a trademark.

Two Toronto lawyers who specialize in intellectual property spotted the menorah in a journal that publishes trademark applications for the public to see. The lawyers alerted CJC, which opposed the move at the ministerial level.

But unknown to Congress, CPM, at the same time, had also applied to register its menorah as an Official Mark.



Unlike trademarks, an Official Mark does not have to published beforehand and can only be challenged in court after it is approved.

Both sides had agreed to put aside their battle over the trademark pending the outcome of this latest case.

Congress says this case was another example of the deceptive and underhanded tactics Hebrew Christians use.

"These groups create the misleading perception of Jewish affiliation through their appropriation of Jewish religious symbols (such as the menorah), holidays, traditions and terminology, all to facilitate their proselytizing campaign," stated CJC national president Keith Landy.

CJC lawyers Ben Zarnett and Richard Naiberg also pointed out that Official Mark protection is only granted to "public authorities," over which the government exercises some control and funding. Congress questioned how CPM satisfies the definition of a public authority, which must operate for the benefit of the public and fill a public need.

The judge said CPM is not a public authority, since it is not publicly funded and not subject to any government control or intervention.

Larry Rich, CPM's Canadian director, said he could not comment on the outcome because he had not seen the ruling.

KATZ TURNING 105:

William Katz, who was born in Poland in 1897, will celebrate his 105th birthday in August. Katz, who now lives in L'Chaim Retirement Home, came to Canada in 1919. He was married for 50 years to Blumchke, and has one daughter, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Katz admits there is no secret to his longevity. "It looks like they love me here."

[Carolyn Blackman photo]

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- **"Deeds Count"** *Presentation of annual Chabad Volunteer Awards*
- **Guest Speaker**
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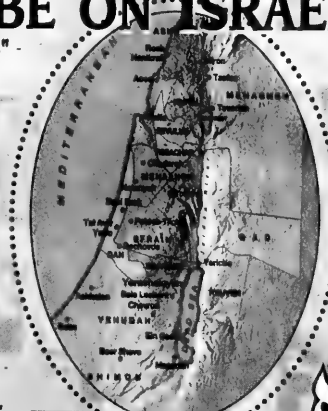

Monday June 10th, 2002
7:30 pm

vep graphics 416.665.9785

City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

2002 BY-ELECTION
Ward 2 By-Election Notice

When is the By-Election?
All qualified voters in Ward 2 of the City of Vaughan are encouraged to vote on Voting Day: **Thursday, June 13, 2002.**
The voting places will be open at 10:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. SHARP! You are encouraged to vote before 6:00 p.m. in order to avoid congestion at the voting place.
If your name is on the Voter's List for the Ward 2 By-Election, you should receive a card showing the location in your area where you are to vote. If you do not receive this card by June 3, 2002, please contact the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504 for further information.

How many candidates can you vote for?
All qualified voters in Ward 2 are entitled to vote for one (1) candidate for the Office of Local Councillor, Ward 2.

Who can vote?
You may vote in the Ward 2 By-Election if you:
- Are 18 years of age or older, or will attain the age of 18 years on or before Voting Day
- Are a Canadian citizen; and
- Have resided in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2, at any time between April 22, 2002 and June 13, 2002; or
- Are an owner, tenant or non-resident owner or tenant of property in the City of Vaughan, Ward 2 or spouse or same sex partner thereof, provided all other qualifications are met.

Note: Corporations or Limited Companies are not eligible to vote.

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

First published: May 30, 2002

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Shuls not accessible to disabled, conference told

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

Although many local synagogues have made changes to accommodate people with disabilities, more needs to be done, Lilith Finkler, a York University graduate student, told the recent annual meeting of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS).

Finkler, who is writing her thesis on the subject, showed slides of synagogues such as Beth Sholom, Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto and the congregation at Baycrest Centre, which have made changes to accommodate people with disabilities.

Finkler also noted that there is a wheelchair accessible washing stand at the Village Shul, and that several synagogues have bimahs with moveable ledges.

As well, she said, several Orthodox congregations have mechitzahs on wheels that can move easily if someone accidentally runs into them.

"Jewish people with disabilities are a minority within a minority," Finkler said.

Also at the two-day ACJS conference, held May 26 and May 27 at Beth Tzedec Congregation and the University of Toronto, the Committee for Yiddish, Canadian Jewish Congress and Friends of Yiddish co-sponsored a session in Yiddish that was chaired by Adam Fuerstenberg of Ryerson University. Speakers included Pierre Anctil, Vivian Felsen, Rebecca Margolis and Seymour Levitan.

In another session on the Jewish communities of Montreal and Toronto, sponsored by ACJS, Prof. Ira Robinson of Concordia University, talked about Rabbi Yudel Rosenberg, founder of Eitz Chaim Schools.

In an evening ceremony ending the conference's first day, the association presented an award to Rabbi Gunther Plaut in recognition of his lifetime contribution to Canadian Jewish studies, and a tribute was paid to the memory of Ben Kayfetz, historian of Canadian Jewry and past secretary of the Canadian Jewish Historical Society.

Prof. Morton Weinfeld of McGill University responds to an Association for Canadian Jewish Studies panel that had just discussed his recent book *Like Everybody Else – But Different: The Paradoxical Success of Canadian Jews*. Pictured (from left) are Prof. Lawrence Kaplan of McGill University, Prof. Frank Bialystok, Weinfeld, and Prof. Susan McDaniel of the University of Alberta. Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec was also on the panel. [Anna Morgan photo]

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

DEDICATION OF THE HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
SUN., JUNE 23
11 A.M.
Earl Bales Park
at the Holocaust Wall
See Page 17
Information:
416-785-1333

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 10, is deadline for June 20 issue and Monday, June 17, is deadline for June 27. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, June 9

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

The 5th annual Zareinu Moveathon 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Earl Bales Park includes a 100-km bike ride beginning in Kleinburg, a 50-km ride, a 20-km family ride and a 10-km run as well. Also, inflatable rides, carnival games, live entertainment, food court, music, a special 2-km loop for younger children. Zareinu Educational Centre offers treatment and special education for children with a wide range of disabilities. 416-661-1800.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer**. Come listen, come tell. All welcome. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave., 7:30 p.m. 416-699-8914.

HACHNASAT TORAH

Shir Libeynu Congregation celebrates the dedication of its very own Torah. Procession begins at 3 p.m. at Scadding Court Community Centre, 797 Dundas St., bringing the Torah into the congregation. A brief dedication follows. Children can bring homemade flags and banners. Please bring something for a dessert potluck. Reply if you like. Shir Libeynu Hotline 416-465-5488.

CHORALAIRS CONCERT

Choralairs Choir 40th closing concert, featuring a varied program of Broadway, pop and folk songs. 2-4 p.m. at Earl Bales Park, community centre. New members welcome. Membership chair **Fay Cohen** 416-633-7233 or **Judy Gordon**, president,416-221-3161.

As the park will be very busy, parking will not be available. Please park at the plaza at Bathurst and Sheppard and walk in at the north entrance of the park.

MEGA RUMMAGE SALE

L'Chaim's first annual mega rummage sale, toys, books, clothing, household items, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 718 Sheppard Ave. W.

Monday, June 10

WOMEN AS RABBIS

Celebrating 30 Years of Women as Rabbis, an evening honouring the 30th anniversary of the first women ordained: **Rabbi Sally Priesand, Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso** and **Rabbi Amy Eilberg,** with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** as moderator, 8 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple.

Honour Toronto's women rabbis at a special pre-event COR kosher dinner at 6 p.m. For tickets, 416-485-7007.

ABOUT JUDAISM

The Pride of Israel Synagogue features **Lori Palatnik** speaking on Four Things You Never Knew About Judaism, 7:30 p.m. Admission charge or a non-perishable kosher item for the community food bank.

While the talk is for everyone, a coffee house for unattached individuals, ages 25-45, follows. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

BOOK REVIEW

Beth Sholom Sisterhood is reviewing *The Woman Who Laughed at God* by Jonathan Kirsch, 12:30 p.m. Reviewer is **Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich**. A light lunch will be served. Reservations and payment in advance by June 7. Call synagogue office 416-783-6103 or **Eve Rothblott** 416-782-0471.

Tuesday, June 11

POWER OF SELF-HEALING

The Power of Self-Healing with **Dr. Michael A. Cohen**, chiroprac-

Continued on page 23

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Continued from page 22

tor and clinical acupuncturist, discusses Discover the Relationship Between the Mind and the Body and Our Innate Healing Abilities, and also Is High Technology Medicine the Answer to All Our Health Needs?, 8 p.m., Beth Sholom Synagogue.

SISTERHOOD PROGRAM

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood installation and closing program with Banjo Man **Mel Collie**. 8 p.m. Prepaid reservations by June 9. Light supper. Call **Cynthia Bielak** 416-635-6890.

BUILDING A PORTFOLIO

Aish 20s presents Building Your Portfolio for This Life and the Next with **Mark Halpern**. He discusses planning your financial future and, by using those gains, planning your spiritual future, 8-10 p.m., the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton W. **Hadassah** 905-764-1818 ext. 215.

Wednesday, June 12

SPRINT OPEN HOUSE

SPRINT (Senior Peoples' Resources in North Toronto) annual meeting and open house 4-6:30 p.m. at 140 Merton St., 2nd floor. Guest speaker **Dr. Sholom Glouberman**, philosopher in residence at Baycrest Centre, speaks on How to Fix Medicare and How Not to Fix Medicare. 416-481-0669, ext. 222.

Thursday, June 13

TORAH AND SCIENCE

Prof. Nathan Aviezer, department of physics, Bar Ilan University speaks on Contradictions Between Torah and Science: The Creation of the Universe, presented by Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto in conjunction with Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University and Israel's-the Judaica Centre. 8 p.m. at the BAYT, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-886-3810.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada-Toronto Section, annual general meeting and volunteer recognition, 7:30 p.m. Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Outstanding council volunteer honoree **Gita Arnold.** RSVP 416-633-5100.

And What Else Is New

MIDDLE EAST OPTIONS

Canadian Friends of Peace Now presents Middle East Options: An Israeli Speaks Out, with **Yossi Alpher**, highly respected strategic analyst, Tuesday, June 11 at 8 p.m. at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W., and on Wednesday, June 12, at 8 p.m. at Temple Kol Ami, Leo Baeck Day School, 36 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill. 905-707-5308.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Adath Sholom Sisterhood's "New Beginnings" Executive Installation and Celebration. Entertainment by **Cantor George Koenigsberg**. 7:30 p.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Contact **Bunnie** 416-633-9691.

JF & CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Services workshops. For registration/information **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Grandparents Are Forever: to help grandparents understand the important role they play for their grandchildren after divorce, Wednesday, June 12, 7-9 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Building, 6th floor.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell The Kids? focuses on the children's needs just prior to, and in the early stages of, separation. Thursday, June 13, at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

YOGA AT PRIDE OF ISRAEL

Hatha Yoga in small classes that ensure individual attention. Thursdays, June 20-Aug. 15, 6-7 p.m. and Mondays July 8-Aug. 12, 6-7 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue. Preregistration required. **Helen Mittelman**, certified Hatha teacher, 416-661-0433.

RUSSIAN JEWISH EXHIBIT

Survival & Freedom: A Tribute to the Russian Jewish Community has been extended to Aug. 16, at the Silverman Heritage Museum, Baycrest Centre. 416-785-2500, ext. 2802. Group tours available

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FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement group is spending Wednesday, June 12, On the Waterfront, an afternoon at Harbourfront, with salad lunch at Captain John's Harbour Boat restaurant followed by an hour cruise through the islands. Depart from the temple at 11 a.m., return 4:30 p.m. Reserve. **Shelley** at the temple 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). June 6, bingo; June 13, lecture by **Chasida David**; June 20, video movie; June 27, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. June 8, 15, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27; Sunday dance with live band, June 23; Casino Rama, June 12, 26, July 3, 17, 31; Stage West Dinner Theatre June 13 to see *Joseph*; Casino Niagara June 20; Catskills July 22-28. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Senior Bowlers, co-ed, continues through the summer every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Pro Bowl, 877 Wilson Ave. **Milt Cohen** 416-495-1999.

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Healthfest 2002: A Salute to Healthy Living, Thursday, June 13, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Opening ceremonies in the auditorium. Keynote speaker **Dr. Larry Nusbaum**. For information, ext. 126.

The movie *Fiddler on the Roof*, Sunday, June 9, 2:30 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 119. June 11, political lecture; June 18, sing-along; June 25, picnic in the park.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Koffler School of Music presents the Koffler Suzuki 15th anniversary showcase, Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre. Students and graduates of the Suzuki school will perform in concert.

To June 30: Regarding Landscape, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman**, on view at the Koffler Gallery, the Art Gallery of York University and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, ext. 380. On Sundays a shuttle bus travels between the 3 galleries. ext. 268

Register now for Summer 2002 visual art classes at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Drawing, painting, ceramics, stone sculpture classes begin July 2. For information/registration ext. 269.

Tai Chi classes Wednesdays 10 a.m., Room 211, until June 12.

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Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211

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Seniors Club: Thursday, June 6, 2 p.m. Tonto's Nephews with **Ryan McMahon** and **Sid Bobb**, and at 3:30 p.m. Mamaloshen Club, facilitated by **Linda Lipski**. Thursday, June 13, 2 p.m., **Blima Rhodes** on The Sandwich Generation, her personal odyssey caring for an aged mother and two small children.

YOUTH ALIYAH LUNCHEON: Pictured at Toronto Hadassah-WIZO's recent Youth Aliyah/Youth Services Luncheon are (from left) Beverley Crackower, president; Janice Haydu, Youth Aliyah/Youth Services vice-chair; Annalee Cohen, Youth Aliyah/Youth Services co-chair; guest speaker Jan Wong, *Globe and Mail* reporter; Pamela Austin, Youth Aliyah/Youth Services co-chair; and Judy Zelikovitz, vice-president.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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WOW! – Here comes Bloom

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Corinne Bloom

It's a gloomy day, but the weather seems to change when Corinne Bloom arrives and sits at a table on the deck of a midtown Toronto coffee shop.

She's vibrating with energy and buzzing with conversation. At 34, she's a whirlwind of words and excitement.

Bloom has three homes – in Toronto, South Beach, Miami and New York. She owns a communications company called WOW!, which she founded while completing her undergraduate degree. She showed off her abilities as a skater in a 7UP commercial. She moonlights as a DJ for charity, had her own morning radio show, photographs elite male models for modelling agencies, is coming out with a children's book and she has five dogs, three parrots, two cats and a pet skunk.

The only word that can accurately describe this Toronto-born bundle of creativity is: wow!

"It's in my skin to be creative," says Bloom. "Everything I do is driven by my creative urges. I'm involved in so many different projects to satisfy these tendencies."

Whether it be photography or jewellery making (she wears a big, intricate, beaded butterfly necklace that took her hours to create), "there's no right or wrong way to be creative," she says.

Her hectic, globe-trotting life leaves her little time to relax, but Bloom doesn't mind.

"I'm really happy," she says.

Born to an artist-mother and business-oriented father, Bloom and her younger brother Michael, who are best friends, were raised in Thornhill, Ont.

For four years she attended a local high school. Then, she flew off to Switzerland's Neuchatel Junior Collage for Grade 13.

"That year, a lot of changes happened to my personality," says Bloom. "It was the best year of my life. I saw the most beautiful things. It was the first time I was away from home. I felt independent. I learned French, which has stuck with me to this day. I went to museums and became mesmerized by art. The whole experience opened me up and made me grow up."

She returned to attend the University of Western Ontario, set on becoming a veterinarian. She had always been fascinated by animals, but at school, she discovered her entrepreneurial spirit.

"I began making jewellery and sandwiches – anything to make money and to attain financial independence. It was all about going after what I wanted.

"I organized a contest for girls at the university and one of the posters I created was called Women of Western. The girls who won went onto a calendar, sponsored by 7UP," she explains.

She took the pictures for the calendar herself, she says, adding that it was the first and last time she photographed female models.

The success of that contest landed her and WOW! a job organizing the Hawaiian Tropic pageant for a summer. That in turn led to an encounter with John Casablanca, head of Elite Model Management. Bloom was asked to organize Look of the Year, a cross-Canada model search.

"I got the sponsors for the contest, shaped what the contest would look like," says Bloom.

From there, she landed a job at an advertising agency in New York. While skating in Central Park, she was discovered by a casting director who asked her to audition for a 7UP commercial being shot in Miami.

She skated her way onto television and found a new home.

"I loved Miami," says Bloom. "South Beach was everything I wanted to see in a city. It was a bubble of excitement. Casting directors, designers, photographers and so many artistic people live there. It's a nice background for doing anything creative."

She's been commuting between Miami, Toronto, and New York – "a triangle of excitement" – for the last eight years.

She snagged her own radio show after a friend with connections to a Miami radio station heard her ordering a pizza over the phone.

"He said I had a perfect voice for radio," she says.

After doing radio commercials, she got her own morning talk show in 1999 called *Kiss Corinne*, where she learned to mix music for the program.

"It was like the Howard Stern show but not as outlandish. The format was that there was no format. I just winged it."

Last year, Bloom took herself off the airwaves. She was too busy travelling and pursuing other projects, she says, explaining that she "felt bad disappointing listeners if I couldn't keep a regular schedule."

She has chosen to shoot male models now, she says, because they're low maintenance. She styles their hair, picks out their clothes and outfits them with her jewellery and her pets, which appear in many of her photos. Even her birds have become famous, with one of her parrots being recruited to star in a music video with Gloria Estefan. Now, she's organizing a letter-writing contest for overnight campers across North America and is hoping to be on TV one day.

One of the secrets to her success is having a positive outlook on life, she says. "Once you're able to see the glass as half full in every situation, it makes life so much better."

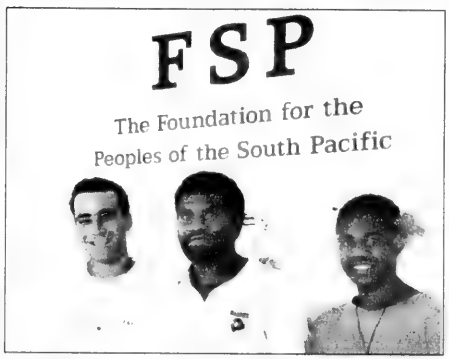
Torontonian volunteers with CUSO in Vanuatu

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Until recently Blake Dinkin missed out on the reality television phenomenon embodied by *Survivor*, but the 31-year-old Torontonian was busy having his own South Pacific adventures while others here were sitting in front of the tube.

For two years until this past December, Dinkin was based in Vanuatu – a small country formerly known as New Hebrides, playing in its premier soccer league (he was the first white person in eight years on his team), bat-hunting, sleeping on a volcano and – most importantly – sharing his business expertise as a volunteer with CUSO, the largest overseas volunteer organization in Canada.

Before he took on the volunteer position, Dinkin worked in business management in the Toronto office of a Japanese company. "I had a great job. I got to travel a lot, but I sometimes felt like I wasn't making a difference," he said in a recent interview at a Toronto coffee shop.



Blake Dinkin, left, worked with these two artists, and others, on a jewelry project in Vanuatu as a CUSO volunteer.

Hoping for a position that could utilize his business skills, Dinkin found one in the area of business development, working with underprivileged groups to help develop new industry.

Most of his time in Vanuatu was spent working with artists on a jewelry project for a non-governmental organization called the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific.

Having visited Fiji and Papua New Guinea on vacation and business, he found Vanuatu's location and its reputation for friendly people particularly appealing.

Vanuatu is home to 200,000 people (about the size of Greater Toronto's Jewish population), but its citizens speak 140 languages, Dinkin said. The main language is Bishlama, which he described as a variation of pidgin English.

Fortunately for Dinkin, he was able to travel to Vanuatu on business when the CUSO opportunity arose. During that visit, he met with CUSO officials in his spare time. Within two months he had a job offer, and two months later he was on his way.

One of only a handful of Jews in Vanuatu, Dinkin – an alumnus of Associated Hebrew Schools and Forest Hill Collegiate who used to play on a Maccabi soccer team– found himself the object of curiosity on occasion but he said he never experienced anti-Semitism from the Ni-Vanuatu, as the native people are known.

Held a seder for 20 guests

The majority of the local population is Christian, although the Ni-Vanuatu mix their own traditions – including a belief in Black Magic and White Magic – with Christianity, Dinkin said.

A brief hospital stay for kidney stones was memorable not only for the hospital conditions but also for Dinkin's encounter with a singing preacher who brought him a New Testament. Dinkin told him that if he needed anything, it was an Old Testament, explaining that he was Jewish.

Soon after the preacher left, Dinkin heard his wardmates and their relatives "muttering 'Chew, Chew, Chew' [the Bishlama word for Jewish], like I was some kind of novelty. That was kind of a unique experience."

For the High Holy Days, he flew from Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital, to Australia (a three-to-four-hour flight). With the help of technology and Jewish geography, he contacted a rabbi in Melbourne via the Internet to arrange to attend services, and he stayed with a Jewish family – his mother's friend's husband's brother.

Because he had no need for a business suit in laid-back Vanuatu – where he even wore shorts and flip-flops to meet the country's prime minister – he had a suit sent from Toronto before the holidays.

Despite the casual attire, however, the locals he worked with insisted on addressing him by the Bishlama word for "master" as a sign of respect.

Dinkin said he tried to strike a balance between becoming involved in the local culture and having friendships with fellow non-natives. The stipend Dinkin received as a volunteer would have put him in the Ni-Vanuatu middle class.

For Passover last year, he held a Seder for about 20 guests. There would have been more, but some of the invitees had to shore up their corrugated aluminum homes in anticipation of a cyclone the next day. Dinkin experienced two cyclones in Vanuatu, but he lived in a concrete building that did not require special preparations.

His mother flew in from Toronto with provisions, including gefilte fish, horseradish and matzah – a welcome taste of home and a change from local fare like laplap, Vanuatu's national dish of coconut milk, perhaps chicken or beef, and taro wrapped in a large banana leaf and cooked for hours in a pit covered by hot stones.

The previous Passover, a Toronto friend brought Haggadahs and they had a small Seder together.

Now that he's back in Toronto, after an extended trip with stops in Ethiopia, Morocco and Asia, Dinkin plans to continue his involvement with CUSO and help raise awareness of the organization.

His experience has changed some of his perceptions, but not who he is as a person, he said. He finds he has greater empathy for people here whose first language is not English and is also more sensitive to "things like… sensory overload. The pace of life is much faster here. There, people have lots of time and no money. Here, people have money but no time. I'd like to have something in between. I definitely got used to the slower pace [but] I love the Canadian mentality."

He found that he missed Jewish culture – both the food and the sense of community – while he was away, and he likes to think he served as a good ambassador for locals who'd never met a Jew before.

"A lot of times when I stayed in the villages, there was no TV or radio. You talk religion. It comes up all the time. I think that's one of the best ways to overcome racism and ignorance."

Ironically, once he returned to Canada, Dinkin initially found himself "totally stuck on TV. I hate it. I try not to watch it."

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Doors Open on three Toronto synagogues

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE

It's a once-a-year chance for the city's proudest buildings to put on their best faces, polish their silver, buff their wood and throw their doors wide for neighbours from around the city. Yet for the three synagogues participating in the third annual Doors Open Toronto weekend on May 25 and 26 – Congregation Knesseth Israel, Beach Hebrew Institute and Anshei Minsk – it was more than an opportunity to show off impressive façades. It was a chance to showcase the spirit that sustains Toronto's southernmost Jewish communities.

Offering a taste of "hidden gems throughout the city," the event was designed to stimulate interest in the city's most notable buildings, old and new. Presented by the *Toronto Star* and Toronto Culture, Doors Open also attempts to draw visitors who would normally be discouraged by "closed" signs or services in progress.

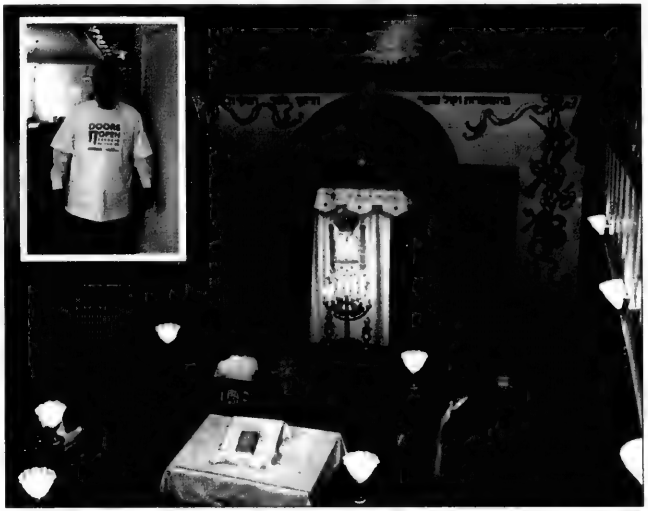
The oldest of the three synagogues, Congregation Knesseth Israel, was built in 1911 by tradesmen working for the Heintzman Piano Factory near Dundas and Keele streets in the city's west end. Knesseth Israel no longer holds regular Shabbat services, but is open every holiday and, according to president Edwin Goldstein, despite having only 90 full members, all 400 seats are easily filled.

Even as far back as the 1930s, he says, Knesseth Israel hasn't had a rabbi – "You don't need a rabbi to lead services!" Goldstein says. That doesn't stop members from celebrating more than a dozen bar mitzvahs and even a couple of weddings each year. A number of young families have recently joined the shul, which now offers a Sunday Hebrew school program.

Visitors to Knesseth Israel, officially dedicated a historical site in September, were entranced by its well-preserved decorations, especially the ceiling, which depicts Hebrew zodiac symbols against a blue sky filled with stars and clouds.

One woman admiring the decorations said, "I bet you don't get many visitors whose parents were married here!" This engaged Goldstein in a quick game of "Jewish geography." He easily remembered hers and other families who once gathered here. But although those days are gone, this synagogue is far from ready to close up shop.

Although its building is older than Knesseth Israel by more than a decade, Beach Hebrew Institute is actually a younger synagogue. Built in 1895, it originally served as the Kenilworth Avenue Baptist Church. Since 1920, it has been a synagogue, first for local merchants and later for Jewish families rediscovering the Beaches in the mid-1970s.



View from the ladies' balcony at Congregation Knesseth Israel. Inset: Anshei Minsk Rabbi Shmuel Spero, wearing a Doors Open Toronto t-shirt. [Jennifer Paquette photos]

Since its "conversion," it has seen several major renovations, including exterior modifications that resemble "shtiebl" architecture.

Interior of Beach Hebrew Institute with 1986 stained-glass windows.

Its basement is now a social hall, which Doors Open visitors could walk through, perusing displays of notable events from the past 80 years, including Purim carnivals, Chanukah parties and simchahs of member families.

Among several mysteries from the Beach Hebrew Institute's past is the Hebrew plaque on its exterior proclaiming its name as "Beth Jacob" – a name whose origin is unknown and which was never commonly used. According to longtime president Arie Nerman, the synagogue, which was made a historical site in 1982 by then-mayor Art Eggleton, now has 150 member households.

Like Knesseth Israel, the Beach Hebrew Institute offers a Sunday school, Torah study, and other programs, but its real strength may be its High Holy Day services, which draw participants from all over the city, enticed by the interactive, member-led prayers – and perhaps also by its longstanding "no-ticket" policy.

Unique among the shuls of Doors Open Toronto, Anshei Minsk chose to open to the public on Shabbat. Rabbi Shmuel Spero says he wanted Doors Open visitors "to get a taste of what it's like here on Shabbos." The "Minsker" is well-known for its welcoming of travellers, relatives of hospital patients, university students and Jews who resist the inevitable tug northward and settle downtown permanently.

Unlike most other buildings participating in Doors Open, Anshei Minsk wasn't looking its best for the weekend event. On March 11, it was broken into and set ablaze, causing $100,000 in damages to the upper balcony and to thousands of holy books. That damage is still visible, from smoke-seared door frames to the wrecked tiers of seating in the women's section on the balcony.

Yet immediately after the fire, the shul resolved to carry on, offering Pesach seders, ongoing classes in Torah and Talmud, daily, Shabbat and holiday services and what its brochure calls "its famously delicious chicken soup."

Throughout the Doors Open weekend, Rabbi Spero estimates that more than 750 visitors were drawn into its ornate sanctuary, including curious neighbours from nearby Chinatown.

On Sunday, volunteers sat by the door, greeting guests and drawing attention to a silver-foil coated can for contributions, which are clearly still needed for the ongoing restoration. Of the three synagogues, the Minsk was unique in having a visible security presence: a guard stood beside the single open door, a poignant statement that despite best intentions, open doors are not always wise in today's climate.

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Local Chinese, Jewish art to honour Shanghai shul

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Artists tend to occupy a different plane than the rest of us, but last Wednesday night, Ian Leventhal was positively floating on air.

"This," he said, surveying a roomful of Jewish and Chinese artists and their work hanging side by side, "is a fantasy that became a dream that turned into reality."

That reality began with a dream Leventhal had a year ago, after returning from a trip to Shanghai and its historic Ohel Moishe Synagogue.

After learning that the city had been a sanctuary for Jews fleeing Nazi Europe, Leventhal, known for his whimsical designs at various Toronto shops and restaurants, wanted to show his gratitude and appreciation to Shanghai and the synagogue, now a museum known as the Jewish Refugee Memorial Hall.

Thus was born A Gift of Friendship Tribute Exhibit, a stunning cross-cultural exhibition of artworks in various media on display at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto (5183 Sheppard Ave. W.) until June 12.

Representing 34 of Toronto's leading Jewish and Chinese artists, the works – all donated – speak to the survival and toughness of two peoples who have endured much.

Art is the common bond. As contributing artist Henry Ho put it: "My painting supports the strength and suffering of the Jewish people during the period of the Nazi horror. The friendship with the Chinese nation was shown at that critical time. I'm hoping that this historical partnership will be a sample of compassion and understanding between all nations of the world."

But the best part takes place after the show ends and the pieces are crated. This Oct. 22, they'll be unwrapped at a re-designed and re-dedicated Ohel Moishe Synagogue, where they will go on permanent exhibit as a show of the solidarity and friendship between the Chinese and Jewish peoples.

"Isn't that something?" asked an exuberant Leventhal, who co-chaired last Wednesday's opening with community activist Harriet Morton. Pointing to the dim sum being served while the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band played, he observed, "Jews and Chinese have a lot in common."

They certainly did at last week's opening, where Jewish and Chinese communal leaders rubbed elbows with Ontario Lt.-Gov. and former Canadian ambassador to Israel James Bartleman, Sen. Vivienne Poy, and the consuls of Israel and China. Officials kindled a large papier maché menorah created by Leventhal, and watched a traditional Chinese lion dance.

The evening was also inspired by – and paid tribute to – the war-era saviour of Shanghai's Jewish refugees. While China's consul general in Vienna from 1938 to 1940, Feng Shan Ho issued thousands of life-saving visas to Austrian, German and Polish Jews. He continued his quiet heroics despite orders from his government to stop, and even after an official reprimand. Ho issued an average 500 visas a month.

As many as 20,000 European Jews escaped by boat to the teeming port city of Shanghai, already home to thousands of Jews from Iraq, India and Russians who'd fled the 1917 revolution. Despite hardships, crowded conditions and a new, strange land, the community thrived, with mutual benefit societies, clubs, hospitals, newspapers, and at least one other synagogue, the Sephardic Ohel Rachel, built in 1920.

After the outbreak of war in the Pacific theatre in December 1941, Shanghai's Japanese occupiers herded all the city's Jews into the Hongkou Ghetto, where conditions were miserable. But unlike Jews in European ghettoes, no one was murdered.

Among the artworks to be shipped to Shanghai in October is a striking portrait of Ho by Toronto Jewish artist Donna Gottdenker.

Ho died in 1997 at age 96. Four years later, he was named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in Israel.

ORT Toronto is a major supporter of the exhibit. ORT, with its global network of vocational schools, played a vital role in Shanghai in the war era, providing Jewish refugees with trade and occupational training.

Earlier this month, Shalom Greenberg, a Chabad rabbi and leader of today's Shanghai Jewish community, opened the Shanghai Jewish Centre.

Recently, the World Monuments Fund added the Ohel Rachel synagogue to its 2002 Watch List of the 100 Most Endangered Sites.

For details on the exhibit, call 416-292-9293.

Artists Ian Leventhal (left) and Henry Ho in front of Ho's painting, *The Historical Stream* [Ron Csillag photo]

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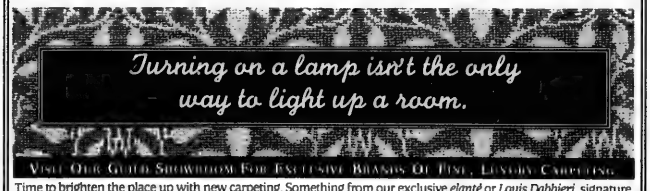
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Students must be proactive, says Hillel shaliach

Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN and FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporters

TORONTO — Although anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on campus have become a serious concern for many Jewish students and campus professionals in the past year, it would be "audacious" to say Jewish students are "swamped" by it, says a leading campus professional.

While the problem is more serious at certain universities such as Concordia in Montreal, it's not everywhere, said Michael Jankelowitz, director of campus Israel affairs at Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life in Washington, D.C.

"When we exaggerate, we do ourselves damage," Jankelowitz said, adding that to say we are suffering anti-Semitism would be to belittle what happened during the Holocaust.

Jankelowitz, who is on shlichut as a representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel, was the keynote speaker at a town hall meeting sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News* on May 7 at the Barbara Frum Library. The meeting was the fifth in a series of town hall meetings and round table discussions instituted by the paper in 1998.

Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS), and university students Daniel Held and Adam Cutler also spoke. *CJN* editor Mordechai Ben-Dat moderated the program.

Unfortunately the current intifadah in Israel is far from over, said Jankelowitz. "I believe we've got to be proactive... There are many positive things that Jewish students can do... What I have tried is to tell the Jewish students to get on with the job, to educate themselves not to be intimidated, to bring in lecturers to speak on behalf of Israel."

But Jewish students are "bombarded by [anti-Israel] propaganda" and didn't live through much of Israel's history, he noted. "For them, 1973 is what the 1956 Sinai Campaign is for me. [Jankelowitz was born in 1952.] Their first memories are of the signing on the White House lawn. Today that dream is shattered. Oslo didn't bring us peace. It brought a piece of paper, where the other side unfortunately didn't fulfil its commitment."

Jankelowitz recalled his parents' concern in 1967, when he was growing up in South Africa, that Israel was going to be annihilated during the Six-Day War. "How many of our students today understand what happened in 1967, and that there was a miracle? This wasn't a war that Israel went about willingly. We've got to see that history doesn't get rewritten. We've got to make sure our students understand what happened."

If students do not know the history of modern Zionism, he said, they will "be beaten on campus when the Palestinian student says 'You are the occupier.'"

In 95 per cent of North American campuses, Jewish students are organized, but if the Jewish community doesn't support Jewish students, they are liable to be intimidated, Jankelowitz said.

Until recently, students on university campuses had been lulled into a false sense of security, said Kaye.

"The message until now had always been peace, reaching out to other groups and building relationships. Now we're playing catch-up."

Last summer, he said, his office prepared for "what we did not know would happen on campuses. We were not sure what the fall would bring – what the Arab, the Muslim, and the growing, very disconcerting Jewish opposition to Israel would be on campuses."

Michael Jankelowitz and Zac Kaye

Sept. 11, however, created a strange lull, said Kaye, and JCS became concerned with preparing themselves for anti-Israel activity. "The most important thing was to be proactive, not reactive."

During the discussion, Eleanor Johnston, incoming president, JSO, at the University of Guelph, makes a point. Prof. Michael Brown, left, and Sarah Zelcer of JCS, listen attentively.

They hired Stuart Lapowich as Israel affairs co-ordinator in order to create a pro-Israel agenda on campuses across the city, and to monitor anti-Israel activity on campuses.

As well, a number of students created *Counterpoint*, a pro-Israel newspaper funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and held their own pro-Israel demonstrations, he said.

One reason anti-Israel activity has increased on campuses, Kaye said, is because today's students are "what I refer to as children of the intifadah. The images they remember and are familiar with are of the first and second intifadah, of mighty Israel with armed soldiers and of the poor Palestinians.

"These are the images our students see on television every day, and they do not have the wherewithal to understand what is going on. They internalize a message that is not pro-Israel – a message that is not strong and positive," he said.

The anti-Israel message is spreading, he said, and "by and large, we do not have students to confront it."

At York University, where Held is a student, there have been problems with campus newspapers, particularly the *Atkinsonian* (Atkinson College's newspaper), which has had many blatant anti-Israel articles, Held said.

Also of concern at York are "almost illegal" rallies held in a central area, he added, explaining that the nominally anti-globalization and left-wing events have turned into anti-Israel rallies.

Cutler noted in his address that, in the campus community, anti-globalization activists, such as those at York, are not viewed as extreme.

"We tend to play what we consider a fair game," said Held. "We hold rallies and information sessions according to the rules of the university. That doesn't always happen on the other side."

A third, more recent, problem is that Jewish students' posters have been damaged and defaced with swastikas at York.

'Jewish students who know what's going on... feel intimated walking around with a kippah or Magen David. It's a real concern."

To deal with these issues, said Held, Jewish students need to be educated about Israeli affairs, Jewish values and Jewish pride. Some programs created for that purpose have been lunch-and-learn sessions and special events such as an Israel advocacy retreat, a concert of Jewish music and the annual arts festival held under the auspices of JCS.

The education should address not only the "matzav" itself (the Hebrew word for situation, commonly used in Israel to describe the current state of affairs there), but also the culture and all the beautiful things about Israel, Held said.

"We need to start getting the other side of our story out. We need to feel comfortable in the campus environment."

Cutler's assessment of the environment at the University of Toronto, where he is a student, was more positive. "I'm glad to say that U of T, as far as I've experienced, has experienced very little anti-Semitism." This year, he said, has been pretty quiet.

Josh Shuval (top) and Aaron Kasman

More common in his experience is ignorance. A faculty member who might want to deduct marks for absences on Jewish holidays is one example.

Last fall, Cutler recalled, the U of T newspaper the *Varsity* ran an article linking Israel with the events of Sept. 11. It did, however, print a response and since then, almost every issue has had pro-Israel letters from Jewish students, he said. "The *Varsity* has been acting very respectfully."

Continued on page 29

'We need the continued support of the community'

Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope

Continued from page 28

Both Cutler and Held took part in a World Union of Jewish Students conference in Jerusalem this past winter, along with 25 other students from the Toronto area, who learned about being proactive regarding Israel.

"One problem," said Cutler, "is how to be pro-Israel without being pro-Sharon or pro-Netanyahu or pro-Barak, because not everyone is right-wing or left-wing. Most people don't care at all. We have this slogan put together by Hillel, 'Wherever we stand, we stand with Israel.'"

Another challenge, he said, was how to incorporate people who are against the occupation but pro-Zionist.

Some methods that have been tried at U of T are handing out fliers, and publishing and distributing *Counterpoint*.

"It's only through events like advocacy retreats and sending kids to Israel that the Jews on campus are being empowered with the help to spread a pro-Israel message on campus. These things don't come for free.

"We need the continued support of the community to send these students to Israel and to bring speakers [here] from Israel."

Josh Shuval, immediate past president of the Jewish Students' Union at University of Western Ontario, said he was quite concerned about how to deal with professors who spread anti-Israel propaganda. "How do we deal with reputable academics?"

Kaye acknowledged that this is not a new problem. "These issues have to be brought to Jewish organizations who will raise the issue with the university.

"This is the most dangerous form of propaganda, and it has to be taken up with high level organizations. If not, the problem will not be solved."

Jessica Waintman, outgoing president of the Waterloo/Laurier Jewish Students' Association, expressed concern that with only 400 Jews across the two campuses, they feel forgotten and alone.

"We have had problems on campus this year, but did not know what to do without resources. I urge you not to forget about us; we need support and encouragement."

A student from McMaster University acknowledged that students may not show outward support for Israel because they are afraid of the reaction of Arab students.

The four speakers all agreed that if the students are willing to stand up, the response, although painful at first, will eventually settle down.

"On a campus such as McMaster there should be many groups that support Israel's cause," Kaye said. "It is a matter of building alliances and making connections.

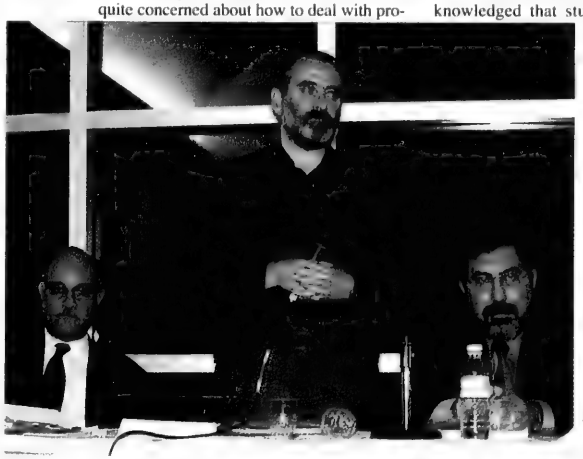
"Once you take the jump, you may be surprised at who will support you. The only way to defeat them is not to be intimidated by them."

Asked if he is involved in preparing high school students for what they might encounter at university, Kaye said that JCS ran a three-part program for Grade 12 students at CHAT, and that this program may become a prototype for what they could do on a regular basis at CHAT and at other high schools.

"We are very conscious of our responsibility in this area," he said.

It is essential, said Kaye, that Jewish students learn about their history. "I am a big believer in weekend retreats. They give students an opportunity to focus on issues differently than they do on campus."

There is a lot of propanda on our campuses, he said. "Students must learn how to deal with it."



From left, Michael Jankelowitz, Mordechai Ben-Dat and Zac Kaye

Students face same advocacy issues world-wide

Several hours before local students and professionals discussed anti-Semitism on campus and Israel advocacy at the *CJN*'s town hall meeting, about two dozen Jewish students from various Toronto campuses converged at York University to learn about the same issues with counterparts from around the world via video conference.

With Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS), and Michael Jankelowitz, director of campus Israel affairs for Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, front and centre, students sat in tiered rows facing video equipment and a large screen that would enable them to see and hear speakers from Israel, and students from Berlin, Buenos Aires, Casablanca, Djerba, Johannesburg, Liverpool, Paris, Warsaw and several American cities. (A small number of the participating cities had audio hook-up only.)

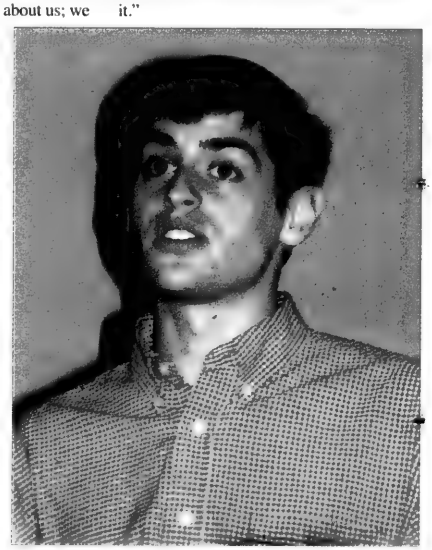
Co-sponsors included Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hillel, the World Union of Jewish Students, various Israel embassies and regional offices of the Jewish Agency for Israel located around the world.

The main speaker, Israel-based Neil Lazarus of Awesome Seminars, who regularly addresses students on such issues, said the students must convey four major messages: terrorism is wrong; there is no moral equivalency between the actions of the Israeli army and those of suicide bombers targeting civilians; Palestinians must be held accountable; and Israel cannot be held to a higher moral standard than any other country.

"If there were daily suicide attacks in Germany or America, the governments there would respond exactly the same. We in Israel are defending ourselves," he said.

To defend Israel on their own campuses, students were invited to join a community ambassador training course offered online by the Jewish Agency. It began the following week. — ***FK***

Daniel Held



Adam Cutler

Chatham's Jewish community fading

Southwestern Ontario town follows familiar pattern

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

CHATHAM, Ont. — On the banks of the Thames River lies a sprawling, verdant park that was once maintained by the local B'nai Brith lodge. A few blocks away is Chatham's business district, which once bustled with Jewish-owned retail shops, grocery stores and restaurants.

"I can remember when we had about 60 families here," recalls Jack Solomon, 78, a longtime Jewish resident of this southwestern Ontario town.

"We had a good working B'nai Brith lodge and a good working ladies' Hadassah," says Sam Gluckstein, a former lodge president.

Indeed, Jewish organizations and the community as a whole once had considerable clout and prominence in Chatham, a town of 45,000 located near Highway 401 between London and Windsor.

Newspaper articles from more than 50 years ago attest to the contributions local Jews made here. For instance, an article from Jan. 7, 1950, celebrates the Jewish community for hosting a dinner in honour of an Israeli diplomat. Another article dated May 17, 1976 trumpets the annual B'nai Brith dinner – attended by 600 people – for raising thousands of dollars for charity.

Jewish practice and culture also flourished. Parents sent their children to Hebrew school, the town's synagogue was a centre of activity and candles glimmered in windows during Chanukah.

Most of Chatham's Jews had roots in eastern Europe, as their parents or grandparents escaped poverty, prejudice and pogroms for a better life in the New World.

Part of the allure of life in Chatham was its slower pace compared to the big city.

"My father was a salesman from Toronto and he was on the road a lot. He'd stop in Chatham on his trips to Windsor and liked Chatham," says Solomon.

Gluckstein, who was born in Toronto and came here in the late 1930s when he was 13, echoes the preference for tranquillity.

"I went back and forth [from Chatham to Toronto] to work and I liked the simpler, quieter life."

Ironically, over the last three decades, members of Chatham's Jewish community have left the town in droves for Toronto and other large cities.

The 60 families that once thrived here have now been reduced to about 10, mostly headed by couples in mixed marriages.

And the B'nai Brith Park, once a Chatham Jewish landmark, has vanished without a Jewish trace.

"As we dwindled, we couldn't afford to maintain the park… so the city turned it over to the Royal Canadian Legion," recalls Solomon. "They were supposed to put up a [commemorative] stone. But they never did."

As for the exodus of Jews, Solomon says it comes down to dollars and cents.

"They go where the jobs are," he explains. "After my son went to university, he never came back."

Pausing, Solomon laments, "It's kind of sad when you think about it."

***

When I arrived in Chatham in December 2001, some of my co-workers at *The Chatham Daily News* said they had never met a Jewish person.

When I went to the library and asked for help researching the town's Jewish history, the librarian stared curiously at me, as if there was no such thing.

A few months into my sojourn here, I met a Jewish woman by fluke.

I had interviewed her for an article and as our talk wrapped up, she announced, "You're Jewish." It didn't sound like a question, but more like a declaration, and I was shocked.

"Yes," I said, barely keeping my balance. "How did you know?"

With quintessential Jewish camaraderie, Judith Pascoe cemented a friendship with the new Jew in town.

Dinners, lunches, news tips – she helped at any opportunity.

Unlike most of the Jews here, Pascoe's family didn't arrive during the inter-war years. She came here in the early 1980s, familiar with small-town life from having grown up in Brantford, Ont.

But like most of the Jews who remain in Chatham, Pascoe does not have a Jewish spouse. She has, however, resolved to raise her children with a strong sense of Jewish identity.

"It's who they are," she says, sitting with her daughters Rochelle, 17 and Gabrielle, 12, at the only synagogue here, the Children of Jacob.

"It's the history of the Jewish people that we carry forward with each generation. Our culture."

Pascoe has opted to send her children to Catholic schools, as she wants them to learn French. All the French schools in Chatham are Catholic.

She says the experience has generally been positive for the kids.

"A lot of people ask why is being Jewish different than their religion and those kinds of questions," says Rochelle.

"They just want to know more information about it, but it's never been something that has stopped me from doing anything."

Pascoe has given presentations in the kids' classes at Chanukah-time and says most of the students and teachers have been receptive.

Judith Pascoe with her daughters Rochelle, 17, and Gabrielle, 12.
[Adam Segal photos]

But there have been moments of friction.

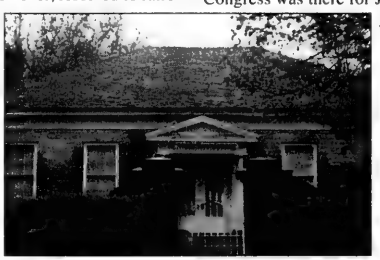
Two years ago, Gabrielle's teacher insisted she memorize some Catholic prayers that she would be graded on. Although just 10 at the time, Gabrielle resisted.

"[The teacher] got pretty upset that I wouldn't do them," says Gabrielle.

"I stood up for what I believed in."

Pascoe approached the principal, who referred her to the director of education. Pascoe even sought the help of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

"Eventually, I resolved it myself," she says. "Mostly, what I got out of this was a really good feeling that the Canadian Jewish Congress was there for Jewish people, not just in Toronto, but in small towns. It was a feeling of support."



Chatham's only synagogue , the Children of Jacob.

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The accepted folklore among Jews here is that the dark grey bricks of the Children of Jacob synagogue were left over from the construction of the 150-year-old Chatham Jail.

The shul was built originally as a house, but was later purchased by three Jews who converted it into a place of worship.

Although it has the usual trappings of a synagogue – an ark full of Torahs, a library rich with Jewish books, plaques commemorating support for Zionist causes and a yahrzeit board – a closer look reveals that the Children of Jacob is no longer a very active place of worship.

The prayer books are musty, the wooden chairs in an unused Hebrew school classroom make the room smell like a sauna and there's nothing cooking in the kitchen.

Perhaps most telling is the art and crafts on display, including a sukkah made from toilet paper rolls, that Pascoe's kids put together several years ago.

"Seeing the remains of this stuff my kids did years ago, you can see that there is nothing new," Pascoe explains, pointing her finger in dismay at the aging, but still standing, craft.

"I don't think there's been any new people with young children coming into the congregation."

Most of Chatham's Jews discuss the present Jewish state of affairs here with a sense of regret, but all concur that this experience is not unusual.

"I don't think what's happening in Chatham is unique," says Pascoe. "I think it's probably happening in other small cities."

Solomon agrees. "Most small towns are in the same boat," he says.

"My sister is in Sarnia and they dwindled down to a little more than what we are."

The only way to rejuvenate Jewish observance and culture, Jews here say, is through an influx of young people, but excluding myself, it's safe to say no young Jews have arrived in Chatham in many years.

So what are the prospects for Jewish survival here?

If even the smallest effort counts, then the Glucksteins are doing their part.

"We do what we can," says Gluckstein, noting that his wife Frances manages to keep kosher by buying kosher meat from Detroit, an hour's drive away.

"We have services on demand – Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur – only special holidays. We get together whenever we can."

And what future is there for the Children of Jacob?

"Hopefully, as long as there are Jewish people in the community, then people will keep coming," says Rochelle.

"As I walk in here now, so many years later, it sparks memories. It brings me closer to my religion."

Gabrielle, after listening intently as her sister spoke, says emphatically: "The synagogue won't stop. As long as there are Jewish people in this community, it will last."

Vancouver's Israel emergency fund-raising drive exceeds goal

By LAUREN KRAMER
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's emergency fund-raising drive for Israel has exceeded its target by more than 33 per cent – and contributions are still coming in.

The Israel Now campaign, launched in early April, hoped to raise $1.5 million over a two-month period.

But since the phones started ringing in the Lower Mainland, they haven't stopped and contributions to the campaign, which ends this month, have already passed the $2-million mark, said Cory Bretz, the JFGV's director of communications.

The campaign – being run in conjunction with UIA Federations Canada and United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group for North American Jewish federations – is part of a $300-million (US) North American campaign. The goal for Canada's Jewish communities is $30 million (Cdn).

"We've been surprised because we had to do very little convincing in the telethons, and we've been gratified by the generosity of people in this community," Bretz said. "People understand that it's critical to support Israel and Israelis at this time. We're telling the community that the needs of Israelis are very significant and there certainly isn't an amount that's too much to send."

Contributions top $2 million

Heading Israel Now are Gordon Diamond and Louis Eisman, both of whom have been "phenomenal leaders in this campaign," said Bretz. "They've stunned us with their energy and they've mobilized the community," Bretz said.

Eisman, who donated $10,000, said "the threat facing Israel is on the same scale of severity as 1948, 1967 and 1973. Only our support will ensure Israel's continued existence."

The money being raised in North America is intended for social service programs in Israel that have been strained by government cutbacks in the wake of the security crisis, as well as special projects, such as a Jewish Agency for Israel fund that benefits the victims of terrorism and their families, contributing to their social, medical and support needs.

It's also going toward security upgrades in community centres, kindergartens and pre-schools, Bretz said, adding special measures are being taken to enclose playgrounds in order to protect them.

"We hear about the bombings, but not about the smaller incidents that go on each day and children are very much at risk."

Winnipeg city hall toasts mayor of Be'er Sheva

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Yaakov Terner, the mayor of Be'er Sheva, was here late last month to renew the 18-year-old sister-city arrangement between his city and Winnipeg and accept a cheque for $30,000 from Winnipeg mayor Glen Murray for the new Winnipeg Community Action Centre, a computer learning centre established by the Asper Foundation in a poor area of Be'er Sheva.

At a kosher supper attended by more than 100 invitees at the Fairmont Hotel on May 24, Terner described with pride the growth of Be'er Sheva from a small village 100 years ago to Israel's major southern hub with a population of about 200,000, almost a quarter of whom are under 18.

He spoke of the city's multi-ethnic character, with citizens from more than 60 different countries, including 60,000 from the former Soviet Union and 8,000 from Ethiopia.

"Last month, we welcomed 100 new immigrants from Argentina," Terner said.

He noted the challenges of integrating new immigrants into such a multi-ethnic mix while maintaining a high standard of living.

"To be a mayor today is very hard," he said. "You have to listen to all the complaints while knowing that you don't have all the answers."

The 67-year-old Terner's life and career span the modern history of Israel. Born to pioneering parents in a village in central Israel, he rose through the ranks of Israel's air force to become its commander-in-chief. He personally flew over 300 missions. In 1985, he became the Israel's chief of police, a position he held throughout the first intifadah. He has been mayor of Be'er Sheva for just over three years.

He noted that his brother was a pilot and two of his sons are fighter pilots.

"We need and want peace," he said. "But if we have to fight again, our sons will do it."

Murray praised the Winnipeg Community Action Centre in Be'er Sheva and urged people in the audience to visit. He announced that he himself is planning an official visit within the next 12-15 months. He was scheduled to be part of a mission from Winnipeg in late April but said he had to withdraw because of city business.

Terner arrived in Canada earlier in the week to receive a cheque for $1.5 million that was raised by the Montreal Jewish community. He was scheduled to stop in Chicago and New York before returning to Israel.

SCIENCE FAIR: Grade 7 and 8 students at Leo Baeck Day School explained and showed their science experiments to parents and students at the recent Science Fair. The project on energy efficiency, by Jordan Cohen, David Millar and Faryn Berger, was one of the many that demonstrated the learning that has taken place in their science class.

CBC on Jenin, part I

In last week's column, I examined "CBC News: Sunday" in a discussion of the many media outlets that bought into the "massacre myth" of Jenin and I promised a review of how CBC-TV News itself covered the subject.

Israel entered the Jenin refugee camp on April 2 in response to a spate of terrorist attacks that culminated in the horrific attack at a Passover seder in Netanya's Park Hotel.

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

In the initial days of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) operation, CBC was very cautious not to use the word "massacre." It mentioned the term only to describe the Palestinians' version of events. Terry Milewski, who handled these early reports quite fairly (from April 11), made it clear that reporters were just beginning to be allowed into Jenin, and that the facts remained to be determined.

And so it went for days: CBC reporters were careful not to assert that there was a massacre, always reporting that it was a claim made by the Palestinians.

What CBC reports did not adequately explain was why Israel felt compelled to enter Jenin to begin with. The CBC also did not present aerial footage of Jenin taken by the IDF, which was available by that time. The footage clearly indicated that while there was certainly major damage to the refugee camp, it was confined to one area where the fighting had been most intense. CBC camera shots and narrative repeatedly showed only this epicentre, leaving the impression that the destruction was far more widespread.

Other CBC correspondents seized on this detail, especially Neil Macdonald, who reported April 18 on UN envoy Terry Larson's reaction to the events in Jenin – "This is horrifying beyond belief," Larson said – without providing any Israeli response, even though Israel made it abundantly clear that they consider Larson to be very pro-Palestinian.

Macdonald himself raised doubts about the IDF's assertion that it struck only at militants and not civilians: "Hundreds of buildings [are] destroyed, corpses and body parts rotting in the streets under rubble," he said. While Macdonald did not use the term "massacre," he concluded his coverage by stating that "already the Palestinians and their supporters are saying it was a war crime." There was no Israeli refutation.

The CBC did not buy into the massacre myth, but it did repeat many of the Palestinian charges, trying to balance them with Israel's denials. In some cases, the Palestinian accounts were so emotional that they overshadowed Israel's reactions.

In a report April 14, Milewski quoted Palestinian claims that Israelis massacred Palestinians in Jenin and used bulldozers to hide bodies in mass graves. One Palestinian woman said the bodies were placed in a sewer. An Israeli spokesperson was quoted immediately afterward as saying: "Absolutely not. We're talking about propaganda on the part of the Palestinians." Milewski himself added that the army said there had been no massacre and no mass grave.

On *The National* April 17, a Palestinian woman declared: "It's a holocaust practiced and carried out against the Palestinian people by the Israelis who will never, never, forget this massacre." Immediately Israel's side was presented: "Israel denies the charge." Four meagre words! When such an emotionally charged word like "holocaust" is uttered, it should be met by an equally strong refutation or else omitted entirely.

More next week about the later stages of CBC reporting on Jenin.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Winnipeger, 91, honoured for wartime heroism

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — In wartime, you don't ask questions, says Eva Weissman, you just do what you have to do.

During World War II, what Erika Simons and her family in Amsterdam did was provide a home for Weissman, a teenage Jewish refugee from Vienna. For her courage and kindness, Simons has been designated by Yad Vashem as a Righteous Among the Nations.

Since 1963, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem has been honouring non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews in World War II. More than 19,000 men and women have been recognized to date.

Simons, now 91, is the first resident of Canada to receive the honour. It was a letter from Eva Weissman to Yad Vashem about three years ago that brought the Simons family to the attention of Israeli officials.

Simons received the designation in her seniors apartment on April 23 from Jewish National Fund shaliach Rami Kleinmann on behalf of Haim Navon, Israel's ambassador to Canada.

On May 10, Winnipeg's Jewish community held a luncheon in Simons' honour. Weissman flew in from her home in Cleveland for the event, as did a niece and great-niece of Simons who live in Louisville, Ky.

While Simons commented modestly that she wasn't the only one who did what she and her family did during the war, Weissman said the stereotype that the Dutch were good-hearted is not true.

"I have heard that maybe five per cent were very good and another five per cent very bad," Weissman said. "The rest were in between. It took a lot of courage to be good."

Simons herself spent a few weeks in a Nazi prison after being caught trying to rescue other Jews.

Weissman met the Simons family through relatives in Holland. Weissman and her younger sister had left Vienna on a kindertransport in 1938.

Weismann's sister was taken in by a Dutch family who had moved to safety in Switzerland. Weissman was housed with another Simons family, relatives of Erika and her family, in The Hague. Weissman's parents managed to get to England, where their daughters were supposed to join them, but the war intervened.

After the Nazis occupied Holland, they issued a decree forbidding foreigners from living in coastal areas. Weissman was kept in a camp for a short time, then moved from home to home until she was able to settle with another branch of the Simons family in Utrecht. That was where she met Erika.

"Erika told me that her family would always have a home for me," Weissman recalled.

Weissman's stay in Utrecht was cut short when she was arrested by the Germans. "Miraculously, I was released after a week in jail," she said.

Free in Amsterdam with no place to go, she turned to Simons and her family. She lived with them from August, 1942, to January, 1947, when she was able to rejoin her family.

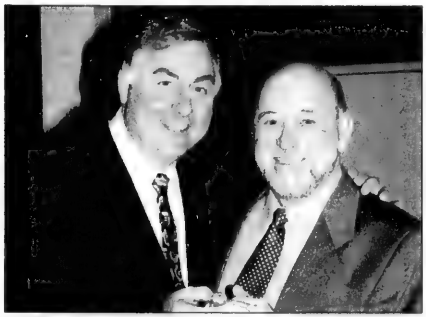
"Erika worked as a research analyst in an endocrinology lab and used to bring home many interesting people," Weissman said. "I received a good education from associating with them."

But times were tough and dangerous, Weissman said. Finding enough food was a challenge that got harder near the war's end. But, she said, "the spirit of young people is indestructible."

In March, Weissman went to Amsterdam for another Yad Vashem presentation to ten more Dutch saviours, including a posthumous honour for Erika's mother, Johanna.

Weissman said another honour should also go to Erika's sister in Holland. "Erika is the family representative," she said. In addition to her Yad Vashem medal, Kleinmann presented Simons with a JNF plaque for trees planted in her name in Israel.

"Presenting this award to you is the greatest honour I have ever had," he said.



LODGES CELEBRATE: B'nai Brith Canada lodge presidents Michael Kates (left), Forestdale Heights, and Henry Gimpel, Don Mills, are seen here celebrating their recent joint installation. Forestdale marked its 35th anniversary, while Don Mills celebrated its 45th year.

Islamic threat here to stay, says expert

Continued from page 3

munity is very vulnerable at a higher threat level than non-Jewish institutions in Canada," he said. "That derives from an aggressive militancy [among] Islamic movements in Canada" as well as a reluctance on the part of some Islamic leaders to speak out against it. The level of violence against Jewish institutions is highest in France, "but a microcosm of that appears in Canada," Emerson said.

(Two weeks ago, Ottawa police issued a community advisory, warning they had information that a local synagogue might be targeted. In the last 18 months, synagogues in Saskatoon and Edmonton have been hit with firebombs.)

Emerson rejected suggestions that attacks on Canadian Jewish institutions were merely a by-product of the Mideast conflict or the "spontaneous rage of Islamic militants."

"It's not a spillover," he said. "It's an emergence of a radical street terrorism."

Ontario residents as a whole "should be afraid." Prior to the Al Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington on Sept. 11, it was difficult to mobilize any interest in the threat posed by Islamic militants. Afterwards, the response tended to hysteria but now it is moderating and it is important to develop a response that gives governments the tools to maintain public security.

Emerson called for anti-terror legislation, the freezing of funds of charitable fronts that finance terrorist groups and deportation of suspects.

The United States has frozen assets of suspected groups and the move appears to be having an impact. "The shock of having assets seized has certainly prompted many of them to assume a lower profile and not be as incendiary as before."

Some are hurting financially and Hamas for one, has taken to soliciting for funds for weapons on the Internet.

Emerson lauded the efforts of the RCMP and CSIS, the main Canadian law enforcement and intelligence agencies, which have kept tabs on terrorist threats.

The Canadian government has hesitated to act on their recommendations because of policy decisions and the influence of the "refugee lobby" while in the United States, "the policy follows more directly from law enforcement," he said.

As a result, "I think there is a perception that Canada is the weak link in terms of security policy and almost a back door for terrorists."

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French Jews contemplate future; Canada often mentioned

By LAUREN ELKIN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — With France confronting its worst spate of anti-Semitic attacks since World War II, increasing numbers of French Jews are thinking of moving to Israel.

The number of olim so far this year increased by 60 per cent over last year, according to Avi Kadosh, an official in the Jewish Agency for Israel's Paris office.

During May alone, agency officials in France fielded some 250-300 calls a day from French Jews interested in learning more about aliyah. During the entire month of May last year, the officials say, they received only about 100 such calls. During the first five months of the year, the officials add, they opened 650 files for potential olim. During all of 2001, they opened 250 such files.

According to Moshe Almoznino, the agency's director in France, the prospective immigrants do not fit any one profile: they range from single students to families with children.

The interest in emigration comes amid heightened anti-Semitic attacks and follows the strong showing by far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen in April's first round of presidential voting.

Many French Jews have become worried about their security, as attacks have included personal assaults and attempts to set synagogues on fire or damage graves.

Following repeated complaints from the community, French authorities apparently are taking heed: a recent visit to the Marais, a Jewish neighbourhood in Paris, revealed a heightened police presence at Jewish sites.

Just the same, many are concerned that the government is still not doing enough to prevent attacks and punish perpetrators.

"The police are completely inept," says one American Jew who has lived in France for eight years. "They do nothing to stop the violence."

Some of those meeting Jewish Agency officials will go to Israel and join family who made aliyah years ago. Others will go because they do not want their children to grow up feeling afraid and ashamed of being Jewish.

As one Jewish bookseller says of Israel, "There, at least, in spite of the violence, one is always at home, because one is always around Jews." Some people, however, think too much is being made of the topic.

"I don't plan to leave, and I don't know anyone who is," says Albert Wajnfeld, manager of Chez Goldenberg, a famous deli in the Marais.

"France is a *terre d'asile*," he says, using the French word for haven.

The French "welcomed the Poles after the pogroms and the North Africans in the 1960s," Wajnfeld says. "Le Pen is racist and xenophobic but not a real threat, and he doesn't speak for France."

While Wajnfeld isn't about to pack his bags anytime soon, he does believe many French government officials are anti-Semitic. If only Israel had oil, he adds, the French might not be so pro-Arab. But if the government is so much against the Jews, why stay?

"Because we're used to it," Wajnfeld replies.

Others say many French Jews talk about aliyah but don't plan to follow through.

"The attacks and the political situation do seriously call into question whether to stay, but I have no immediate plans to leave," says one shopkeeper, a woman in her 30s who preferred not to give her name.

Canada is mentioned frequently as an alternative to Israel – because, according to one person who prefers to remain anonymous, "There we can find some peace and quiet. In Israel there is no peace."

Israel's own eye in the sky

Continued from page 1

Improved long-range intelligence ability is particularly important as Iran is reaching advanced stages in the development of its surface-to-surface Shihab missile and may in the future reach nuclear capability. A view from above of activities in two other Arab states –. Libya and Iraq – that are developing unconventional weapons capabilities is also more important now.

Ofek 3 gave Israel important information and although its life span was longer than expected, Israel had to find alternatives during the period it had no spy satellite in space. If Israel wishes to advance another step in the field of satellite intelligence, it must have two or three satellites orbiting in space at the same time.

The successful launch of Ofek 5 illustrates Israel's unique strategic situation.

On the one hand it has to deal with the difficulties of Palestinian suicide terrorism, which aims solely to indiscriminately kill as many Israeli citizens as possible. Last week, the Israel Defence Forces had to go back to Jenin, the site of a bloody battle a few weeks ago in which 23 soldiers were killed. Mendacious claims by the international media that the IDF committed a massacre there continue to be heard. It is evident that Israel faces great difficulty in winning the limited war declared against it by the Palestinians, whose primary weapon is terrorism.

On the other hand Israel has made impressive achievements in space and has strengthened its capabilities and deterrence against grave and existential threats.

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SORROWFUL YAHRZEIT:

Family and friends of the victims of the Dolphinarium suicide bombing gathered outside the Tel Aviv seaside disco last week on the one year anniversary of the mass murder. Twenty-one teenagers were killed by a Palestinian bomber who exploded himself in the middle of a crowd of youngsters waiting to get into the popular nightspot.

[Israel Sun photo]

Israel, China set to resume defence ties

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Setting the stage for renewed defence ties between the two countries, an Israeli military contingent recently visited China and toured army bases in the country.

Strategic-defence connections between the two countries were damaged when Israel cancelled the sale of the Phalcon airborne early warning system to China, largely because of U.S. pressure.

The forging of compensation terms for the Phalcon has enabled the resumption of defence ties between China and Israel. As soon as compensation payments to China are completed, Israel will send the Ilyushin aircraft, on which the Phalcon-type high-tech warning system has been removed, back to the People's Republic.

The Israeli military delegation, including the Israel Defence Forces' chief medical officer and chief scientist for the technology planning division, recently visited China for five days, travelling as guests of China's army. Israeli security sources said the purpose of the visit was to examine possible avenues for co-operation in the future, possibly in the sphere of arms development. The Israeli contingent's visit was preceded a few weeks ago by a trip to Israel by a group of Chinese army officers.

These visits were the first of their kind since Israel, under pressure from the Americans, canceled the Phalcon warning system sale, which the U.S. believed could tip the strategic balance between China and Taiwan. Israeli security sources stressed the visits reflected a desire on both sides to put the Phalcon controversy to rest, and to develop defence ties in the future.

Israeli arms sales to China began in the 1980s, under a heavy cloak of secrecy. Foreign reports said the sales topped $4 billion (US) over those years. The reports said Israel tank cannon, night-vision equipment and various aeronautical subsystems were sold to the Chinese. One foreign report, denied by Israel, was that the Chinese bought a prototype of the Lavi fighter plane, a project that was also scotched by the Americans, who argued it would be cheaper for Israel to purchase advanced warplanes from the U.S.

With diplomatic relations established in 1992, China showed interest in Israeli military technology, but it preferred to acquire know-how, rather than weapons systems.

Suspected mad cow disease found in Golan

By AMIRAM COHEN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspape Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Initial tests on a 10-year-old cow from the Golan Heights that died of suspect symptoms have raised suspicions the animal may have been infected with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly know as mad cow disease.

Agriculture Ministry officials declined to name the Golan community the cow came from.

The brain biopsy taken from the cow was sent last week to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in Switzerland and final test results will be in by the end of this week, Dr. Oded Nir, the director of the Agriculture Ministry's veterinary services department, said Saturday.

If the case is confirmed, it would be the first ever incidence of the disease in Israel. Under instruction from the OIE, another three cows from the same herd, which originated from the Beit Shean valley, were placed in quarantine.

If the cow is indeed found to be suffering from BSE, Nir said, the ministry would operate an emergency plan, whereby all cattle over the age of 30 months would undergo thorough examination after slaughter, all internal organs – which are defined as being at high risk – would be destroyed, and the sale of cattle for slaughter to the Palestinian Authority would be prohibited.

However, Nir said, even if the cow was infected, the veterinary services do not intend to cull the entire herd.

An injunction issued Saturday by the veterinary services suspended the slaughter of cattle over the age of 30 months until the test's final results are in.

BSE is a nervous system disorder caused by a protein known as prion, which kills off brain cells, causing the brain to assume a sponge-like appearance. Affected cows show signs such as belligerence, confusion and poor co-ordination.

A human form of Spongiform Encephalopathy, known as Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD), was diagnosed in 1996, since which time some 80 people have died of the disease in Britain.

The disease is transmitted by eating infected beef, in particular internal organs. No cure has yet been found for CJD, which usually causes death within a few months.

A veterinary services spokesman stressed Saturday that the disease is transmitted only through consumption of beef and internal organs and not by drinking milk or through contact with cattle.

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UJA Federation — No one gift changes more lives.
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May 27

• The government ordered the relocation of the country's largest gas and fuel depot following an attempted terror attack there last week. The attack renewed calls to close the Pi Glilot depot, which is located in a heavily populated area of Tel Aviv.

May 28

• Four Israelis were killed in two separate terrorist attacks. Three yeshiva high school students were killed in Itamar, and a 50-year-old was killed in an ambush near Ofra.

May 29

• Shas leader Eli Yishai signed an agreement with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon paving the way for the party to rejoin the government. Shas had earlier left the government over a dispute regarding budget cuts.

• Canadians Charles and Andrea Bronfman were made honorary citizens of Jerusalem in a ceremony at city hall led by Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert.

May 30

• Israel agreed to release eight Egyptians captured in January aboard the Karine-A arms smuggling ship bound for the Palestinian Authority.

• A new poll of 400 Israeli youth aged 14 to 18 found that more than one third knew someone killed or wounded in a recent Palestinian terror attack and that 56 per cent go less often to public places.

May 31

• Israeli troops and tanks entered Nablus and the nearby Balata refugee camp. Soldiers went from house to house in the camp by breaking through connecting walls in order to avoid Palestinian fire in the camp's narrow streets, the army said. They were looking for suspects and weapons. The army also entered Qalqilyah but pulled out several hours later.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

European Jews rally for Israel

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BRUSSELS — They came from Austria, Greece, Italy, England, France, Germany Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

And, of course, from Belgium.

Usually concerned with local problems, European Jews joined forces to express their solidarity for Israel and concern about increasing anti-Semitism in a rally last week that drew nearly 10,000 people to Brussels, the seat of the European Union (EU).

"The Jews of Europe are waking up," said Harry Kney-Tal, Israel's ambassador to the EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). "Up until recently, each European Jewish community was involved with their own particular issues. But now they are getting more co-ordinated."

The rally – the first continent-wide Jewish demonstration since the Palestinian intifadah began 21 months ago – was "the first manifestation of this awakened consciousness and the need to move from being passive to becoming proactive," Kney-Tal said.

The demonstration was initiated by the European Jewish Congress and co-ordinated by several Belgian organizations. It was timed to coincide with an EU parliamentary session, though neither the Mideast nor anti-Semitism were on the Parliament's agenda.

With flags whipping in the wind, marchers made their way from Brussels' main synagogue to a square facing the European Parliament buildings. They spoke in French, English, Flemish, Italian, German, Greek and Czech.

When it came to singing, however, everyone turned to Hebrew.

"We are not here to protest against a Palestinian state or against the Palestinian people," said Michel Friedman, a vice president of the European Jewish Congress and of the Central Council of German Jews. "We are here to protest in solidarity with Israel, and to say that if the Palestinians want to have a country they have to deny terrorism."

Some non-Jews also took part in the event.

"As a German – or, as I would like to say, a European of German origin – I know my responsibility and duty," said European Parliament member Elmar Brok, who is not Jewish.

"The security of the State of Israel and the safety of its people is a condition for anything else," said Brok, who has been involved in a campaign to stop European funding for Palestinian schoolbooks that spread hatred of Israel.

Ryk van Damm, a Dutch member of the European Parliament, said he came "to express my disgust at the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe."

More than any other country in Europe, France has seen a wave of attacks against Jews and destruction of Jewish property since the Mideast crisis escalated.

"No Jew has attacked a mosque, no Jew has attacked an Islamic school, no Jew has attacked an imam," said Roger Cukierman, president of CRIF, the umbrella group for secular French Jewish organizations.

Other speakers included former Belgian cabinet minister Willy de Clerk; Cobi Benatof, president of the European Congress of Jewish Communities; Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary of the European Jewish Congress; and members of the EU Parliament from France, Germany, Holland and Italy.

Organizers said Jewish attendance from some countries was far less than hoped. Some 3,000 demonstrators came from France, which has a Jewish population of 700,000.

Germany, which has some 100,000 Jews, sent four buses, and Austria sent about 60 participants from its community of 7,000.

Organizers estimated that about half of the Jewish demonstrators came from Belgium, which has about 35,000 Jews.

Benjamin Albalas, vice president of the central board of the Jewish community of Greece, which has about 7,000 Jews, said he brought 21 young Greek Jews with him to Brussels. There also was a group from Crete.

Despite the turnout, the mood at the demonstration was enthusiastic, organizers said.

Demonstrators agreed that pro-Palestinian media reports on the Mideast pose a serious danger both to political support for Israel and popular sentiment toward Jews.

"The public does not get the truth anymore," said Frederique Ries, a Belgian member of the European Parliament, who also fought to freeze EU funds to the Palestinian Authority over the textbook issue.

"Everything is in reverse," Ries said. "When Israel makes an incursion, the media doesn't speak about why. They only minimize."

Betty Dan, director of Radio Judaica, a 24-hour Jewish station in Belgium said her station is "trying to fight against misinformation."

She said she gets daily calls from listeners "who have received anti-Semitic flyers with such statements as 'Dirty Jew, we will kill you,' and 'Don't buy from Jews,'" Dan said. "For the first time in 22 years of this radio program, we have received such letters."

Belgian Chief Rabbi Avraham Guigui said that the "Jews of Europe are menaced every day. I myself was attacked in December on the street in Brussels.

"But I believe that one must not generalize" and blame all Arabs in Europe, he said. "We must create relations with the Arabs in Belgium and in Europe."

The rally drew people of all ages, including Moshe Prys, 79, a resident of Brussels who survived the Holocaust in Switzerland, and Sam Topor, a 77-year-old Auschwitz survivor, who wore a concentration camp cap bearing his prisoner number.

"Auschwitz must not happen again," Topor said.

Among the young attendees were Julian Voloj, 28, of Muenster, Germany, who heads the European Union of Jewish Students, and medical student Marie Laure Ben Amram, 24, of Geneva.

"In the last few months, our synagogue and community center were vandalized," Ben Amram said. "There have been verbal attacks on men with kippot on the street. We are feeling that something is going wrong, so I wanted to be here and demonstrate."

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Inconsistencies mark U.S. policy to Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

As Israeli forces continue to storm into Palestinian autonomous areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in response to renewed suicide bombings and random shootings, the inconsistencies in the United States' Mideast policy grow all the more glaring.

The State Department, led by Colin Powell, wants Israel to rein in its raids, renew bilateral political talks with the Palestinian Authority and deal with Yasser Arafat.

The Pentagon, under the leadership of Donald Rumsfeld, holds that Israel has every right to use military means to defend itself, maintains that negotiations can only be resumed when terrorism ends and believes that Arafat should be replaced by a more pragmatic leader.

Caught in the middle of these rifts roiling the upper echelons of the U.S. government is President George W. Bush, who often leaves an impression of vacillation and indecision when he speaks about the Arab-Israeli dispute.

On some days, he chides Israel for its armed incursions, urges Israel to return to the bargaining table and lets it be known that Israel has no alternative but to deal with Arafat. On other occasions, he turns a blind eye to Israel's retaliatory strikes and evinces understanding of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's reluctance to negotiate under fire and with Arafat.

Since these basic issues have yet to be resolved by the State Department and the Pentagon, there is a good probability that confusion will characterize Bush's Mideast pronouncements in the months ahead.

In the U.S. Congress, however, no such uncertainty exists. In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, unabashed pro-Israel sentiment is running at historically high levels, judging by two recent non-binding resolutions. As a result, the executive and legislative branches find themselves at odds.

Last month, the Senate, by a 94-2 margin, expressed strong support for Operation Defensive Shield, Israel's massive sweep into the West Bank, and called upon Arafat to stamp out terrorism.

Meanwhile, by a margin of 352-21, the House of Representatives backed Israel's offensive and voiced reservations concerning Arafat's qualification as a "viable partner for peace."

Prime Minister Sharon and President Bush [RNS/Reuters]

On the eve of the vote, in a statement that might have been crafted by Israel's far right, Dick Armey, the House Republican leader, said, "I'm content to have Israel grab the entire West Bank."

Harking back to the Sept. 11 destruction of Manhattan's World Trade Center by al-Qaeda terrorists, the Senate and House resolutions made two further points. The first was that Israel and the United States stand shoulder to shoulder in "a common struggle against terrorism." The second expressed solidarity with Israel's efforts to dismantle the Palestinian Authority's terrorist infrastructure.

Sharon could not have asked for more.

As these congressional resolutions passed muster and as Israel mounted further raids into Palestinian-controlled areas, Christian fundamentalists, who tend to be hawkish and who were originally courted by Menachem Begin, rallied to Israel's side.

In a open letter to Bush, Jerry Falwell and Gary Bauer wrote, "We ask you to end the pressure on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon so that he has the time necessary to complete the mission he has undertaken – the elimination of terrorist cells and infrastructure from the West Bank territories."

And in a strongly worded op-ed piece in *The Los Angeles Times*, Ralph Reed, a prominent Republican and evangelical Christian, observed: "Israel ...remains one of the most reliable allies of the United States. The shared democratic values and common strategic interests of Israel and the United States have engendered a deep bond that transcends ...domestic politics ..."

Empathy for Israel, and a corresponding drop in sympathy for the Palestinian cause, are also evident in recent U.S. public opinion polls. For example: Fifty-nine per cent of Americans equate Israel's actions in the West Bank with U.S. military maneuvers in Afghanistan.

Iran: Clear and present danger

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Comment

The depiction of Iran as an innocent state that is manufacturing Shihab surface-to-surface missiles because it is afraid of its neighbours sounds like a joke that perhaps only the Iranians will find funny. A report issued by the U.S. State Department last week states that Iran is the most active country in the sphere of international terrorism.

According to the report, Iranian terrorism is aimed not only against Israel; it is also perpetrated in the Gulf states, in Turkey, in Africa and in Central Asia.

Iran is the only country in the world whose leaders urge the annihilation of Israel, and Iranian commentators are busy with the question of whether one nuclear bomb will be enough to destroy Israel or more will be needed.

Israel needs to treat Iran as a regional power that is determined to acquire weapons of mass destruction and the long-range missiles to deliver them. It is therefore incumbent on Israel to follow closely events and developments in Iran.

Last week, media attention was focused on the Shihab 3 missile, which has a range that covers all of Israel and beyond. The reports said the Shihab 3 was now operational and that the Iranians have 10 of the missiles in their arsenal.

Following several failures in test launches of the Shihab, the Iranians suddenly achieved a breakthrough in its manufacture. The key to this advance lies in North Korea. The North Koreans supplied many components of the missile, and all Iranian experts have to do now is to assemble the 10 reported missiles. North Korea followed the same pattern in the past with Pakistan, which last week test-fired two Ghauri surface-to-surface missiles, and the Ghauri is the identical twin of the Shihab 3 (or the North Korean No-dong missile).

To examine fully the current danger posed by the Iranian missiles, it is necessary, above all, to have information about the warheads the Shihab 3 can carry. From this point of view, it would appear that Tehran still has a long way to go before the missile constitutes an existential threat to Israel or becomes a genuine deterrent weapon. It will undoubtedly take quite a few years before the Iranian missile will have nuclear warheads. It is also doubtful that the Iranians are close to manufacturing a chemical warhead with an advanced fuse for their missiles.

At the same time, it is clear that the thrust of Iran's manufacture of the long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction is to pose a potential threat to Israel and other countries in the region, as long as the present regime in Iran remains in power.

However, today the more immediate and concrete Iranian threat to Israel lies elsewhere: in Lebanon. Even as Iran is developing the Shihab missiles and their warheads, it has carried out a threatening strategic move against Israel by supplying long-range Fajer rockets to Hezbollah. The deepening partnership between Iran and Bashar Assad's Syria should be considered as one of the more important recent developments in the region. In the meantime, he is allowing Iranian religious propagandists to operate in his country's mosques.

From Israel's point of view, the result is that rocket and missile power that is becoming a dangerous threat is being concentrated across its northern border. If the threat is realized, about one million residents in Israel's north will find themselves in bomb shelters.

Hezbollah is provoking Israel and is coming to the conclusion that Israel's silence attests to its weakness. Clearly, if Israel were to release its full might, a serious confrontation could ensue in the region, which would encompass Lebanon, Syria and Israel, while Tehran would sit back comfortably and enjoy the sight of the destruction and bloodshed it fomented.

Islamic threat in former Soviet Union

By LEV GORODETSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — Jews in the former Soviet Union are increasingly worried that they might become targets in the war with Islamic fundamentalists – and a growing body of evidence supports their fear.

A leaflet that was distributed recently in Chechnya stoked Jewish concern with the comment: "The Chechen people are continuing their great jihad by clearing the fatherland from Russian occupiers, servants of the world's Jews."

Additional alarms were sounded after two men were detained last month in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan for distributing leaflets of the banned Hezb-et-Tahrir organization.

The leaflets called on Muslims to "fight against Israel for Palestine" and to commit violent actions against Jews.

In yet another incident, members of a militant Islamic sect based in Turkey were arrested recently in the central Russian city of Yekaterinburg for distributing thousands of copies of booklets propagating Islamic Revolution and calling for violence against Jews.

Islamic anti-Semitism, virtually nonexistent in the former Soviet Union only a few years ago, is on the rise, triggered by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and an anti-American animus.

A recent wave of anti-Israel demonstrations in Kiev, Moscow and elsewhere was led by organized groups of Arab students – leading some observers to the conclusion that the wave of anti-Semitism is an imported phenomenon.

"We never heard" of anti-Semitism in Azerbaijan, says Natan Mishne, an Israeli businessman born in Baku, capital of the former Soviet republic.

"Local people have always been friendly to Jews," he says, adding that he thinks the anti-Semitism is primarily the result of "Iranian influence."

Mishne, who conducts business in Azerbaijan and has contacts among local officials, says the Azeri government has managed to contain the Islamic threat.

But other sources say that radical Islamic groups are expanding in predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan.

Saudi-funded Islamic groups with links to Osama bin Laden began to expand in the former Soviet Union right after the collapse of the USSR.

These groups, which rely heavily on anti-Semitism and xenophobia, have been accused of a series of terrorist attacks in the former Soviet Union, including the bombing of apartment buildings in Moscow and the May 9 bombing at a World War II Victory Day parade in the largely Muslim region of Dagestan that killed 42 people.

"I understand now what the Israelis are feeling at such moments," says Irina, a middle-aged woman who sells newspapers near a Moscow subway station.

Following the May 9 bombing, some Jewish leaders began calling for action.

"There should be no mercy for the organizers of these murders," Rabbi Berel Lazar, one of Russia's chief rabbis, told reporters after the attack.

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Book helps parents deal with losing a child

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – How does a mother prepare her child to die? And how does she pick up the pieces of her own life afterward?

That was the horror Robyn Posen Young and her husband Michael faced when their four-year-old daughter Samantha was diagnosed with a highly malignant brain stem tumour.

Robyn translated her anguish into a book for children, called *Samantha's Unicorn*, published by the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Mount Sinai Hospital.

The ordeal started in early 1996 when the couple's only child, blond, curly-haired Samantha, fell at school. When Samantha developed a head tilt, a bruise under her eye, unevenly dilated pupils, and kept stumbling, the family took her to the Hospital for Sick Children.

"They sent us home after a five-hour wait, dismissing us as paranoid parents," Robyn said in an interview.

But Robyn's father, who is a doctor, insisted that they take Samantha to an eye specialist. The specialist sent Samantha for a CT scan, which showed the tumour.

"I didn't even know a child could get a brain tumour," Robyn said.

An operation, a shunt, and a course of radiation failed to help Samantha, and the tumour quadrupled in size within a matter of weeks.

When more surgery was proposed, Samantha ripped off her hospital bracelet and announced "that's it. Get me out of here," Robyn said.

And that's what her parents did. Samantha lived for six more months, during which time the family, determined to make her life as normal as possible even after she became paralyzed, took her to malls, and, with sponsorship from the Children's Wish Foundation, to Disneyland.

"We had good memories at the end, rather than needles, hospitals and medication," Robyn said.

Samantha Young

Samantha died at home in her mother's arms on December 5, 1996.

"I held her hand until the end," Robyn said simply. "I was her everything, and she was my everything."

Robyn believes that Samantha knew she was dying, although the family never directly told her that. She asked whether her parents would come and visit her in heaven, whether her dog Sticker would be in the same heaven or a different one, and whether she could take her Sailor Moon doll with her.

Samantha also had a recurrent dream, Robyn said, of a unicorn taking her to "the other side," where she saw lots of other children.

This dream gave Robyn the theme of her book. In *Samantha's Unicorn*, a little girl is told that she has to go to the hospital so doctors could try to take out a bump in her head. Needless to say, Samantha was "scared because she was going to have a needle," and because she would have to have stitches. Her mother explained what would happen, and that she, her father and her favourite doll would be with her.

Before the operation, Samantha was given a needle to make her go to sleep. While she was sleeping, she dreamt that a unicorn named Uni carried her on his back "for a ride above the rainbow."

What Samantha saw there was "breathtaking." There were trees, flowers, grass, a rainbow, and lots of children. "All of the children were healthy. They could all walk, talk, eat, drink and play."

Uni told Samantha that one day, she would be able to come to this beautiful place, where she would be healthy again, forever.

When she woke up, Samantha, her mother and her best friend Zack talked about her dream. Her mother always answered her questions as best as she could and gave her lots of hugs.

She and Zack made a pact that "if one day they couldn't see each other, they would look up to the clouds and talk to them. The clouds would send their messages. They would always be able to communicate."

Thinking about Uni made Samantha feel better, but she decided that she would do her best to enjoy her life on earth.

Most important, Samantha "wanted to get lots of hugs and fill her heart with love."

Merridy Kotler's illustrations, simple line drawings in a myriad of cheerful colours, are just right. They tell the story, while not distracting from the message.

Samantha's Unicorn is intended to be the first in a series of books by Robyn on helping children deal with death. The next one, called *Jamie's Rainbow*, will be about a little girl who loses her sister, and finds different ways to remember her.

The book is intended as a resource for parents with a dying child. When the Youngs were going through the experience, there were no books to help them, and they felt very much alone.

They did get support from the Temmy Latner Centre and its director Larry Librach. Librach and the centre also encouraged Robyn to write the book, and proceeds from it will go to the centre's Samantha Jaye Posen Young Fund.

The Youngs now have two other children, Jamie, age 4, and two-year old Ben.

The experience of Samantha's death changed the family, making them more spiritually aware, Robyn said.

"Death is not the end – we don't have to say a final goodbye. I will see her [again], and she will be OK."

Local teen leads fundraiser to find a cure for IBD

TORONTO – Colin Yeates knows how urgent it is to find a cure for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). He has had Crohn's disease for almost one year and knows what kind of toll the disease can take.

"IBD is very unpredictable. It's an invisible disease and you never know when you might have an attack. When it does, you have pain and discomfort, you can be on lots of medications, and sometimes even have to be hospitalized. You miss school and social outings — it affects your whole life," says Yeates, honorary chair for the Toronto Heel 'n' Wheel-a-Thon, sponsored by The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC).

The Heel 'n' Wheel-a-Thon, the foundation's largest annual fund-raising event, is taking place in more than 80 communities across Canada throughout the month of June.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to walk, run, bike, in-line skate, walk a dog, push a stroller – anything involving their heels or wheels.

In Toronto, it will be held on June 9 at Sunnybrook Park. There will be entertainment, food and prizes for the expected 1,000 participants.

"I want more people to be aware of these diseases, especially that they affect adults and kids alike. There are a lot of people out there who suffer from IBD, and I want to encourage everyone to come out and raise pledges. The more people we have at our event, the closer we will be to finding a cure!" Yeates says.

Last year, the Toronto Heel 'n' Wheel-a-Thon raised over $180,000 for medical research. This year's goal is to bring in more than $205,000. This contributing to the national goal of $1.4 million.

CCFC is a not-for-profit medical research foundation whose mission is to find the cure for inflammatory bowel disease.

Medical research is the best hope for finding a cure, and since 1974 the CCFC has invested more than $27 million in major medical research projects, the training of research personnel, the establishment of two world-class intestinal disease research units – at McMaster University and the University of Calgary – and the establishment of the CCFC chair in intestinal disease research at the University of Calgary.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are two similar yet distinct conditions which are often referred to as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

These diseases affect the digestive system and cause the intestinal tissue to become inflamed, form sores and bleed easily.

Symptoms include abdominal pain, cramping, fatigue and diarrhea. There is no known cause or cure for these diseases, and an estimated 100,000 Canadian men, women and children suffer from IBD.

Frequent diagnosis occurs between the ages of 15 and 25. IBD is particularly difficult for children and young adults since it affects a person's self-esteem, body image and lifestyle at a time when "being like everyone else" is so important.

For further information about the CCFC or the Heel 'n' Wheel-a-Thon, contact Sylvia at 416-920-5035 or visit the CCFC Web site at www.ccfc.ca

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CJ Kids

Hurricane Hazel horrors

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

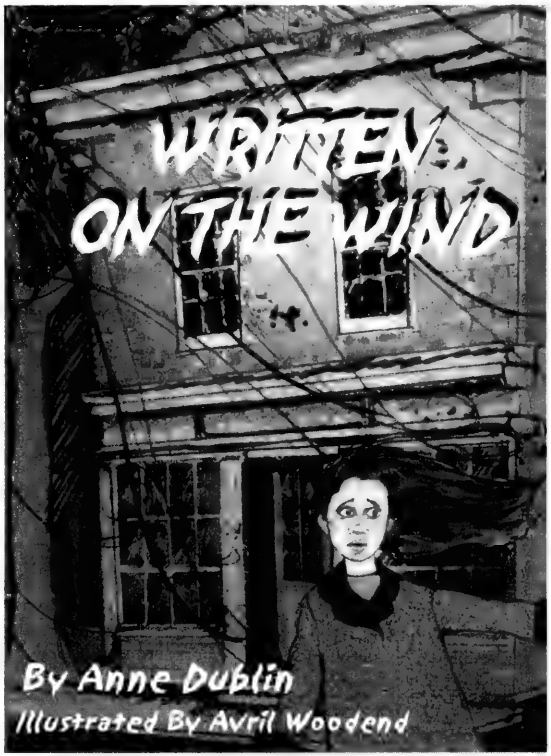
A long time before you were born, in fact a long time before a lot of your parents were born, there was a terrible storm in Toronto, called Hurricane Hazel.

Eighteen centimetres of rain fell on Oct. 24, 1954, and there were winds of 110 kilometres an hour. Trees were torn out by their roots, and bridges and houses were destroyed. Eighty-three people were killed.

It was the worst natural disaster that ever hit the city.

You wouldn't think that you could enjoy a book about such a terrible event, but Anne Dublin has written one that is exciting and scary enough to give you that delicious shudder up your back.

The book is called *Written on the Wind*, and was published this year by Hodgepog Books. Illustrations are by Avril Woodend.



Sarah lives with her parents and her twin brother Michael, in a house on the corner of Manning Avenue and Palmerston Gardens, near Dupont Street and Bathurst Street. The family lived on the first floor of the house and rented the top two floors to other families.

Sarah's mother expected her to help with the housework when she wasn't doing her homework. Sarah, however, liked to visit a nearby store where she helped out the owner, Evelyn.

Evelyn liked to use a ouija board, which is a hard board with letters and numbers on it. Some people claim that it can tell the future.

Evelyn and Sarah asked it questions such as "Will I be rich?" and "Will my store do well?" But one day, Sarah asked "Will the weather be good?" This surprised her, since, "I didn't even know I'd been thinking about the weather. But there was the question, hanging in the air like a guillotine about to drop."

(I told you that the story was scary!)

The ouija board answered NO. In response to Evelyn demanding when, it replied F-R-I-D-A-Y the 15th. It also said that people would die.

Needless to say, Sarah was very upset. She wanted to tell someone, but didn't know who to tell.

On Friday night after the Shabbat dinner, there was a strong wind, and Sarah's parents told her to stay on the porch, but allowed Michael – to Sarah's fury – to go to his friend's house. "[Her mother] said, "Boys are different. I worry more about you."

Well, both children decided to disobey. Michael went to play on the nearby railway tracks which he knew he wasn't allowed to do, and Sarah went to Evelyn's store. When the hurricane hit, both were stranded.

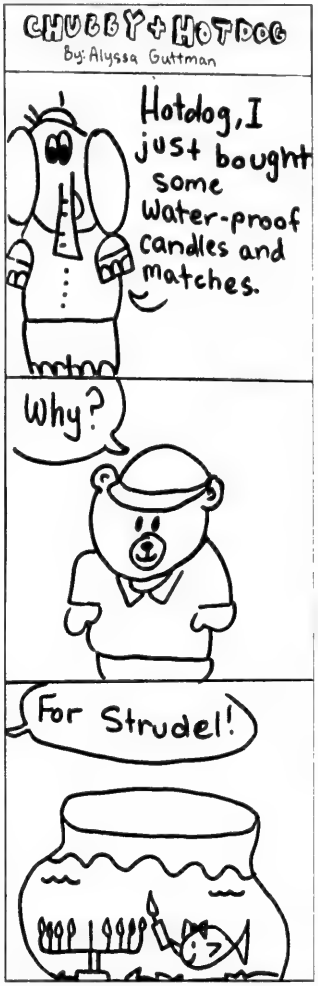
Some of the most interesting parts of the book are the things you learn about people's lives in 1954. Dublin talks about living in a small part of a house and sharing the only bathroom with two other families; how Holocaust survivors dealt with their memories and a new life; what games the kids played and what songs they sang; the kinds of things a corner store stocked; their superstitions; and even what they listened to on the radio.

(Very few people had televisions then.)

The family shopped at Honest Ed's, a real store that is still at the corner of Bloor Street and Bathurst Street. Even the signs are the same.

An upsetting part of the story (beside the hurricane) is that Michael is insulted and even beaten up by neighbourhood bullies because he is small, and also because he is Jewish.

A major benefit that came from the hurricane was that Ontario created The Metropolitan Toronto Regional Conservation Authority, to establish dams and flood protection facilities. That is why we have a whole series of conservation areas that provide parkland, swimming areas and hiking trails.



TEDDY BEARS ON DISPLAY: Junior kindergarten students at Bialik Hebrew Day School recently culminated their unit on teddy bears, which included all important curriculum areas, by bringing their favourite teddy bears to a pyjama party. Pictured above, accompanied by their teacher Chana Rose, are JK students hugging their "pets".

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CJ Kids

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Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Tomatoes

It was true! The stories they had told me were true! This really *was* an island of diamonds! I scooped up a handful of perfect diamonds and watched the sand trickle through my fingers. Selling all my possessions to get here was worth it. All I had to do was collect as many diamonds as possible, and then buy a boat to take me back home. Excitedly, I began stuffing my pockets with the precious stones.

"Look at the funny man!" I heard a child's voice laughing behind me.

Turning around, I saw a short, tanned child calling to his friends. They all came running, and started laughing and pointing at my bulging pockets. "Why are you collecting rocks?" one of them giggled.

"Rocks? These are diamonds!"

"Call them whatever you want, but they're worthless!"

"What? Even one of these can buy me a boat."

"My father has a boat," said the child. "But he's not taking rocks for it. He bought it for 400 Jumbos."

"Jumbos? What do you mean?"

All the children burst out laughing uncontrollably. "Jumbo... tom... tomatoes, of course!"

"One Jumbo is worth ten Tweenies, or 260 Babies." another child explained, pulling a cherry tomato out of his pocket. "See? This is my allowance for the week."

"How do I get Jumbos?"

"Well, you can get seeds anywhere, but it takes a lot of work to grow them."

"You kids... you're making this all up! Where's the nearest town?" I demanded.

"Follow us," the children chorused, and they started walking up a sandy hill. I followed them, and from the top of the hill, I could see a large city. In the centre was a huge, red building, shaped like a big, ripe... tomato. Maybe these kids weren't joking, after all. They led me right up to the giant structure. "My father works here, right in City Hall," one of them proudly declared.

I thanked them and went inside. About 100 well-dressed men were seated around tables, counting... seeds? I went over to the nearest table.

"Good afternoon, gentlemen," I said to the two men seated there.

"Good afternoon," one of them answered. "I see you are not from these parts. I am Chief Distributor for the island. I assume you are looking for the high quality seeds our island produces."

"Seeds?" The distributor was staring at my bulging pockets with a strange expression on his face.

"Are those — *rocks* in your pockets?" he asked.

"Actually, they're diamonds..." I tentatively began.

"Those shiny rocks are worthless. I cannot understand why you would collect them." He turned to the official next to him. "I don't think we should waste our seeds on a madman."

"No, no, please don't do that," I begged, knowing that the seeds were my only way home. "I only picked them up because I thought they were valuable. It was all a mistake." I began emptying out my pockets.

"Why are you dirtying our floor?" demanded the distributor. I ran outside, and shook the diamonds — or were they just rocks? — out of my pockets and onto the sand. When I went back inside, the distributor seemed to have made up his mind. "Take these," he said, handing me a cup of seeds.

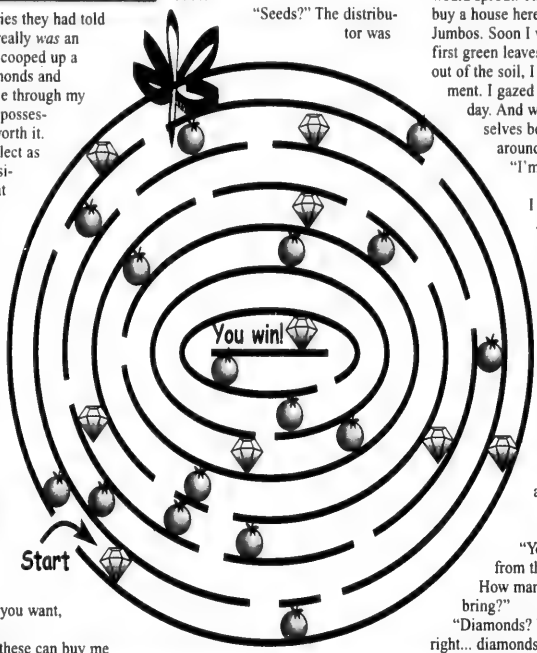
"They're Beginner's Tweenies. If you can bring proof of a decent harvest, we'll trust you with Jumbos."

I found a fertile area to the north of the island that would be ideal for my purposes. I scooped away the rocks — I mean, the diamonds — and carefully planted my seeds. I constructed a crude hut and waited.

The rains came, and my hut leaked terribly, but I knew that soon my seeds would sprout. Then I would be able to buy a house here, while I grew my Jumbos. Soon I would be rich! When the first green leaves pushed their way up out of the soil, I went crazy with excitement. I gazed at them for hours every day. And when the tomatoes themselves began to form, I danced around the plants, singing,

"I'm rich! I'm rich!"

After three long years, I had amassed 20,000 Jumbos. It was time to return home with my wealth. I purchased an enormous boat and loaded it with the fruits of my labours. I took one last look at the island. Ow! There was a rock in my shoe! I removed my shoe and shook out one of those worthless, shiny stones. I threw it overboard, lifted anchor, and sailed for home.



Can you collect all the diamonds while avoiding those tomatoes?

"You're back!" they called from the shore. "Was it true? How many diamonds did you bring?"

"Diamonds? What are those? Oh, right... diamonds. You mean those worthless rocks? I've brought something much better. Look, tomatoes!"

"Tomatoes? You fool! You had a chance to bring back diamonds and you brought back rotten tomatoes?"

They were right. My tomatoes had rotted... Diamonds! I went to get diamonds! Tomatoes were worthless! What had I done? I still had my old coat, the one I was wearing when I landed on the island. Ripping apart the lining I found two tiny diamonds. If only I had brought more. They were priceless.

This story is a **mashal**, *an allegory. In it, diamonds represent the mitzvot and acts of kindness that we always have the opportunity to do. But too often we become sidetracked and elect to pursue tomatoes — things that are unimportant — instead.*

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AGO hosts Arturo Schwarz's surrealist art collection

By LINDA FRUM
Special to The CJN

In 1998, one of the greatest troves of Dada and Surrealist art was donated to the Israel Museum by Arturo Schwarz, a Milanese poet, scholar, art dealer, and passionate collector. This artistically significant collection will travel to Toronto's Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) next month.

The Schwarz collection contains more than 750 works of art, including paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures, photographs and prints. Two hundred and fifty of those works will be on display in Toronto, offering visitors a full survey of the Dada and Surrealist movements. Born of the trauma of World War II, the masterpieces of the Schwarz collection playfully dance around morbid, erotic, and existential themes.

To explain the enduring appeal of surrealism to contemporary audiences, Schwarz once told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that "as long as a man is capable of falling in love with a woman, of staring at the wonder of the universe, Surrealism is alive. Surrealism taught us that we have to take the time to stop and stare at the world's everyday miracles."

The story of Schwarz's life is as fascinating as his collection. Born in Egypt in 1924 to a Jewish family of Italian and German background, Schwarz was deported to Italy in 1949, because of his Zionist and communist activism. But before leaving Egypt at age 25, Schwarz's destiny was already clear.

He had established a correspondence with the Surrealist theorist Andre Breton (the two would become close friends), published his first book of poetry, opened his own bookstore, bought his first pieces of Egyptian surrealist art and cemented his emotional ties to what would later become Israel by working on a kibbutz in World War II.

In 1951, Schwarz founded a small publishing house in Milan. In 1954, he opened an art bookstore, which, by 1960, had evolved into a leading avant-garde art gallery. He also developed friendships with many of the artistic geniuses he represented, notably Marcel Duchamp, Jean Arp, and Man Ray.

Never a wealthy collector but rather an intellectual peer and comrade, Schwarz has said: "In Surrealism I discovered a philosophy of life whose cardinal points – love, freedom, and poetry – coincided with my own. I have thus never seen myself as an 'art collector' but rather as a convinced Surrealist, keen to acquire the works which were inspired by my own convictions."

Nevertheless, after a lifetime of thoughtful acquisitions, Schwarz's collection was considered so significant that the Getty Museum in Los Angeles offered him $20 million (US) for it. Schwarz turned them down. "I'm not interested in money," he once told Wendy and Elliott Eisen, co-chairs of the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum. "I wanted my art collection to be with my people."

Dreaming with Open Eyes: Dada and Surrealist Art from The Israel Museum's Arturo Schwarz Collection, will be with the people of Toronto starting June 11. It will remain at the AGO until Sept. 1.

Kay Sage's "The Upper Side of the Sky" 1944, one of over 250 pictures on exhibit.

On June 10, the AGO and the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum will present a dazzling "Surrealist Party" to celebrate the opening of the exhibit. Funds raised will be shared equally between the two institutions.

Usual gala conventions will be turned on their head for this cheeky and glamorous event. Thanks to the efforts of event chair Marc Boyman, food, dress and décor will be twisted around, Salvador Dali-style.

Partygoers are guaranteed a mind-altering experience, and the AGO and the Israel Museum will celebrate a happy and harmonious partnership. For ticket information call Norah Farrell at the AGO, 416-979-6660, ext. 573.

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By Bill Gladstone

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Art Garfunkel headlines the Israel Cancer Research Fund's annual gala evening. The event includes a dinner for those who have donated a sponsorship, followed by a performance and dessert reception for regular ticket holders. There is also a silent auction and raffle. Honourees include **Sen. Jerry** and **Mrs. Carole Grafstein** as well as **Dr. Alan Bernstein**.

Sheraton Hotel, Grand Ballroom, Toronto. June 6. Reception 6 p.m., dinner 6:30, performance 8 p.m. 416-487-5246.

* * *

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir: The celebrated choir performs as part of the Joy of Singing festival. The program – Jewish Music: An Accompaniment to History – highlights the music of Jewish services from the 11th to the 20th centuries in a lay setting. **Ben Steinberg** provides commentary and **Esther Ghan Firestone** conducts.

Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Bldg. 80 Queen's Park. $18. Wed. June 12, 8 p.m. 416-872-4255 or www.joyofsinging.ca

* * *

Theatre News: Construction of the 320-seat, multi-purpose theatre in the Miles Nadal JCC is well under way, with completion expected in September. A grand opening is being planned for January featuring numerous events, including a staged reading of *Sarah's Cave*, by **Don Molnar**; a performance of *Letter to My Father*, **Alon Nashman's** tribute to **Franz Kafka**; and a screening of a film by the Toronto Jewish Film Society.

Molnar's play, a Holocaust drama, is the latest prize winner of the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Contest, sponsored by the Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto. Committee chair **Ralph Wintrob** reports that a previous winner – *Einstein's Gift* by **Vern Thiessen**, which won two years ago – is going to receive its first commercial production at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre in January, and will play in Kitchener in April.

The Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto was established in 1987 and started the contest in 1990. Other committee members are **Bernie** and **Norma Rubin**, **Bess Shockett**, **Nat Garnick**, **Pearl Shore**, **Naomi Freeman** and **Kitty Wintrob**.

* * *

Music & Drama

• **Alex Nussbaum** performs at Comedywood, 800 Steeles Ave. W. June 5 to 8. 905-761-0543.

•Salute to Seniors features live big-band era music and dancing. Nathan Phillips Square. Wed. June 12, noon to 2 p.m.

•**Judy Loman** is retiring after 43 years as principal harpist of the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**. Loman is featured in a concert of **Weber**, **Ravel** and **Mussorgsky** compositions. $90 - $26. Massey Hall. June 12 & 13, 8 p.m. 416-593-4828.

* * *

Literary Notes

• Attend the 14th annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards. Leah Posluns Theatre. Tues. June 4, 7:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Free.

• PEI poet **Joseph Sherman**, winner of a Jewish Book Award, reads and discusses his poetry. Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St., Room 423. Wed. June 5, 12:30 to 2 p.m.

• The May issue of *Books in Canada* delivers a package of reviews of Canadian Jewish literature. Featured reviewers include **Michael Greenstein**, **B. Glen Rotchin**, **Kenneth Sherman**, **David Solway**, (editor) **Olga Stein** and others. Available at major newsstands.

Yiddish singer Stella Walker to sing Roma songs

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Have you ever heard of Roma music? Mezzo-soprano Stella Walker, a popular Yiddish singer, hadn't either, but now along with Ronald Lee, executive director of the Roma Community and Advocacy Centre of Toronto, is producing the Roma (Gypsy) Musical Experience.

Roma is the proper way to refer to the people once labelled as Gypsies. This term has been widely accepted in Europe and now the Romani are trying to have it catch on in North America to replace Gypsy, a term they view as derogatory.

"[The term Gypsy] conjures up a stereotype image of people travelling around, with bandanas and rings, as pickpockets, you know, not as real people," says Lee, whose group E Zhivind Yag (The Living Fire) is one of the features of the show.

Joining Lee at the show will be some of Toronto's leading Roma performers, who will display a wide variety of music, including jazz, classic and traditional variations on Roma melodic themes.

"There are a lot of great musicians who are performing," says Walker, who is best known for her Klezmer performances and Yiddish songs. "People are fascinated by the music and culture. [Roma are] people who have travelled and have influences from all over the world."

While traditionally a Yiddish singer, Walker will be performing four songs of Zigeunerlieder by Brahms and Dvorák, which is traditional Roma music. However, she will also step into her more familiar role and thrill the crowd with a few of her traditional Yiddish works, which she says is "the most satisfying language to sing in."

The real Roma flavour is provided by E Zhivind Yag, who are performing traditional and modern Romani folk songs. His group demonstrates traditional rich Romani musical heritage that has not been commercialized. As well, they will perform World-Romani music from Roma musical cultures from many countries of the world.

Other groups performing are the Botos Brothers, a traditional Hungarian Romani Jazz group, which Walker calls "incredibly talented and well liked in the community." Rounding out the lineup is The Golden River Gypsy Band, a Roma group from Russia.

Stella Walker

According to Walker, the Golden River Gypsy Band have a sound that is veyr similar to traditional Klezmer music.

Both Lee and Walker claim that it is difficult to express in words the sound and essence of Roma music.

"It verges on Middle Eastern music," says Lee, adding that you can really notice the similarities with the hand-drum.

Walker explaines how there is a melodic similarity and sound similar to traditional Klezmer music. She added that one can hear the violin really well in both sounds

Roma music is diverse because it is representative of a group of people that have travelled the world. After starting out in India in the 11th century the Roma people began travelling to different areas of the globe. Certain groups setted in some areas, while others continued to travel.

For Walker, Roma music gives her an opportunity to explore other cultures without leaving the city.

"By singing I am being taken into different cultures that I wouldn't otherwise access," she says. "I am accessing a whole other world and not having to leave Toronto."

Doors open at 8 p.m. at the Arts and Letters Club at 14 Elm St., Toronto. Tickets are $18. For more information or to make reservations call (416) 534-9958.

Award-winning writer wins another prize

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Simcha Simchovitch, the winner of this year's Yiddish translation award at the Jewish Book Awards on June 4, can look back on more than six decades of literary production.

Known for his books of poetry in Yiddish and English, and for *Stepchild On The Vistula*, an autobiographical novel that he translated from Yiddish, the 82-year-old retired Hebrew schoolteacher began writing poems as a teenager in his native town of Otwock, Poland.

When in 1939 the Vilna-based YIVO Institute put out a call for young Jewish people to tell their life stories in Yiddish, Simchovitch responded by penning an autobiography.

"It was a nice little book, and I managed to mail it to them maybe a month before the war," Simchovitch said in an interview. "I know I got an acknowledgement that they received it. But after the war they found some of the autobiographies but they didn't find mine. So while I was teaching in Ottawa, I restored from memory my autobiography and I put it in the form of a novel [*Stepchild On The Vistula*]."

Simchovitch, who still works as a museum curator and librarian at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation, spoke with *The CJN* in the shul's library. Wearing a dark checkered jacket and brown knitted kippah, he jumped up now and again to pull one of his books from the shelves.

His most recent work – the one for which he is due to win the translation prize – is *The Song That Never Died: The Poetry of Mordecai Gebirtig* (Mosaic Press, 2001), which the *Jerusalem Post* called "a treasure," in part because of his lengthy introduction on the life of Gebirtig (1877-1942).

Simcha Simchovitch

Born in 1921, Simchovitch spent the war years as a refugee in Ukraine and Russia, and arrived in Montreal in 1949; he published his first two books of poetry a year later.

His master's thesis at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York was a study of Solomon Maimon, a well-known figure of the Jewish Enlightenment.

Continued on page 42

Music program celebrates anniversary at Leah Posluns

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Fifteen years ago, May Ing Ruehle began the Suzuki music program at the Koffler School of Music with four children and a belief that all children have the ability to twinkle.

Today, over 100 students and families participate in a whole-child approach to the study of music on the violin, cello and flute at the Koffler and Bloor Suzuki schools of music.

The Bathurst Jewish Community Centre will be celebrating the schools' 15th anniversary with a festival at the Leah Posluns' Theatre on June 11, at 7 p.m.

Ruehle, co-director of the Koffler-Suzuki program, admits that when she was initially hired to teach music in 1985 she was somewhat skeptical about the Suzuki approach to teaching children.

In the 1930s, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki developed a pedagogical approach to teaching music based on the assumption that the ability to play an instrument didn't depend on talent. Any child could learn.

His method encourages parents to begin teaching their children when they are as young as three years old so that music could be absorbed in the same way they learn their mother tongues.

The music is brilliantly sequenced, Ruehle explained, so that the children can succeed at one skill before they move on to another.

One of the first milestones is achieved when they finish four different Twinkle variations which culminate in a performance of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*.

From there they move on to play simple melodies that build skills needed to play their instruments.

Because children develop musical skills before they can read, the Suzuki approach depends on a great deal of parental participation.

"I know that I'm not just teaching music," Ruehle said. "I'm also building trust with the child and with the families and that takes time."

And while this method requires an enormous amount of time, energy and commitment by everyone involved, parents also often find themselves amazed with all the skills their children learn in the process, such as discipline, commitment, dedication and perseverance.

As with any musical training, some of the children will decide to go on to become professional musicians and others just learn to appreciate music as an important part of their lives.

Ruehle completed a degree in musical performance at the University of Toronto in 1985. Her teachers there included Victor Danchenko and Leo Vigdorchick.

A turning point in her life occurred in 1988 when she travelled to Japan to study with Dr. Suzuki.

"Studying with Suzuki was so different than studying with the Russian teachers I was used to," Ruehle said.

"Suzuki imparted this feeling that you could do anything. There were no limits. It all depended on how much you wanted to work. One of the most important lessons he taught me was each child is different," Ruehle said. Even when playing the most simple stroke on the violin, kids will produce their own tone and sound.

For further information on the upcoming concert or the Suzuki music program, call 416-636-1880 ext. 228.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 51.

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Simchovitch wins book award

Continued from page 41

Written in Hebrew, it was published in Tel Aviv in 1971 under the title *Solomon Maimon: His Personality and Attitude Towards Judaism*. It has not been translated into English. "I was attracted to this figure because I saw him as a forerunner of a secular Jew; he was living in the 18th century, before secular Jews came to the fore," Simchovitch said. "He was persecuted by Orthodox Jews because he was a free-thinker – even by Moses Mendelsohn the emancipationist.

"Zangwill and Graetz attacked him because he led a dissolute life; he was getting drunk and so on. I defended him. I explained that instead of accusing him we should accuse the German Jews, for allowing such a genius to starve and go homeless. When he died, he was buried in the city of Glagau and Jewish children threw stones after his coffin. They buried him near the fence like a heretic and they didn't even put a tombstone on his grave."

Simchovitch published a book of poetry, *Sorrow and Consolation*, in 1989 and received the I.J. Siegal Prize for Yiddish literature in 1991. Three more books of Yiddish poetry followed in the '90s, as well as *A Song Will Remain*, a collection of poems translated into English.

His novel appeared in 1992. "It tells about my childhood and youth," he said. "It takes place in the first week of World War II. In Yiddish it's called *Shtifkind Bay Der Vaysl*. Why a stepchild? Because Jewish children were treated like stepchildren in Poland."

As expected, the Holocaust is a central theme in Simchovitch's work. He also writes about Canada, poetry and literature, and about love and old age. Since he is a leading figure among Canada's small but distinguished circle of Yiddish writers and poets, it's no great surprise that he has won the Jewish Book Awards translation prize several times before.

He is still active in Yiddish organizations and still makes contributions to the New York-based Yiddish *Forward*. Last November, he wrote the article "Exceptional or Rare Judaica Treasures in Toronto," based on his curatorial knowledge and experience at Beth Tzedec.

Although his literary career has had a slow trajectory, he now has several projects on the go, including the translation and editing of a Polish memoir by his aunt about her Holocaust experiences.

Argentina is a land of many geographic contrasts

By GERRY SCHWARTZ
Special to The CJN

BUENOS AIRES — After making some new friends from Buenos Aires while on vacation in Cuba last year, I ventured forth in October 2001 (their springtime) on the long journey to the land of "tango and gauchos".

Well, these two "symbols" do remain but mostly for tourist consumption. As I discovered, the romantic images linger along with *Evita*, but the reality of modern Argentina's economic and social problems was more in evidence. Nevertheless, I did see a genuine *gaucho* (minus his horse and *bolos*) in from the pampas, in the town of Neuquen. I also saw large and noisy demonstration- marches by students, workers and seniors to protest huge cuts in their standards of living and educational opportunities.

The Argentine Republic is a land of many geographic contrasts from the subtropical area of Iguazu Falls in the North bordering Paraguay and Brazil, to the vineyards and high Andes of Mendoza, and the scenic wonders of Patagonia in the south. There are 14 states and also 14 "national territories" with smaller populations.

There is also a "federal district" which is the greater Buenos Aires metropolitan area – over 10 million population – the capital of the state of the same name. It is a vast country, distances are great, and one can only have a taste of its infinite variety.

I chose to divide my time between Buenos Aires, northern Patagonia, the Mendoza region and a ride over Aconcagua National Park (the highest peak in South America) to Santiago, Chile on the other side of the Andes. Buenos Aires, though noisy, overcrowded and showy, has Paris architecture from the art-deco period, wonderful food, and exuberant people.

Also, since it is on the Rio de La Plata, the city offers a restored waterfront district not to mention the oldest Italian district called "La Boca", where the Tango originated.

Food is varied and very European. From here one can ferry across to Colonia, Uruguay for a pleasant day in a historic Spanish colonial town.

Since the fares for travel within the country are very high, I chose to travel thousands of kilometres by overnight buses, which are safe, offer hot meals with wine on board and are very comfortable. It offers a great chance to meet the locals that can still afford to travel, though basic Spanish is a must for conversing.

There are over 200 bus platforms at the huge Retiro station in the capital with lines radiating in every direction. Southern Patagonia with its glaciers and gateway to Antarctica was out of reach, the famous resorts of Northern Patagonia are accessible and affordable: Bariloche and San Martin de los Andes.

One first traverses the Pampas – a dry, scrubby land of steppes to reach the Andean side in the Lake District known as Siete Lagos. Bariloche is a relaxation mecca for both local and international tourism for good reason – it is on a beautiful glacial lake and wildflowers were out in October while the surrounding peaks were still covered with snow. There was also an excellent variety of restaurants with very varied menus.

It felt more like Switzerland with alpine architecture to match its surroundings. Between the aftermath of September 11th's effect on tourism and the local economic crisis, I was one of the very few international tourists around. Within a few hundred kilometres of Bariloche one has pristine lakes and beautiful peaks both on the Argentine and Chilean sides of the border region. By the way, the Israeli flag was flying proudly at the beautiful resort hotel Llao-Llao.

A tango singer on the street in La Boca, the old Italian district. [Gerry Schwartz photo]

After more sightseeing in Buenos Aires, I set out on yet another long bus journey to the province and city of Mendoza northeast of the capital, the wine district and the high cordillera of the Andes separating the country from Chile. Mendoza is a very clean, low-key city surrounded by a beautiful hinterland of vineyards, rivers, and snow-capped mountain peaks.

It was in this outpost (over 90 per cent of the Jewish population is in Buenos Aires) through a contact in Buenos Aires that I met a dwindling but very vibrant Jewish community devoted to Israel. Again, the Italian immigrant roots of this country are as evident here as are the Spanish roots. The central huge park was laid out by a French architect and is reminiscent of the Bois du Boulogne in Paris.

One ascends the desolate high-mountain route to the Chilean border past ancient Inca structural remains to pass alongside Mt. Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America, over 20,000 feet above sea level. On the other side, one descends the Caracoles (Snails) switchback roads near the ski resort of Portillo to reach Santiago de Chile and the famous Pacific Ocean resort of Vina del Mar.

I flew out of Santiago back to Toronto via Panama City and Houston. I can only hope that the future of Argentina is more stable and optimistic than its current difficult times.

For more on the country, click onto www.sectur.gov.ar – the official Argentine tourism web site – which also has a "Shalom Argentina" section on the history of the Jewish immigration. If your Spanish is good enough, www.Clarin.com has daily news from Buenos Aires and elsewhere.

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Business Profile

Nyman Ink. knows the secrets to success

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Nyman Ink. is the kind of company people would pay to employ them.

Offering employees a personal trainer, masseuse, mandatory paid volunteer days, the chance to upgrade their skills every season, and barbecue lunches, Judy Nyman, founder and president of Nyman Ink., Creative Communications Solutions, has found the secret to success. She's come up with creative solutions to keep her employees and clients happy and to keep her business growing.

Since starting a newsletter-writing business in her den just over 10 years ago, this award-winning journalist-turned entrepreneur has expanded her line of work. Her company now also specializes in creating logos, and writing and designing content for the Web. As well, she creates annual reports for a variety of non-profit and corporate companies.

Indeed, Nyman Ink. has come a long way from her home office business that originally included a staff of just one – herself.

Her company has expanded to include two graphic designers, three writers/editors and three other office staff.

"I left my job with *the Toronto Star* in 1989 after my second child was born, to spend time with my family," says Nyman, 51, and a mother of two, Jay, 20, and Becca, 14. She continued to write for the *Star* on a freelance basis until 1996.

But after having worked as a journalist full-time for over 15 years, first at the *Hamilton Spectator* from 1976 to 1982 and then at the *Toronto Star* Nyman became bored.

That's when she began to embark on what would become a whole new career.

"Nyman Ink. grew out of my volunteer activities," she says, sitting in the glass-walled, open-concept boardroom in her spacious green and purple coloured office – Nyman Ink.'s signature colours.

"I began asking Jewish organizations if they needed help with their newsletters and everyone wanted help. My first clients were Reena, Mazon Canada and Jewish Family & Child Service. By the end of the year I was doing volunteer work full time. I was putting out so many newsletters that I hired a secretary, then a graphic artist, then a printer, because people wanted one-stop shopping, which is one reason Nyman Ink. has been so successful."

Then in 1991, Holy Blossom Temple came knocking on her door requesting her services, only this time, the job was a bit different.

"The Temple asked if I'd be interested in becoming the editor of the *Holy Blossom Bulletin*. I said I would love to, but I'm already inundated with volunteer work. They said, 'this is a paying job.' The synagogue became my first paying client. I still do all of their work," says Nyman.

"From there on my business expanded strictly by word of mouth."

With her business growing, Nyman moved her company into half of her basement. Then she expanded into the rest of the basement, where she and her all-female employees enjoyed the benefits of having a personal trainer once a week. (Her third-floor bedroom is where she and her staff enjoyed monthly massages.)

"Then my family threw me out," laughs Nyman. "Fortunately my dad owned this property [at Queen and Dufferin] and we moved in in January of 1999."

Though her new office has the capacity to house 50 more employees, Nyman wants to keep it small.

"It's not in my plans to have a big company. What I like is that we all work together. We have production meetings every morning so that everybody here knows what everybody else is doing and so that everyone is able to answer your questions," she explains.

Judy Nyman, founder of Nyman Ink. Creative Communications Solutions. [Neil Thorne, Nyman Ink. photo.]

"Because of our size we're very client oriented. We go the extra mile to ensure clients are happy. We also do excellent work creatively and we're second to none in quality. Because we're small, we can also implement good ideas quickly and don't have to go through three other departments. I don't want to get so big that we can't do these things."

Her instincts have paid off. Nyman Ink. has racked up over 40 awards for content and design in the last five years.

No doubt, helping her employees feel good about themselves and about their involvement in the company has been a big part of Nyman Ink.'s success.

Though the company now includes men and there is no longer a masseuse or personal trainer coming in at lunch, Nyman offers her employees other, perhaps more valuable, opportunities.

"Every season I offer employees the chance to take professional development courses if it's related to work. I pay for it, and it's good for them and for Nyman Ink. It improves upon the talent they already have and helps them think of fresh ideas."

Her company does a lot of pro bono work, and volunteerism is something she has tried to make a priority in her corporate life and in her family life.

"Volunteering is very important to me and to my husband [Harley Mintz]. It's a big part of my life. It's part of what I do and who I am. It's how I got started and how I grew."

She encourages her employees to volunteer too. They all get one paid day a month to volunteer for an organization of their choice.

The real secret to success, she insists, is knowing how to hire the right people, people who know more than she does.

"I hire people with the skills I don't have. I learn from them. You can't know everything, and the key is to know that."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP

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525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

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MUST SEE – TRULY ONE OF A KIND! Magnificent 4 + 1 bdrm. luxury home on beautifully landscaped lot backing onto York Hill Park. Marble floors, dream kitchen with Corian counters, professionally decorated in exquisite taste, double garage. Only $469,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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* * *

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3900 sq ft. Beautiful, move-in condition, 4 bedroom +1 home. Scarlett O'Hara staircase, family room + den.

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Large spacious 2 bedroom rental condo with den, 2 baths, great location.

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Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

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- Queensway/427 – Office building, 9,100 sq. ft. User investor, parking for 30. Asking $887,500.
- Commercial Studio lofts - Midtown condos. Beautifully finished, built-ins, bookcase, fireplace:
  - 1,300 sq. ft. $389,000.
  - 1,400 sq. ft. $399,000.
- 315 Avenue Road – Professional condo - medical, lawyers, accountants, etc. Free underground parking:
  - 980 sq. ft. $189,000.
  - 1,800 sq. ft. $349,000.
- Development Opportunity – Fort Erie, 56 acres, across from Big Box/Loblaws, zoning residential, Peace Bridge, Niagara Falls, Racetrack.

FOR LEASE

- 6024-26 Yonge Street – Corner location, outstanding curb appeal and signage. Retail or professional, 3,800 sq. ft., parking for 9.
- Dufferin/Castlefield
  - will build to suit, 4,000 sq. ft.
  - retail, professional, medical, etc.
  - fast food-drive through available
- Office Space – 4375 Chesswood Drive, 8,000 sq. ft., $6.00 p.s.f. Net. General Office, telemarketing, TTC at your door.

JERRY APPLEBY
Sales Representative
416-441-2888 ext. 382

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REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR

PRICE REDUCED $50,000
Exceptional Bathurst/Sheppard 4200 s.f. home + finished basement, 4+1 bdrm, 5 baths, huge kitchen with 2 w/o's. This home is like new! Act fast! Emilio Zingone* Ext. #361

$889,000 FOREST HTS/BAYVIEW
Irreg. S. facing lot w/2 stry, 5 bdrm sun-filled home with pool, priv. backyard, fully indscpd. gdn. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

MAGNIFICENT GATED CASTLE!
Gorgeous stone mansion in the best area of Thornhill. Soaring ceilings, stunning designs, pool, waterfall, fountains. 6+1 bdrm, 7 bath, 2 kitchens, 4 park, sep. office. Tanya Jivov** Ext. #319

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS $559,900
Stunning 4 bdrm, 2 storey, reno'd kitchen & baths, new heating + CAC system, new roof, bright, sunny home, move-in cond. Excellent location, great buy! Elaine Chelin* Ext. #269

BATHURST/AVENUE/WILSON - $419,000
Lovely 3 bdrm, 2 baths, 2 kit, fin'd bsmnt w/sep. ent., in popular area. Walk to transp. & shuls. CAC, hdwd & ceramic flrs. Gar. & dble drive, great backyard. Paula G. Berstein* Ext. #228

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Wonderful family room and office addition, 3 baths, fireplace. Magnificent lot. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

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Charming 2 bedroom bungalow. Plans available for 2200 sq. ft. home. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CHAPLIN/N. EGLINTON JUST $429,000
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New exquisite 5 bdrm each with ensuite. 3 car garage, circular drive. 5000 sq. ft. Olga Guvenal*/Mark Cowan* 416-226-1987

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bathurst/Lawrence. 3+1 bdrm ren. bung. Close to shul, TTC, 416-789-4878.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

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Fully renovated 3 bedroom main floor 1 (4) pce bath, living room new kitchen/appliances, garage, central air. Bsmt has separate 2 bedroom apt. new kitchen 1 (4) pce bath living room (great in-law suite). Will rent whole house for $2100. + June/July or will rent separate. Main floor $1575. + 60% util., bsmt floor $950. + 40% util.
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Skymark II - new exclusive 2 br. + sol., unobstructed S. view. Approx. 1,250 s.f. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & 360° virtual tour, call
SANTEE TEUNG, B.E.S., SKYMARK SPECIALIST

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Finch. Ultra luxury 2 bdrm., 2 bth., security, concierge pkg., pool, tennis, TTC. $1650 mo inclusive. 416-787-3702.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

AVENUE RD./LAWRENCE
(Too Many Luxuries to Mention!)
Ravine lot, 2 storey, 4 bedroom home, 5 baths, large kitchen, formal DR, rec room, prof. finished bsmt., hdwd. floors, 2 fireplaces, laundry room. $4,000/mo. + util. For appt. to view this lovely home, call Cheryl at
905-794-2808

Bathurst/Clark. Furn. 3 bdrm. family room. Finished basement. 905-764-4747.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Exclusive
100 CANYON AVE.
2 bedroom + den, hardwood floors, balcony. $214,900.
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Thornhill-Conservatory
Prestige bldg. + location. Over 1500 sq. ft. corner + balcony + huge LR/DR & kitchen + upgr. $348K negot. **Inna 905-707-8001** C/B Pinnacle R.E.

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Skymark - 65, 85 or 89. Want to buy. 2 bdrm, 2 bth, +. Private. No agents. 905-881-8011.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-787-9451.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Lake of Bays - Muskoka. 3 bdrm., cottage + 2 bdrm. boat house. Lakefront, 3 sides. Lge. dock, tennis court, Synagogue on property, weekly services. Eruv surrounding property. Discount monthly rentals. 416-630-1865.

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135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

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SAMUELS, Fred Theodore – on May 13, 2002.
SCHWARTZ, Cecil – on May 16, 2002, late of 131 Beecroft Rd.
LASKI, Simon – on May 16, 2002, late of 9 Dellbank Rd.
GLASS, Robert – on May 16, 2002, late of Quebec.
RUSONIK, Julius – on May 18, 2002, late of 581 Davis Dr.
OSTFELD, Israel – on May 17, 2002.
BADER, Dorothy Frances – on May 17, 2002, late of 130 Dunn Ave.
METS, Malka – on May 17, 2002.
DANZIGER, Irwin – on May 20, 2002, late of 7 Broadway Ave.
WILLIS, Thomas – on May 20, 2002.
GREENWOOD, Helen – on May 21, 2002, late of 34 Cavotti Cres.
ROSS, Brian C. – on May 22, 2002, late of 134 Dewbourne Ave.
BARRON, Anne – on May 22, 2002.
LIEBERMAN, Morris – on May 22, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
VORHAND, Eugen – on May 22, 2002.
BLUMENFELD, Max Carl – on May 23, 2002, late of 322 Cortleigh Blvd.
WEISS, Desider – on May 23, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

MOZES, Simon Shlmon – on May 25, 2002, late of 119 Elise Terrace.
GLATZ, Nettie – on May 25, 2002.
FISCHER, Janka – on May 24, 2002, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd.
DAVIDOVA, Banovsha – on May 25, 2002, late of Cleveland, Ohio.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

HENRY, Alfreda – on May 9, 2002, late of 240 Heath St. W., #302.
BRODY, William (Bill) – on May 8, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
GOODMAN, Ada – on May 10, 2002, late of 52 Gilgorm Rd.
BLACKSTEIN, Sarah – on May 12, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Rd., # 1007.
HAUPT, Kelly – on May 12, 2002, late of 80 Antibes Dr., #302.
KUPFERSCHMIEDT, Cyrla – on May 12, 2002, late of 113 Steeles Ave. W., #302.
GUTMANN, Lilyan – on May 13, 2002, late of 3636 Bathurst St., #1907.

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ROTMAN, Selma – on May 14, 2002, late of 33 Riverside Blvd.
ZOLT, Sylvia – on May 14, 2002, late of 135 Antibes Dr., #503.
MYERS, Sadie – on May 12, 2002, late of Lakefield Extendacare Home.
DINGER, Ida – on May 14, 2002, 3560 Bathurst St.
GARDNER, Allen – on May 14, 2002, late of 153 St. Clements Ave.
AIRST, Herman – on May 14, 2002, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
FORETSKY, Michael – on May 16, 2002, late of 169 Willowbrook Rd.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DR. ALLAN FREEDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Holy Blossom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MANNIE FRIEDBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9th, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAM GOLDBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9th, 2:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Murray Goldfinger ז"ל
will take place
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Pardes Shalom Cemetery
(Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie)
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Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN KRIESER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ERIKA LEIBOVICI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 3:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Palmerston Synagogue Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SOL SMOLARZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 10:45 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Stopnitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ISSAC SUM ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Pultusker Section (Second)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NELL WEISER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
UJPO Section
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANNE MILBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9th at 12:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Apter Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEBO (Irving) LEBOVICI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 9, at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Labour Zionist Section
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Laskin makes his guitars a work of art

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

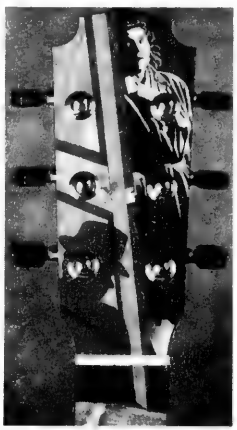
TORONTO — Guitar maker William "Grit" Laskin's clients are prepared to wait years for their instruments. His buyers, both professional and amateur musicians, look for the best.

It takes a long time to create a Laskin guitar. The waiting list extends past 2003 and 2004 to 2005.

Hamilton-born Laskin began to study guitar when he was just nine years old – his teacher was young Teddy Minden (now a judge). He did not read music but trained himself to play by ear and started composing.

At 17, he went to Toronto, where he later met Jean Larrivee. It was Laskin's first encounter with a guitar maker. Intrigued, he persuaded Larrivee to take him on an apprentice.

"It was a typical master-apprentice relationship," he says. Larrivee had learned his craft from a German prisoner of war who had in turn studied with a Spaniard and "the branches ultimately went back to Antonio de Torres, considered the Stradivarius of the guitar," Laskin said.



Thirty-one years after Laskin constructed his first guitar, he is still adapting his craft. Unlike the master violin makers who strive to emulate the traditional creations of Amatis, Cremonas, Stradivarii, guitar makers forge ahead because the guitar is still a developing instrument. This, Laskin feels, makes it more exciting. Building a guitar is a greater challenge because of demanding structural differences, he says.

Laskin builds string, classical and flamenco guitars, using India rosewood, mahogany, Spanish cedar, ebony, Sitka spruce and British Columbia red cedar. Custom features include original inlay art, body bevels for comfort, extra strings, alternate woods. His inlays are one-of-a-kind detailed "paintings" made of stone, shell, legal ivory (walrus) and metal, and are entirely hand engraved.

Laskin's studio, located in a former industrial building, has a room for storing, cutting and sanding the raw lumber; a humidity controlled space (vital for the life of the instrument) where for assembly, building and gluing; and a third room for applying the traditional lacquer (not synthetic), polishing, sanding, re-polishing – a very delicate operation.

"You should always be in fear that you might sand the polish right through to the wood; only enough is needed," Laskin says.

As well as creating guitars, Laskin also plays in clubs across Canada and in the United States. Much of what he presents is his own music.

He is also a founding partner in Borealis Records, a folk label representing some 30 acts of folk music as well as blues, celtic, traditional bluegrass and light klezmer music. He has four of his own albums.

Guitar maker William "Grit" Laskin. At left is one of his custom-made inlay details, "The Yellow Door."

A co-founder of the Association of Stringed Instrument Artisans (ASIA), Laskin is also the author of the first Code of Ethics for the Luthiers (stringed instrument makers) trade.

In 1997, Laskin was the first musical instrument maker to receive Canada's prestigious Saidye Bronfman National Craft Award for Excellence. There is only one recipient for this award each year.

New Flying Bulgar songs a hit with audience

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band was in fine form on May 25 at the Isabel Bader Theatre.

Presenting a one-night-only concert of new compositions, songs, poetry and spoken word, and featuring special guests Jane Bunnett and Alex Poch-Goldin, the band spread its wings and soared, like the doves on the background screen on the nearly bare stage.

Displaying musical agility and inventiveness, the musicians skillfully blended the upbeat klezmer genre with the pulsating rhythms of Cuban music.

Yiddish and Cuban music? A contradiction in terms? Not really, since a lot of Cuban music originated in Spain, the core of whose musical traditions are connected with Jews, Arabs and Roma.

Tossed into the mix was the soulful poetry of Yiddish poet Abraham Sutzkever.

Judging by the constant applause, as well as by the standing ovation they received at the close of their two-hour concert, they succeeded admirably.

The musicians on this rollicking night were David Buchbinder on trumpet and fluegelhorn, Daniel Barnes on drums, Jane Bunnett on soprano sax and flute, Andrew Downing on bass and bass clarinet, Marilyn Lerner on piano and Bob Stevenson on clarinet and bass clarinet.

They played exceedingly well and seemed pleased with their performance.

Alex Poch-Goldin, an actor, playwright and poet, was the narrator.

The narrative theme of the evening, *Shekhine: Spirit in the Natural World*, was an exploration of the feminine dimension of the Divine.

It should be noted that some of the music premiered at this concert will appear in the band's fifth CD, scheduled to be released next year on the Traditional Crossroads label. The concert was sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ashkenaz Foundation.

The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band.

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Hockey all-star's in limbo after last junior year

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Cory Pecker's remarkable tally of 82 goals in 81 games for the Ontario Hockey League's Erie Otters during the regular season and playoffs was overshadowed by the play of one of his teammates, a former first round draft pick of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

When you play on the same Erie Otters club as Brad Boyes, the OHL's most valuable player in both the regular season and the playoffs, chances are your accomplishments are bound to get overlooked.

Boyes will play next year either in Toronto or, more likely, in St. John's with the Baby Leafs.

But Pecker's future is up in the air after recently concluding his fifth and final season in Canadian major junior hockey as an undrafted overager. He is now hoping to catch on with an NHL club as a free agent.

Based on the numbers he put up this past season, Pecker shouldn't have too much trouble finding a new home.

"I'm going to look and see where the best opportunity is for myself and then I'm going to decide," the league's overage player of the year said in a telephone interview from Erie, Pa. "A few teams have called [my agent] and are interested.

"My agent has a few connections in Europe and I think I'd look at that next after North America. I think if I didn't catch on with [an NHL] team, Europe would be another good situation for me."

A three-time league all-star, Pecker was the OHL's leading scorer in the playoffs with 42 points (25 goals, 17 assists) in 21 games, leading Erie to its first championship. The Otters beat the Barrie Colts four games to one in the final.

Pecker also notched a pair of goals in the club's 5-4 overtime loss to Victoriaville in the Memorial Cup semi-final. He finished the event with four goals and three assists in four games and landing a spot on the tournament's all-star team.

The Montreal native was the OHL player of the month three consecutive times from January to March, and in February he was recognized as the Canadian Hockey League player of the month.

The six-foot, 195-lb Pecker also became the first 50-goal scorer in the Otters' six-year history, totaling 53 goals and 46 assists in 56 regular-season games.

Ottawa's Miguel Delisle led the league with 55 goals, but played in 11 more games than Pecker, who missed five weeks in the early part of the season with a broken arm.

"[Pecker is] a prolific scorer obviously, but he's not just an opportunist," said Sherry Bassin, the Otters owner and general manager. "He's got a very good shot, knows how to read the play, and where to go to get the puck."

Pecker re-entered the 2001 NHL entry draft, after having scored a short-handed hat trick against Brampton in a nationally televised game on the second night of Passover during last year's playoffs. But no NHL team picked him.

"I was a little surprised at going undrafted last year," said Pecker, who did get invited to the St. Louis Blues training camp last fall. "It was a big wakeup call for myself. I remember that day, sitting and waiting and I think after that I kind of realized that I'm really going to have to work hard and make sure I have a great season and hope that this time around I get a little better luck."

Pecker was originally a seventh-round pick of the Calgary Flames in 1999, but after two training camps, the club elected not to offer him a contract. He says he didn't feel he got a fair shot at making the team because the guys who drafted him were fired the next year and new management wanted their own kids.

The 21-year-old went back into last year's draft coming off a campaign in which he potted 41 goals in 61 games split between Sault Ste. Marie and Erie, where he was traded in mid-season.

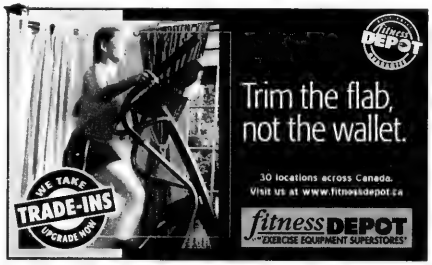
Pecker, who won a gold medal at the 1997 Maccabiah Games, returned to Erie in September after failing to stick with the Blues. It turned out to be the best decision he could have made.

While his 53 goals and 99 points on the year set new Otter records, what elevated his game the most this past season was the role played defensively.

"He's really accepted responsibility for his defensive play," said Bassin. "He understands defensively now to be alert and work hard. That's become a habit too."

Cory Pecker

"When I see a number of these other players that NHL teams have committed to, there's no question in my mind that this guy's comparatively got such offensive ability that they have to take a long look at him. If someone doesn't take notice as to what he's done and looked at his leadership abilities, they should get their eyes checked."



ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

אבן תחת אבן, טרגדיה תחת טרגדיה

אחת המשפחות המפורסמות ביותר במיתולוגיה היוונית היא בית אטריאוס. למשפחה זו השתייכו אגאממנון, מפקדם של היוונים נגד טרויה, אשתו קליטמנסטרה, ויולדיו איפגניה, אורסטס ואלקטרה. על-פי סיפורי המיתולוגיה היוונית משפחה זו נענשה בשל אחד מאבות המשפחה, טנטאלוס שניסה לרמות את האלים האולימפיים. הענוש היה מאוד כבד וקללה רבצה על המשפחה לדורות. גירסתו של המשורר איסכילוס (שנת 450) היא הידועה ביותר והיא שעלתה בדמיוני כאשר הקשבתי לאחרונה לסיפורה של אם שכולה בארץ. כאותן דמויות בטרגדיה היוונית - איפגניה, קליטמנסטרה ואלקטרה חשה אותה אם שגורלה מר ואכזרי והצדק האמיתי לא נודע.

במקרה או שלא במקרה נזכרתי גם בספרה של בתיה גור , אבן תחת אבן שפורסם ב- 1998. מצאתי לנכון לקרוא שוב את הספר שמגולל פרשה שהעסיקה את הציבור הישראלי (בזמנו ניתנה לפרשה שם: "ירולטת הרשתי") ושבעקבותיה כתבה בתיה גור את ספרה.

למרות שהוצאת שתי מציינת בראשית הספר כי הדמויות הנזכרות באבן תחת אבן הן כולם פרי דמיונה של המחברת, כל קהל הקוראים ידע שלא מדובר בדמויות פיקטיוויות אלא במציאות אמיתית של משפחה הרוסה בעקבות אסון נורא. בסיפורה של בתיה גור גיבורת הספר עונה לשם רחלה אך הגיבורה "האמיתית" הייתה שולה מלט, שבנה, אמיר, נהרג בבסיס חיל האוויר כתוצאה מאיזה משחק חנוכה מטורף לבוגרי פקחי טיסה שנקרא "ירולטת רשתי". במשחק זה נקשר הבוגר לרשת מיוחדת שמיועדת לעצור מטוסים על המסלול. מההדף הרשת מתרוממת בפתאומיות לגובה של שבעה מטרים. במקרה של אמיר מלט חלה תקלה איומה (הוא לא נקשר לרשת) והוא נהרג במקום.

אפשר לומר שדעתה של שולה מלט נטרפה עליה בצערה. בתחילה יצאה במלחמה נגד המימסד הצבאי. זה היה תמצית עלומה: להעמיד את כל האשמים לדין, כולל אנשי צבא בדרג בכיר ובראשם את מפקד חיל האוויר, ולהנציח את העוול על המצבה של בנה בבית הקברות הצבאי; היא תבעה שעל המצבה יהיה חרוט שבנה "נרצח". היא הרסה את יחסיה עם בעלה וילדיה האחרים ולבסוף שמה קץ לחייה.

במרכז ספרה של בתיה גור סיפורה העצוב של רחלה, האם השכולה שמדי לילה הייתה חולכת לקבר של בנה "כדי לחחזיק בשנאה, ולא לתת בתוכה דריסת רגל לצער ולקרבה." מתוארים בספר גם בעלה של רחלה, יענקלה ובנה נדב שעדים ליגונת הנוראי של רחלה אך אינם יכולים לשאת את אותה שנאה והאשמה מתמדת: "הם הרגו אותו, והם מדברים על תאונה, רוצחים יש כאן, רוצחים!" יעל, הבת עזבה את הבית מיד לאחר ההלוויה. פעם היה לה לאם מבט כה רך, עיניים ירוקות, לחות ונכמרות שבהן הביטה בילדיה ובבעלה.

אכן, בעלה וגם בנה של רחלה חושדים שהצבא משקר או לפחות מתחמק מאחריות אך הם אינם בטוחים שהיא צודקת "שהיא נרתמת ככה, כל-כולה, למאבק בהם, ואם באמת חשוב בכלל אם היא צודקת. כל מי שמתבונן סביב מבין טוב-טוב שצדק כמו שהיא דורשת אין בעולם." אם לא חושבים כמוה, מסביר יענקלה, בעלה, היא מוציאה את כולם ממעגל חייה.

חלק מהספר עוסק במשפט שהתנהל בבית דין צבאי. במקרה זה הועמד לדין שני קצינים בדרג סרן אך גיבורת הספר מתעניינת הרבה פחות באותם שניים ולדעתה אשמים במות בנה הצבא כולו. את המשפט מנהל השופט גיורגו אמנם צר-לו מאוד על האם השכולה אך אין הוא מפקפק לרגע בנוהגו ובנהלים העומדים לרשותו. צר לו מאוד לראותה בכאבה הכבד מנשוא אך לעתים הרחמים הופכים אצלו לכעס שמובילים אותו לא אחת לבולמוס של אכילה. "גבירתי, אני מצטער באמת ובתמים על שאיני יכול לעזור לך, אבל את פונה לאדם הלא נכון, את המלחמה שלך לצדק לא עושים בבית-המשפט."

בבדידותה מוצאת לה רחלה אוזן קשבת: בוריס טבשניק, עולה מרוסיה שבארץ הוא שומר לילה שכיר של המושב. בוריס יודע את ההרגשה של תלישות וזרות. ברוסיה ישב בבית כלא ובעקבות עלייתו ארצה אשתו התגרשה ממנו. רק אתו רחלה מסוגלת לדבר על הכל, על בנה, על אמהות שכולות ועל המתרחש בביתה. בוריס מקשיב ומבקש להבין אך הוא אומר לה בנועם: "צודקת - את אולי צודקת, אבל מה זה להיות צודק? מה קשר בין חיים לצדק?" והוא מזכיר לה את מילותיו של עמיחי: "מן המקום שבו אנו צודקים לא יצמחו לעולם פרחים באביב."

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ZINFANDEL CAKE

2 1/4 cups flour, sifted	1/4 cup butter	1/4 cup buttermilk
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	1/4 cup Crisco	1 tblsp. orange liqueur
2 1/2 tsps. baking powder	1 cup sugar	1/2 cup ground walnuts
1/2 tsp. ground cloves	3 tblsp. orange rind, grated	4 egg whites
1/2 tsp. salt	2/3 cup Zinfandel wine	1/4 cup sugar

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease and flour two 9" cake pans. Mix together the first 5 ingredients.

In large bowl, cream butter & shortening. Add sugar & grated orange rind. Cream until fluffy.

Combine Zinfandel, buttermilk & orange liqueur. Add flour mixture, walnuts & Zinfandel mixture to creamed butter mixture and stir until smooth.

Whip egg whites until foamy. Gradually beat in sugar by the spoonful. Continue beating egg whites until stiff; fold into cake batter lightly.

Place batter in buttered cake pans. Bake 25-30 minutes. Cool; serve with ice cream.

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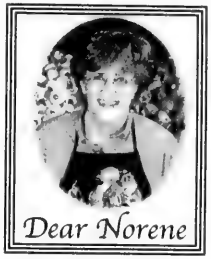
About Food



By NORENE GILLETZ

For years, the grill has been controlled by men, but now, more women are taking on the tongs! For a free copy of *Weber's Girls' Guide to Grilling*, call the Weber Grill-Line at 1-800-GRILL-OUT (1-800-474-5568). The hotline is open 7 days a week, until Labour Day, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Their experts will gladly answer your grilling questions.

If you want to be a grilling guru, check out *Weber's Big Book of Grilling* by Jamie Purviance et al (Chronicle Books, 416 pp, photos, $38.95). You'll master smoke cooking, grilling safety and indirect cooking (arranging the fire on either side of the food to roast it instead of broil it). This is not a kosher book, but many recipes can be easily adapted. You'll be tempted by the Slow-Smoked Prime Rib, Oak-Grilled Salmon and Chocolate Cake on the Grill!

Here's a technique that delivers great-tasting chicken and makes a lively conversation starter. This rub is good on virtually everything.

Multiply the recipe, store it in a tightly sealed jar, and massage it into whatever needs a quick pick-me-up before it hits the grill.

Enjoy…

BEER CAN CHICKEN

For the Rub:

1 tsp. dry mustard
1 tsp. granulated onion
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. kosher salt
½ tsp. granulated garlic
½ tsp. ground coriander
½ tsp. ground cumin
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 whole chicken, 4 to 5 lbs.
2 tsp. vegetable oil
1 can (16 oz.) beer

Rub: Preheat grill. In a small bowl, combine ingredients.

Remove and discard neck, giblets and any excess fat from chicken. Rinse chicken, inside and out, under cold water; pat dry with paper towels.

Lightly spray or brush all over with vegetable oil and season, inside and out, with the rub.

Open the beer can; pour off half the beer. Set half-full can on a flat surface and slide chicken over the top so the can fits inside the cavity. Transfer bird to the grill, keeping the can upright. Carefully balance the bird on its two legs and the can. Grill over indirect/medium heat until juices run clear and internal temperature reaches 170 in breast and 180 in thickest part of thigh, 1¼ to 1½ hours.

Wearing barbecue mitts, carefully remove chicken and beer can from grill, being careful not to spill beer – it will be hot! Let chicken rest about 10 minutes before lifting it from the can. Discard beer. Cut chicken into serving pieces. Serve warm. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

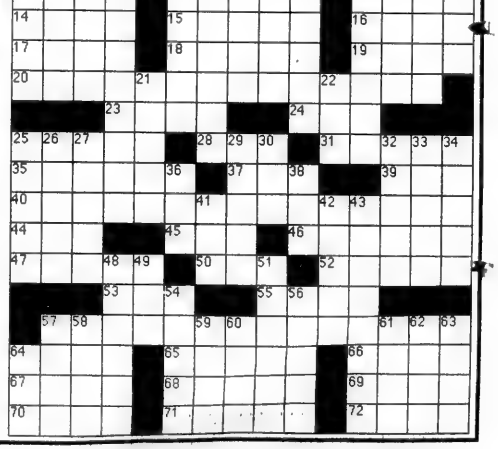
Israel's Late Spring
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across

1. Hairless
5. Soups, in Seville
10. Source of canola oil
14. Smell
15. Eastwood
16. Harem rooms
17. It is danced in Spring (other seasons, too)
18. 17th century Scottish mapmaker
19. Sail holder
20. Poppies in Israel
23. Abroad on the oceans
24. By each
25. 14 Across on public transit?
28. ___ Plaines
31. Mushy
35. Epithet for a Coke competitor
37. Year's weeks, Roman style
39. Martha ___, comic
40. Spring's fertile gifts
44. Conifer
45. Our star
46. That old grad bunch
47. Velocity
50. Psyche's sexual sides
52. "Gimme an arr! Gimme ____!"
53. Give a room for rent
55. Frequent, to poets, in the plural
57. Some Spring blooms
64. Moussorgsky gated city
65. Italian basil sauce
66. Heavy metal
67. Girl friend in Grenoble
68. Door sign
69. Girl's name
70. Basic ancient Israeli army unit
71. " ___ beast, raise a child"
72. Where Davey Jones's locker is

Down

1. Jewish-Danish Nobel physicist
2. "D's ____", in Julie Andrews song
3. Aristocrat
4. David's "Book of the Upright" sought to teach men of Judah to do this
5. Plant pest
6. A bourbon, if you drop "grand"
7. Legendary French chanteuse
8. Dye
9. Straight razor sharpener
10. Cesar
11. Hebrew Spring month
12. Quarterback task
13. Latin is
21. ____ Eolie, island off Sicily
22. Film director Craven
25. Fans
26. Reveal secrets, as it were
27. Get points
29. Large African antelope
30. Violation of a mitzvah
32. Rock drummer Ivan De ____
33. Aches
34. Tibetan mythical beasts
36. ___ antiqua, early music style
38. Actress Lupino
41. ___ generis
42. Artist Malou
43. What Samson does, burning grain with foxes' tails
48. Students, in St. Tropez
49. G.O.P. opponent
51. Gentler
54. Drunkard
56. All plants, collectively
57. Loves, in Lyons
58. No, in Nuremburg
59. Hawaiian goose
60. This, in Spanish
61. Famed canal
62. This blooms in late Spring
63. "___ to!" or "It's a ___"



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PARTY

The Canadian Jewish news

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The CJN Party Planner Directory

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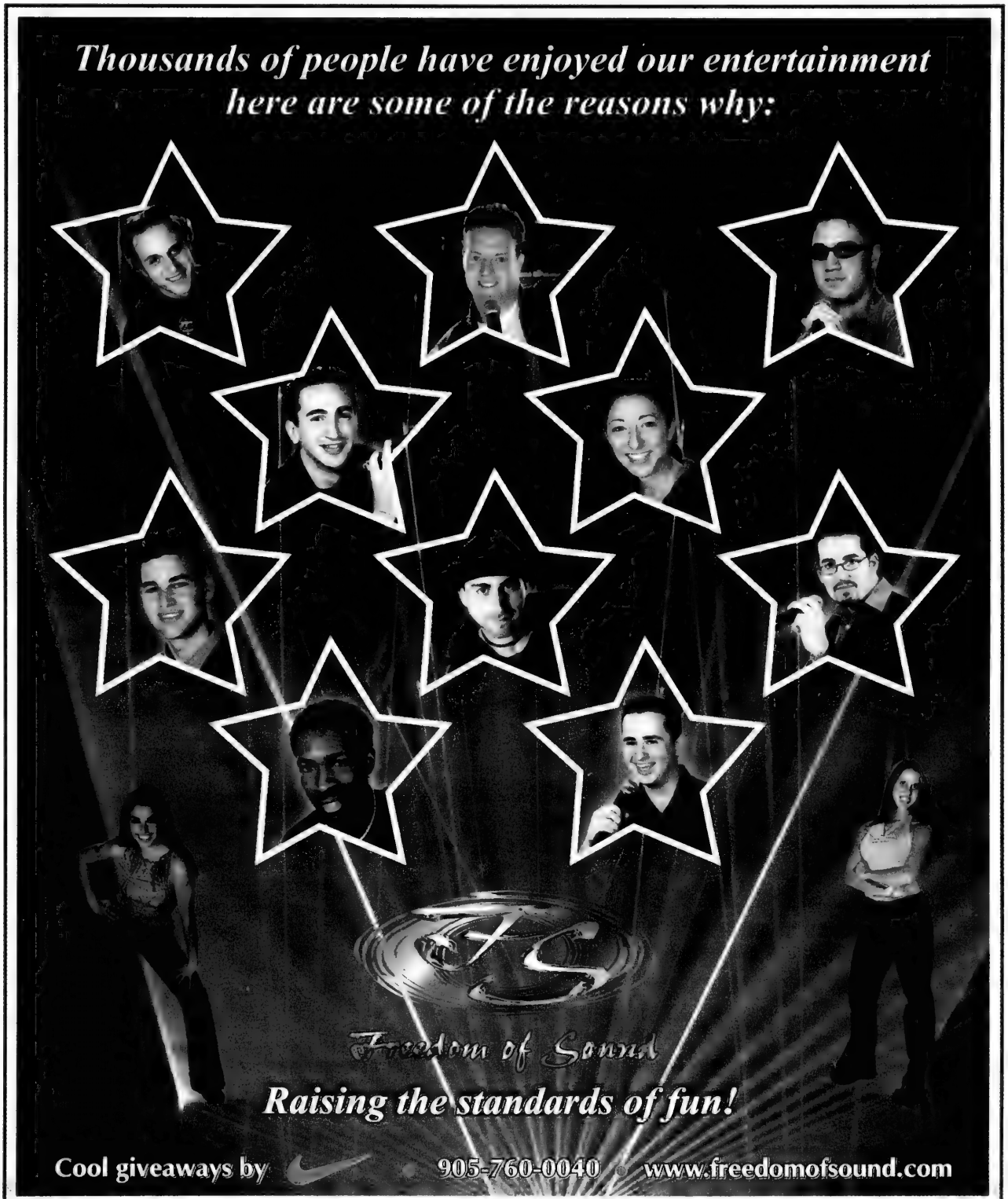
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PARTY PLANNER

Edwin Allen Productions won for Best Event for a private party.

Local heroes win big

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

The votes are in, the awards given out and some of Toronto's party industry mavens have been nationally recognized for their outstanding achievement this year.

The prestigious awards were handed out at the fifth annual Canadian Event Industry Awards (CEIA) night in Calgary last month.

Among the winners are: Bash Productions for Outstanding Logistical Achievement, Up & Coming Events for producing the Best Wedding and Edwin Allen Productions for the Best Event for a Private Party.

None of the 30 winners receive a cash prize, but instead have the honour of being recognized by their industry peers.

"We were ecstatic," says Charlene Goldfarb of Bash Productions. "It was a feeling that just ran through us. We were crying, it was amazing."

Karen Jacobs and Karen Garscadden, from Up & Coming Events, were equally as pleased.

"We are just thrilled. It was an unbelievable experience to be there," said Jacobs, with Garscadden adding that it was really rewarding to be recognized by people who can look at these events critically.

"We're elated," says Ed McMurtry from Edwin Allen Productions. "Just to be nominated is quite spectacular. For a small company like us to compete is quite a coup."

All three simchahs produced were obviously amazing. But each had different details that made them special.

The duo from Bash Productions pulled an award-winning bat mitzvah together by converting the Beth Tzedec Shul into a New York city-style nightclub. According to Goldfarb, the kids were given VIP passes, which gave them access to the stage area furnished with swanky couches and glow sticks. All of the adult table tops lit up and the ceiling played host to an ongoing laser light show. There were four cages at each corner of the dance floor, each holding a different kind of entertainer inside. Topping it all off were centrepieces made of pure candy.

"It was unbelievable," says Goldfarb. "The client really wanted the wow factor and it was great to make their dream come true."

McMurtry, whose company is best known for producing the Mr DJ show, also had a New York city-style nightclub involved, but they had a much larger and more theatrical type twist.

The bat mitzvah was held on two soundstages at the Toronto film studio and instead of doing the traditional candlelighting and speeches, the family used their theatre skills and acted out a live show. The bat mitzvah girl performed several numbers, including one from Britney Spears, one from Madonna and a Sonny and Cher impression with her dad. Also onstage were six other live dancers and other members of the family. After the performance, one of the stages was converted into a mock of a famous nightclub. The elevator between both soundstages was filled with a cloud of mist.

While McMurtry says the event was really impressive, the party faced an additional challenge, as it was due to take place only days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Continued on page B8

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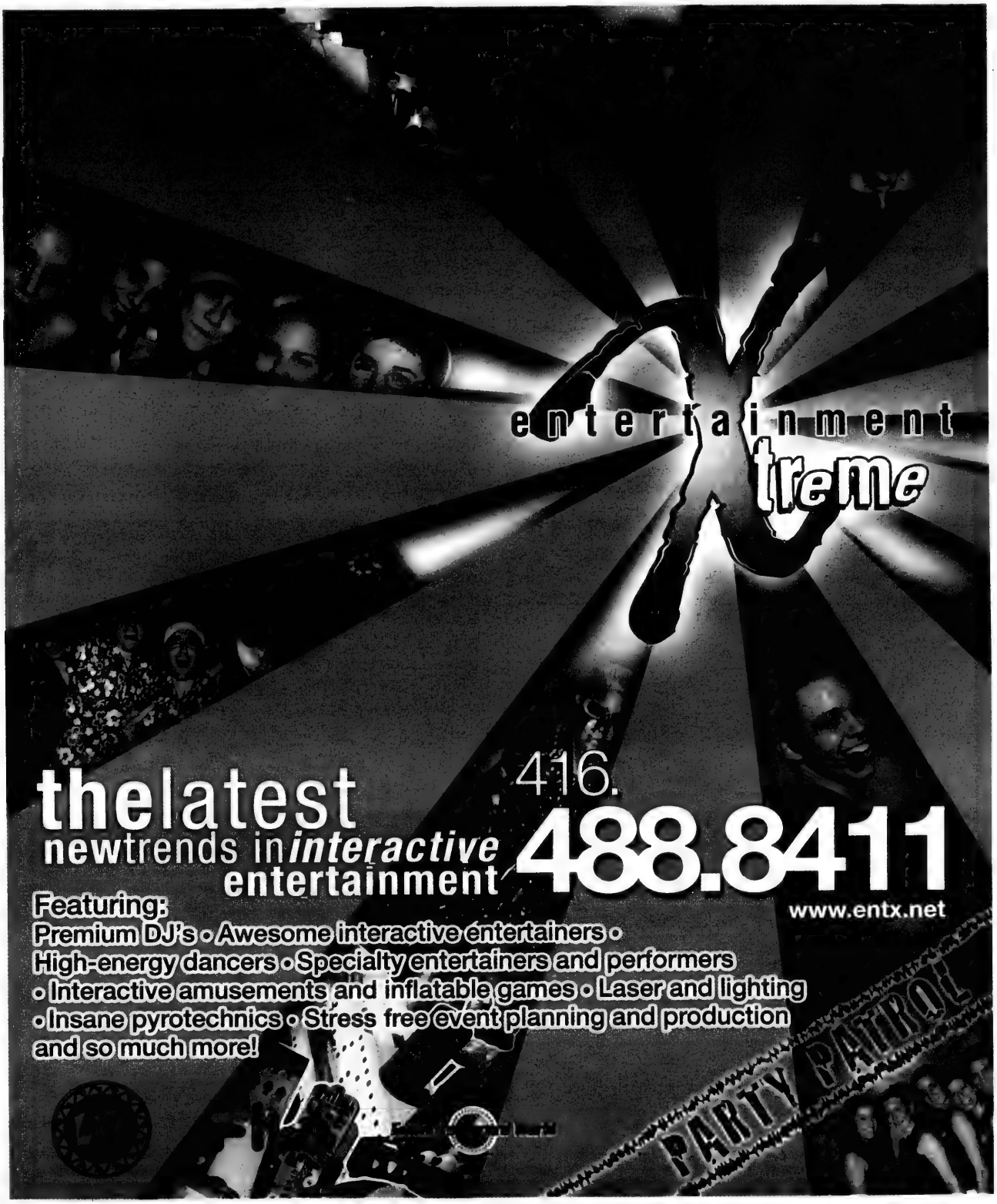
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PARTY PATROL

Linen company a pro at outfitting any party

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Linens, an important party of any party, shouldn't be overlooked.

Shauna Abikzir, who runs Premier Linens (905-737-3497) with her husband Justin, is a pro at outfitting any party with a variety of linens.

These include such items as chair covers, napkins, tablecloths and overlays (a chiffon sheer that is placed over tablecloths).

Established in 1999 and located at Bathurst and Elgin Mills, Premier Linens caters to a range of functions, including corporate events, weddings and bar mitzvahs.

"We have a huge variety of coloured linens, from white to loud, crazy colours," says Abikzir.

"We've got everything from pastels and primary colours to patterned cloths."

Abikzir is in tune with what's trendy.

"For bar mitzvahs, black linens with colourful splotches are the new craze."

For more elegantly-themed events, the most popular linens are gold and ivory.

"We just got in a silvery-purple colour and people really like it," she says with enthusiasm.

Abikzir's knack for colours and her ability to co-ordinate aren't the only things that make her company special.

"Our variety makes the company unique," she says. "Our service is personalized. We try to develop a good relationship with clients and we also provide them with ideas and advice to help them make decisions."

Book at least a couple weeks in advance

Prices are competitive, with floor-length damask tablecloths starting at just $12.

It's no wonder that Premier is so busy, especially from May to the end of December.

"We do hundreds of parties a year," says Abikzir. "We probably do 20 to 30 parties a month and this weekend we're doing 10! There's one day in June when we have 15 functions!"

To accommodate all her clients – even those who order linens last minute or double their order the day of – Premier carries double the stock in popular items.

"We're always getting new products and growing," she says.

Still, it's best to book at least a couple of weeks in advance of the event. The company can accommodate parties of up to 1,000 people. No doubt, this is something to keep in mind when planning a function.

Other rental places advertising in this supplement are: Chair Decor, Etc. (905-731-9217); Chair-Man Mills Inc. (416-391-0400); D & D D'Amato Party Rent-All (416-665-9570); Micki's Linen (905-738-1161).

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Toronto firms take home over half the awards

Continued from page B4

"It was quite an emotional week for the family," said McMurtry, who had a lot of trouble getting needed equipment out of New York. "The family was deeply saddened and moved, but they followed Guliani's advice and continued on."

Thankfully for "The Karens," as they're known in the industry, tragedy and disaster didn't stand in their way. Instead, Up & Coming Events took their enthusiasm and creativity and produced a visually beautiful wedding which, according to Jacobs, "was a magical night beyond perfection."

First time win for McMurtry.

Held at the Art Gallery of Toronto, guests entered onto a six-inch thick carpet of white rose pedals. As they walked toward the chupah, musicians of all varieties performed near the works of art. The chupah was created by hanging white sheer fabric from floor to ceiling and up-lighting it. Guests ate their dinner around square tables with centrepieces of hundreds of red roses woven into tree branches. Tea lights hung from the branches and bands of all genres of music played throughout the night.

"It was tremendously and logistically magnificent. It wasn't garish or overdone but tasteful and a dream come true," says Jacobs. "It was breathtaking."

After 13 years in business, the partners were happy to be recognized for doing something they love.

"This is somethig we do because we have a passion for it," says Garscadden. "Getting recognized is a round of applause. It's like getting an Academy Award."

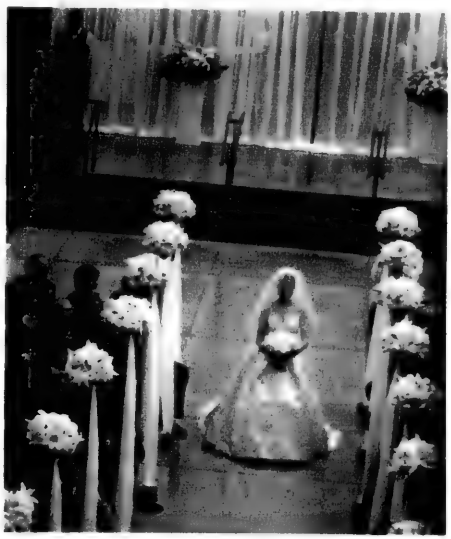
The staff at Bash Productions, almost a decade younger than Up & Coming Events, says this award has given them even more fuel to continue producing and growing.

"The fact that we were looked upon in that light makes us happy. In two years we were able to accomplish this. Now we want to go further," says Goldfarb.

McMurtry's company had been nominated twice before, but this was their first time winning. Clearly thrilled, McMurtry brought confetti poppers on stage and released them as he made his acceptance speech to the crowd.

"It was all quite impressive," says McMurtry about his acceptance shenanigans.

Stacy Wyatt, the editor of *Canadian Event Perspective Magazine* and founder of Stark Communications, which sponsors the awards, was particularly impressed with these three winners.



Up & Coming Events won for this "magical night."

"These three were all unique, talented and deserving," says Wyatt. "Bash Productions in particular was so young and what they did logistically was amazing."

The CEIA is a national awards program that isn't limited to members of any particular association. Companies must submit a lenghty and detailed package explaining the event they produced. There are 30 categories, including; outstanding achievement in special events, meeting managements, conference planning and exhibition management.

Overall, Toronto based companies took home half of the awards presented.

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Choose your venue well in advance of party

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

There are so many party venues nowadays that selecting the right one is a task in itself. But Joe Cosentino of the Columbus Centre (416-789-7011 ext. 298) and Ellen Waldman of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation (416-787-1631) can offer some helpful tips.

Before choosing, they advise consider what kind of setting you want: Extravagant or modest? Elegant or casual? And what guests are you inviting: Family? Friends? Business associates?

In Cosentino's experience, events often change tone part of the way through. Some corporate events begin like a sales meeting or seminar, then turn into a party. Other meetings stay businesslike throughout. And at a bar or bat mitzvah, while the ceremony is decorous, a party atmosphere holds sway later.

Consider factors like this before talking to your event planner, Cosentino urges, then have a session with your planner to hash through details. Look at venues far ahead of booking, using referrals to narrow the range, and when you meet the manager of a venue, bring your planner with you.

In large part, Cosentino sees himself as a consultant. "By the time you come to me, much of my selling work is done," he says. "That's why you're here."

This means you can devote your time with him to particulars, he says, so be organized enough to give him as much detail as you can – or at least some notes highlighting your priorities, or perhaps a bridal magazine checklist as a guide.

For a wedding, Waldman recommends booking a venue eight to nine months ahead. Cosentino advises at least a year for a wedding in a high-demand month like June. Likewise for a bar or bat mitzvah, but since birthdays aren't always in high-demand seasons, it may be easier to get the venue you want.

Waldman and Cosentino both place high value on flexibility. A locale that's suitable for any gathering, large or small, formal or intimate, will be able to serve you for future events, as well as the one you're planning now.

While the Columbus Centre is an Italian cultural centre, Cosentino takes pride in working well with different cultures and customs. Flexibility, for him, includes serving any size, or kind, of gathering, from 12 to 400. It might also include touches like using the centre's gym for a volleyball game after a corporate event.

Waldman cites the menu as an example of the importance of adaptability. It should appeal to kids, as well as adults – not just for simchahs like bar or bat mitzvahs, where the boy or girl is the honoured guest, but for any all-ages or family-oriented event. Also, it should allow for special dietary needs.

Cosentino and Waldman agree that repeat customers aren't only good for the venue itself. You – the host – will always be welcomed by people who have served you before and know your preferences.

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation

As a community institution, Waldman says, a shul is not only friendly, but family-oriented. Strong loyalties and continuity are conducive to good service, says Waldman, who has been a lifelong member of Shaarei Tefillah.

Other attributes to look for include friendly staff who give good, hands-on service, both Waldman and Cosentino advise. They should be knowledgeable and able to recommend professionals for services not available on site.

Easy access is another issue, Waldman adds. Shaarei Tefillah, for its part, offers the advantages of being easily accessible to travellers (near the 401) and the elderly (near Baycrest), as well as people with disabilities. Waldman recommends hiring security, which can be arranged through the shul.

Waldman also urges you to pay close attention to a hall's acoustics. For all the wonders of a state-of-the-art sound system, a hall designed before such systems were commonplace will likely be better built to carry both the music and the speeches.

As well, she advises, look for good basic decor that's tasteful but allows you to add your own touches.

Other food/where to party places are: Acqua Ristorante & Bar (416-368-7171); Baycrest Hospitality Services (Kosher) (416-785-2500 ext 2477); Beth Tikvah Synagogue (Kosher) (416-221-3433); Casa Loma (416-923-1171); Comedywood Uptown (905-761-0543); Delimark Catering (905-474-9930); The Fairmont Royal York (416-368-2511, ext. 2657); Hudson's Bay Catering (416-861-6138); Inn On The Park (Kosher) (416-444-2561); Four Seasons Hotel (Kosher) (416-964-0411); Liberty Grand (416-542-3789); Estates of SunnyBrook (416-487-3841); Match Bar & Grill (905-850-5699); Meron Banquets (905-669-0777); Ontario Science Centre (416-696-3150); Park Hyatt Toronto (Kosher) (416-925-1234); Pickle Barrel (416-493-4444); Regal Constellation Hotel (Kosher) (416-675-1500); Regency Banquet Centre (Kosher) (905-851-2325); Rose Lazar Catering (Kosher) (416-633-0344); The Royalton Banquet & Convention Centre (Kosher) (905-851-2325); Sam Firestone Caterers (Kosher) (416-782-8022); Scaramouche Restaurant/Pasta Bar (416-961-8011); Shangri-La Banquet Hall (416-475-6571); Toronto Centre for the Arts (416-250-3713); Spirale Banquet Hall & Ristorante (416-391-5888); Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre (416-597-9200); TriElm Catering (Kosher) (416-222-1230); Windsor Arms (Kosher) 416-971-9666).

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Interactive entertainment: no matter how high-tech, it's still about people

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

The phrase "interactive entertainment" is often linked with new technology. A computer game is called interactive, whereas passively watching a screen is not.

Ultimately, though, entertainment involves people, so it's really interactive when performers at an event get the guests to join in the fun. To make this happen, says Jian Magen of Magen Boys Entertainment (905-764-2100), you need a DJ who radiates positive energy. Erick Bouaziz of Starr Productions (905-707-8211) shares this view.

"An entertainer belongs out on the floor with the guests, not onstage or on a dance cube," Bouaziz says.

However, he cautions, an entertainer should do this without becoming the centre of attention. He's not the star; that role belongs to the host.

Look for a DJ with a track record, says Magen. Talk to friends with tastes similar to yours, find out what entertainers they've enjoyed, and then go see them in person.

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Bouaziz, who is booked into 2004, says that the sooner you book your entertainers, the better. Magen, who has bookings into 2005, agrees. Eight months to a year ahead is best, though he says he has some flexibility.

As to qualities you should look for, Magen ranks talent and service as tied for first place, "with talent just a bit ahead." He adds that the ability to improvise is important too, as are versatility and a wide repertory.

The bigger the event, the more an entertainer needs a whole range of qualities. Bouaziz stresses the importance of picking someone who has fun with the guests, is organized enough to know what's happening next, has good timing, and works well with other professionals such as the videographer and the caterer.

Your entertainers should never be idle, Bouaziz says. "We have no dead air," he says of his company. You don't want music during a speech, for example, but as a friend of the host stands up to say a few words, the musicians might play *That's What Friends are For.*

On Magen's list of priorities, novelties, gimmicks and fads come last. Granted, they can be fun, he says, and they add interesting effects. But if a DJ can't do without them, he's not a good DJ.

Nevertheless, some novelties are especially fun. Bouaziz mentions sky dancers – big dolls made of parachute material that dances as air moves through them; "flame blowers," – cloths that appear to be on fire as a fan blows air through them while lights play over their surface; and dance cubes lit up from inside.

The team of performers from Starr Productions.

Another visual effect Bouaziz likes is produced by a box truss set up around a dance floor. A lot like a tent frame, but with lights, it creates the effect of setting the room apart, making it a special place in its own right.

Continued on page B44

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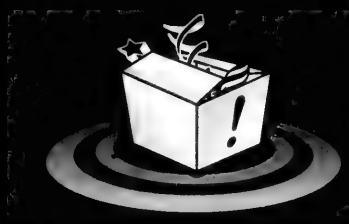

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TWIRLY PLAYING

For speeches that will do you proud, it's worth hiring a pro

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

We all know that elected officials and other public figures use speechwriters. Great speeches can move people, even nations, but how many of us have the oratorical skills of Abraham Lincoln or Winston Churchill? Moses himself, we are told, was no orator.

Nonetheless, you have within you the potential for a speech that will do you proud. This is the conviction of Esther Turner of Your Word'sWorth (905-508-7035; iwrite4u@pathcom.com) and Joanne Brodkin of Well Spoken (905-760-0073; jolebro@yahoo.com).

Their mission is to make that potential real.

Turner says selecting a speechwriter is a very personal process, and urges you to choose someone who will give you original, unique work. Brodkin agrees that every client is different. Some have good ideas but don't know how to articulate them. Some want to be funny, others are more serious.

A speechwriter, says Turner, should offer a free consultation in person, and show you samples as well as references. Rather than meet you at her office, she makes a point of going to your home, to get to know you more personally.

Joanne Brodkin delivers a Well Spoken speech

Turner thinks most people are afraid of the limelight; they'd prefer "strolling naked in a mall or overpaying Revenue Canada" to giving a speech. And simchahs are stressful enough as is. In her view, the way to deal with the anxiety is to be prepared.

People often treat speeches as something necessary but burdensome, to get through but not to be enjoyed. Turner and Brodkin want to change this "bad rap"; they treat speeches as integral parts of the event's entertainment.

As Brodkin says, "A speech should help set the mood and enhance a good ambience."

You have to grab the guests' attention right away, Brodkin says. To this end, she puts a high value on humour. It goes with a simchah, it makes it easier for you to relax and it's fun for the speechwriter.

At the same time, Brodkin adds, because a speech is in someone's honour, the jokes have to be respectful of the person and the event. Depending on the person, they shouldn't tease too much. Personal matters, Brodkin and Turner agree, must be treated with delicacy and taste.

Turner ascribes people's difficulty with speeches to their thinking that their lives are uninteresting. But, she says, the opposite is true: "There's a biography in everyone." She attempts to use insight and people skills to find her clients' essence – "the funny and the heartfelt" within a person – and embody this in the speech.

Continued on page B34

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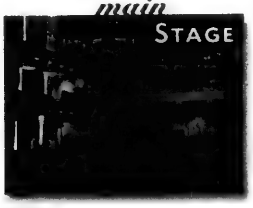

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PARTY PLANNER

Shopping for children doesn't have to be a chore

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

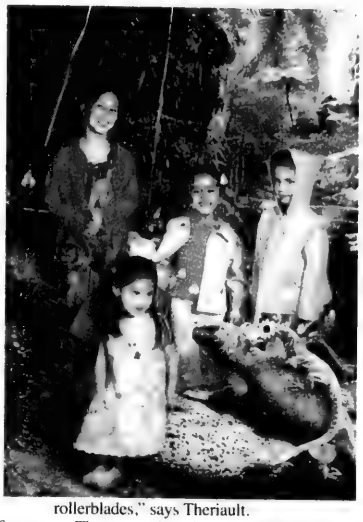
Shopping for children can be exhausting, as any parent knows.

Thankfully, Bon Lieu (416-963-9703) knows just what children need.

Since 1986, Bon Lieu has been making it quick and easy for parents to dress children for any occasion.

Located at 890 Yonge St. near Davenport, Bon Lieu carries a wide selection of imported children's clothing.

Whether they need an outfit to play in the park or are going to a black tie event, Bon Lieu has the clothing to suit it.



"We're a multi-banner store, which means we carry a lot of different makes," says store manager Nicole Theriault.

"We have casual clothes for going to school and we also carry suits and tuxedos in newborn sizes to size 18," she says.

Lacoste is a sporty/dressy make for boys. A make called "M" from France has a line of dressy clothing for boys, which is similar to Armani for men, explains Theriault.

"We have Mimi from Italy, which makes traditionally dressy clothes, such as pants, vests and shirts."

Similarly, for girls, clothes are imported from Europe.

"We have fancy party dresses from David Charles in England. We are the only ones in North America who carry a line called Taki-To, from Austria," she says.

And there's no need to worry about finding the right items and sizes on your own.

"We have expert staff here to help clients find exactly what they need."

Shoes are also a necessity for any occasion.

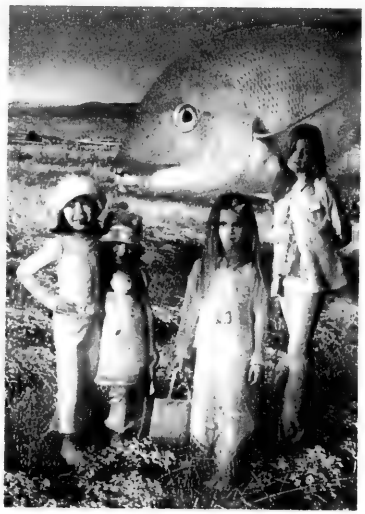
Luckily, the owner of Bon Lieu also owns a chain of children's footwear stores, called Petit Pied. One of these stores is located 2651 Yonge St., between Eglinton and Lawrence. Another is opening in Bayview Village in July, and yet another is located right next door to Bon Lieu.

"At Petit Pied, we have runners, rubber boots, sandals, slippers dress shoes and even rollerblades," says Theriault.

They carry them in European sizes 18 to 40.

With all this selection and convenience, shopping for children doesn't get any easier.

Other kids' clothing places advertising in this supplement are: Beatties (416-481-4459); Crawford Boys (416-782-8137); Zero 20 Bambini (905-851-6041).



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PARTY PLANNER

It is better to give than receive

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

Like Bubbie and Zaide say, giving is always better than receiving. However, who can honestly ever find the right gift to give? Thankfully, The Liss Gallery (416-787-9872) and The Earring Gallery (905-763-2210) have wonderful and creative gift ideas for any frustrated gift giver.

The Liss Gallery has two locations in Toronto, 978 Eglinton Ave. and 176 Yonge St. First started in 1983, the gallery promotes Canadian and international art. Specializing in contemporary fine art, original paintings, photography, sculpture and limited edition prints, according to Brian Liss it offers people very personal gifts.

"People are more comfortable buying art as a gift," said Liss. "Art used to be too personal to be bought as a gift, but now people like it because it is very personal."

The Earring Gallery has been in business for four years and is another venue where gift-buyers can pick up a personal gift.

"Earrings are all different, some are more modern than others," says Renne Ackermann of the Earring Gallery. "It's a very personalized thing. People should look for things that suit them, suit their style, suit their look."

Ackermann maintains her store is a unique experience for people who choose to shop there. The store specialize in earrings of 10, 14, 18 karat gold for adults, but they also have a kids' corner that appeals to young people.

Both businesses understand that gift buying is not easy for most people. Therefore, to combat a potentially frustrating time, each store has made a commitment to help out their customers to the utmost of their ability.

"Each person is walked through various sections of store," says Ackermann. "We try and understand the person they are buying for."

Liss says his workers also try to understand the person who will be receiving the gift.

"We first find out what the person is comfortable spending and then we try to understand their lifestyle," he says. "There truly is something for everyone here."

Each store must work hard to keep up with people's changing tastes. The Liss Gallery offers bas metal works, which use lasers to cut images onto steel. As well, they open their gallery on Eglinton up for private parties or one-man art shows.

Ackermann explained that her store offers the newest trend, Huggies – a small concept earring that actually hugs the ear so you don't have to use the painful bar in the back.

As well, in Ackermann's industry, things change quickly, with new styles being introduced all the time.

"Large hoops were not so popular four years ago, but now [they are] popular," she says of the changing trends. "Large chop earrings are also popular now. We really try hard to keep up with fashions."

Ackerman doesn't find it tough to keep up. By always sterilizing the earrings, she allows customers to try them on before they purchase them. This makes any confused consumer a little more comfortable.

> You should look for something that is meaningful

Liss, who says he loves art because it is so emotional, truly loves what he does and uses his passion for his work to sum up the true secret behind gift giving.

"We live in a world where it is challenging to buy a gift. You should look for something that is meaningful," he says.

People should follow Liss' lead and not just buy for the sake of buying, but truly think and pour their hearts into their purchases.

Other gifts places advertising in this supplement are: House of 10,000 Picture Frames, 905-889-4346; Laurentian Jewellers T.O. Ltd, 416-782-3588; Wynter Rosen Designs, 416-488-0619.

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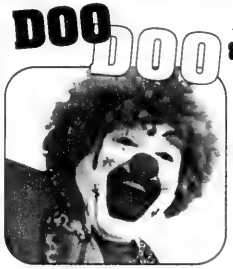
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For gentle fun, draw on Mark Ciale's talent

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

There are a lot of ways to add personal touches to your special event. Some of them are high-tech and complex; others are simpler, but just as much fun.

For caricaturist Mark Ciale (416-203-2514), the most fun is the drawing itself. Almost equal to the drawing is the pleased smiles of the party's guests.

A caricature, as Ciale creates them, is a likeness, but one with a humorous look that pokes gentle fun. A caricature is like a cartoon portrait in that it exaggerates salient features, but while a cartoon can depict an imaginary figure, a caricature has a real person for its subject.

Ciale studied fine art at Ontario College of Art (now the Ontario College of Art and Design), and respects formal art instruction, but he puts an even higher premium on "elbow grease." In his opinion, the best way to develop a skill is through application. Ciale has honed his skills through 13 years' experience, including five years at Ontario Place. An accomplished all-round artist, he also paints, and has had two gallery shows.

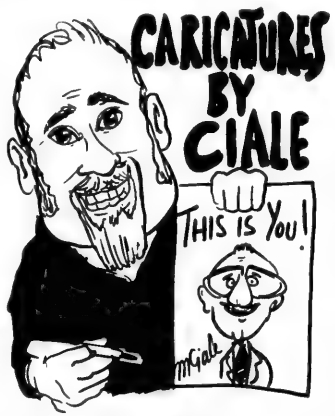
Now Ciale uses his skills mainly on the party circuit, working at events from bar and bat mitzvahs and receptions to corporate functions. You can see him at work at almost any size or type of event, from an intimate dinner with a dozen guests to a trade show with hundreds of participants.

Usually, the signing board at a bar or bat mitzvah has a photo of the boy or girl whose special day it is. Sometimes, these days, there's a caricature portrait by Ciale instead. People are starting to catch on to the fact that a caricaturist can play a special role at a simchah.

Any party with a large number of teenagers runs the risk of getting rowdy. At a bar mitzvah, a caricaturist offers a kind of fun in keeping with the event. Seeing him at work, young guests will stand still for a time and watch or talk to him, too absorbed to kick up their heels.

A caricaturist at a corporate event has almost the opposite effect, that of loosening things up. Everyone has suffered through the awkward stiffness that can take the fun out of such functions. A caricaturist, in Ciale's experience, can help people relax.

At one sales conference with people from all over the continent, for example, his caricatures were an ice breaker for people who had never met. Caricatures also make great office presents for going-away parties and other occasions.



A caricature will often include themes, for example, from sports or entertainment, that are favourites with the subject. Ciale treats these themes with humour: a dentist, for example, might be shown pulling teeth with a huge pair of pliers.

His caricatures of children are very gentle and affirming. With adults, Ciale is somewhat more satirical: they can take a bit more of being teased.

At first, some people are shy about having a caricature drawn: they don't want to be made fun of. Ciale's style is so gentle, though, that he's seen many shy people change their minds.

Ciale works very swiftly, completing 12 to 15 drawings in an hour. At this speed, every guest who wants one can get one.

A good caricaturist, he says, resembles any entertainer, in that he enjoys being in company. Since he's in the midst of the guests, he should also be personable, like to chat a little and be able to work without becoming distracted.

People often keep his pictures as souvenirs and frame them, Ciale says. In this way, his talent is its own best advertising: people show his work to their friends, who then spread the word. In addition to word-of-mouth, you can also book Ciale through an event planner.

Another caricaturist advertising in this supplement is Chris Klein, (416-391-3774).

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PARTY PLANNER

Flowers: Arrangements more conservative

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Bursts of creativity explode in her mind each time she approaches a new project.

That's just one of many things people love about Elaine Birnbaum, owner of Greenleaves and Petals (905-709-4080), located at Yonge and Steeles in Thornhill.

Established in 1983, Birnbaum and her staff create bridal bouquets and bouquets of fresh flowers, which can be ordered on their Web site (www.greenleavesandpetals.com) or picked up at their store.

But Greenleaves and Petals focuses on much more than just floral arrangements.

A graphic artist by training, Birnbaum also dreams up and delivers creative non-floral pieces including signage and candle lighting.

"We do centrepieces, balloons and backdrops, co-ordinate linens and provide chair covers," says Birnbaum, whose warmth and sincerity emanate through the phone.

"We like to transform the whole room."

In fact, she and her staff, which includes a multi-award-winning head designer, transform hundreds of rooms each year.

Whether they're providing a simple bouquet of flowers for an anniversary or event planning for corporate party, bar mitzvah, wedding or theme party, clients can be assured that Greenleaves and Petals won't disappoint.

"We like to maintain very high customer service," says Birnbaum. "We listen to customers, tailor our creations to suit anybody's budget and we follow through."

She has a philosophy that makes every client feel reassured.

"It's important to be able to provide everything to your customer, no matter what the size of their party or what their order. We make them feel like theirs is the one," explains Birnbaum.

"It's their special day."

As for trends, these days, flower arrangements and room décor are becoming more conservative.

"People are coming back to simplistic elegance. People are also celebrating more and more in their homes."

A floral arrangement by Greenleaves and Petals.

But simplistic elegance doesn't mean that every function looks alike.

"We're unique because we have a European flair," Birnbaum says. "No two functions are the same. We're very creative and we maintain a specialty with each client."

Busy year round, it's best to book well in advance, though Birnbaum notes that now, people are booking closer to their function.

"People like to look around and get a sense of what they want. Often, they don't know what they want until their function is around the corner," she says.

That's when Birnbaum can sit down with clients to discuss the event, and that's when the creative process gets underway.

Making sure that every event runs as planned, Greenleaves and Petals is well staffed, and Birnbaum likes to pop in at every function she's involved in.

That's the recipe for creativity and caring, all in one shop.

Other florists advertising in this supplement are: An Affair to Remember, (905-881-6686); Designs by Karen Baker, (905-886-8100); Toronto Florist Shop (905-764-6332).

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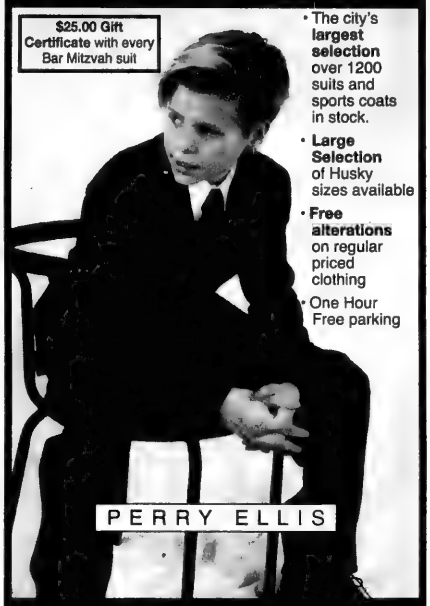

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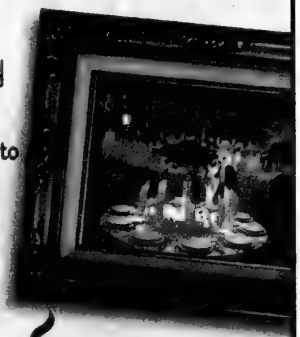

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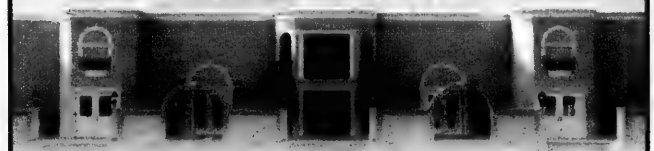

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Consultants can help prevent simchah headaches

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

The headaches, hassle and stress of planning a simchah can turn a happy time into one filled with aggravations. To prevent this, many people seek out consultants, who can help do everything from organizing the smallest task to planning an entire affair.

Judy Stein of Judy Stein Consulting (905-764-2728), Rickie Bessner from Rickie Bessner Party Planning (905-731-2005) and Marsha Baker from Cherry and Baker (905-764-7121) have been planning other people's parties for years and know what a good consultant can add.

"There is no course at York [University] that has party planning for Jewish weddings," says Stein with a laugh. "I am the insurance for a party. You are buying yourself the right to enjoy your party. It is peace of mind."

Baker agrees, saying she is "there to ensure that the party runs stress-free and smoothly."

Bessner says she is hired to ensure the simchah will be a hit. "I will worry about every last detail by making the family feel that they can rely on me."

After planning parties for as long as they have, the women have each experienced some party disasters in which they were needed to calm the situation.

Stein recalls one simchah where the ushers all fainted and another where she almost had to break up a fistfight between the florist and photographer.

Judy Stein [centre] of Judy Stein Consulting.

Continued on page B20

Sarah Cherry (left) and Marsha Baker.

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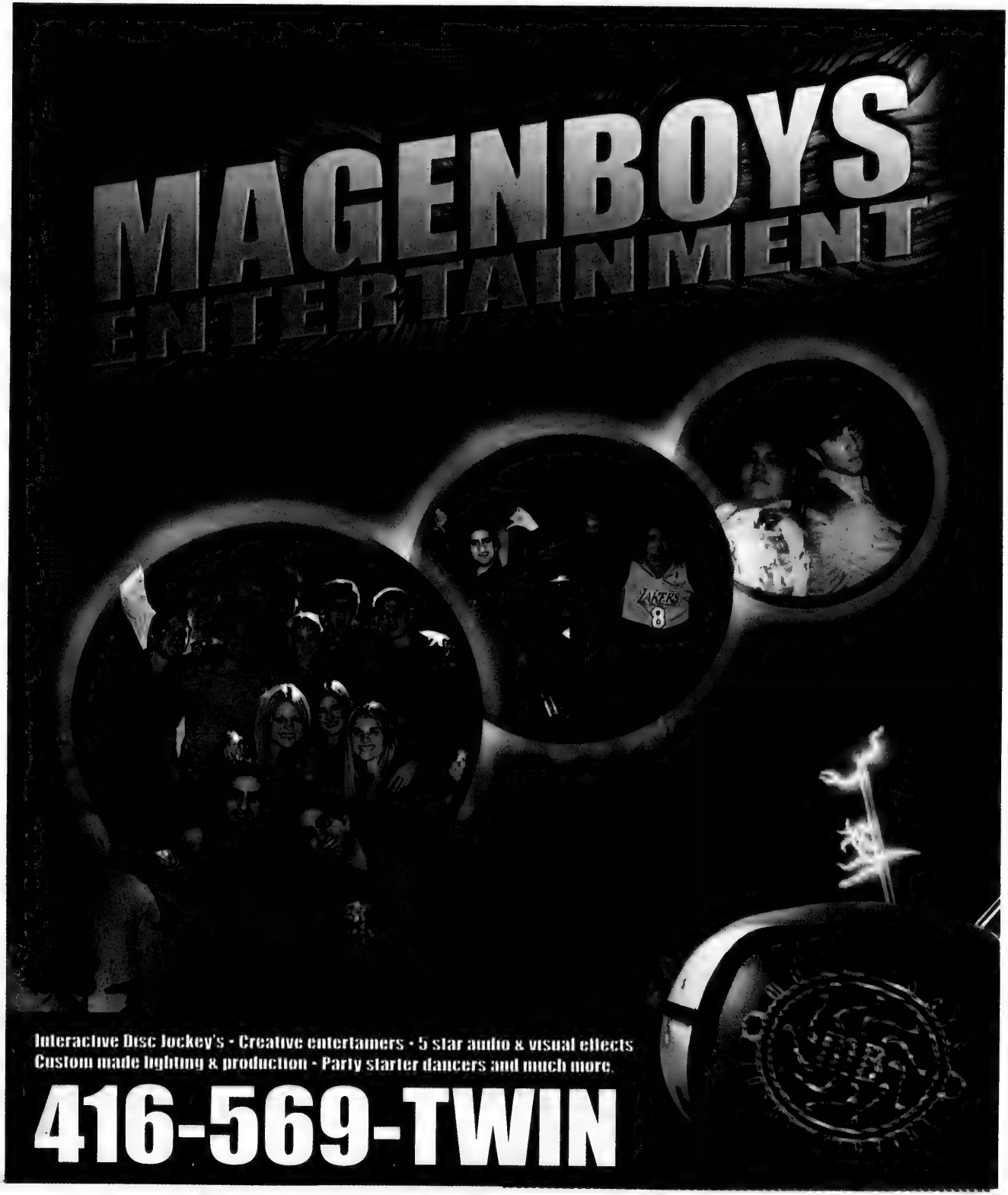
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Consultants help prevent simchah headaches

Continued from page B18

Baker says she once had a bridesmaid who couldn't find her dress, but, she says with a laugh, "we fixed it all and it all worked out fine."

Over the years, the party industry has changed to provide more options and choices to make each event different from the rest.

"It has grown by leaps and bounds," says Bessner, who has worked in many sectors of the party industry, including spending some time with a DJ company. "[The industry today] is more innovative and creative. There are new venues popping up everywhere and some of the facilities are just awesome."

Stein, who has been in the business for 24 years, says that, compared to years past, "there are not as many restrictions. Things are a lot freer and there is more experimenting.

"It used to be mothers that planned everything, but it's the bride and groom that do it now," she says.

"There is so much out there that people are almost intimidated," says Baker, a former makeup artist and mother of five daughters. "You don't have to feel compelled to do everything."

All three consultants agree that the secret to a being a good consultant is personality.

Stein says humour is really important when stress and emotions are running high.

"Most good consultants can read their clients," adds Bessner. "You become a friend and get to know people on a personal and private level. [You also have to] make sure you are both on the same page and you both click."

There are many consultants in the industry and Bessner urges people to shop around.

"You really have to find someone you like," she says. "Word of mouth and experience are important. Give yourself at least three choices."

Baker adds that people should interview their consultants and meet with different ones until they find one they are comfortable with.

"It is really important that they like me and feel comfortable," she says.

Other consultants/ party planners advertising in this supplement are: Bash Productions, 416-781-2787; Heidi Gruenspan, 905-738-5030; Marla Kay, 905-882-2042; Risa Gold, 905-882-5044; Jodi Sax-Molson, 416-525-3470; Shaindy Cohen Goldstein, 416-781-1064; Tamara Temes, 905-770-7977; Up & Coming Events, 905-886-8148.

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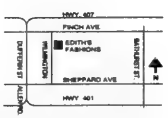


What to wear, what to wear?

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Finding a va-va-va-voom dress for that special occasion is often stressful. Luckily, there are some Toronto stores that take the pain out of shopping.

Two of them are The Emmanuel Bitini Fashion Outlet (416-782-3211) and the Ross Mayer Showroom (416-703-4361).

The Emmanuel Bitini Fashion Outlet on Orfus Road, owned by Andre Abitbol and his wife Miryam, has been named in Toronto Life magazine's shoestring guide for the past five years and carries a wide selection of clothing for women.

"We carry suits, dresses for special occasions, coats, tops and other everyday clothes," says Andre.

During the busy summer season, their stock includes a variety of formal wear, such as prom dresses.

"We carry a lot of designer names and we have the best selection in town," he says.

He says their prices are much cheaper than anywhere else and that customers can expect to receive 20 to 60 per cent off brand new merchandise.

Andre is also very proud of the outlet's service.

"We have excellent service," he says. "We have professional girls who help women pick out their clothes, coordinate outfits and help them find what they're looking for.

"If something doesn't look right we'll tell them to take it off. Our staff are very knowledgeable and our clients like that."

The store caters to a large Jewish clientele aged 16 and up, including professional women and those looking for clothes they can wear on a daily basis. Sizes range from 4 to 18.

There is an offsite seamstress who does alterations at "very reasonable prices" and she's located just two blocks from Emmanuel Bitini.

Ross Mayer, the owner and designer of the Ross Mayer Showroom, offers a host of women's clothing from their King and Bathurst location.

"We offer everything from day time wear, career suiting, cocktail outfits, bar mitzvah fashions and eveningwear," says Mayer, who designs a range of clothing from tailored pieces to knit sweaters to leather coats.

"I create wonderful designs with clean, simple lines using European fabrics. I'm interested in materials with texture and colour," he says, noting that he wants his clients to go away with unique outfits that can't be found in other clothing lines and stores.

"My best-selling suit is a little *Moulin Rouge* corset-inspired jacket with leather trim."

Paired with wide-leg cuffed trousers, clients will achieve a slick urban look they can wear to the office or a special function.

For the evening, Mayer offers a raw silk wrap-style vest with a long fish-tail evening skirt in a range of colours.

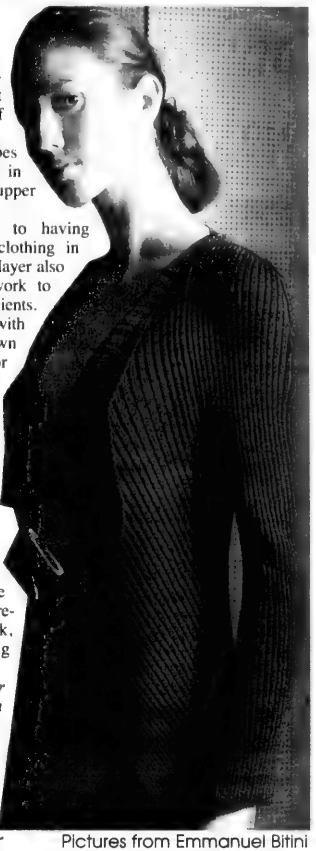
He describes prices as being in the mid to upper range.

In addition to having ready-to-wear clothing in sizes 2 to 16, Mayer also does custom work to accommodate clients.

"I can work with clients' own designs or remake existing designs in different sizes and materials. I also do bridal work that is simple, elegant and modern."

He says his staff are trained in the business and create a laidback, unintimidating environment.

Other women's fashion places advertising in this supplement are: Adele Wechsler (416-787-5768); Edith's Fashions for Better Clothing (416-633-4222)



Pictures from Emmanuel Bitini Fashion Outlet (left) and Ross Mayer Showroom (above).

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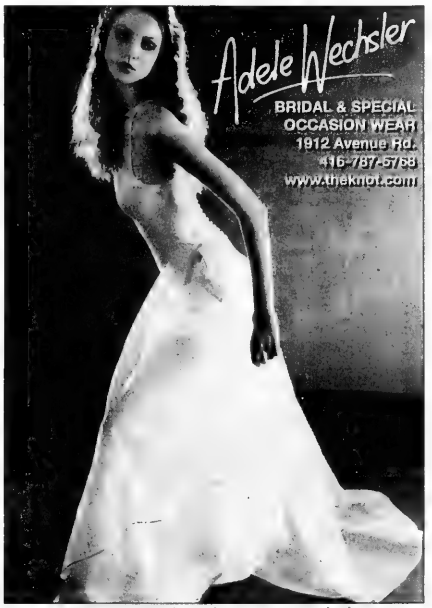

PARTY PLANNER

For a party band, love isn't enough

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Most musicians play because they love performing, says Mickey Lewin of The Ultimate Sound (905-881-7972), and he and Jordan Klapman of Klapman's Klezmer Band (416-588-0854) say they both enjoy their work. However, they both also insist that for a party band, a love of music isn't enough.

You don't want a band with ego, Lewin says. They're there for you and your guests, they're not giving a Skydome concert. Klapman says that empathy with your guests even outweighs talent. Experience and practice, he believes, can compensate for modest talent.

Consider your guests' ages and backgrounds, says Lewin. Kids and adults have different tastes; so do people of different backgrounds, like North Americans and Israelis.

Then, Lewin says, there's venue and tone. Is your event in a hotel? a shul? a garden? a backyard? Is it formal or casual? Klapman advises hiring a band that has played your venue before or is willing to scout it out.

Lewin and Klapman agree that your band should tailor their music to your event, be versatile and well-organized, and have experience in dealing with the unexpected.

A "road-tested" band, in Klapman's phrase, will readily overcome contingencies like power outages and sudden downpours.

Lewin emphasizes that your band should have backup musicians and never miss a gig. Never hire a band that overbooks, he says and make sure you know exactly who will work at your party. If they can't make your date, they should say no and refer you to someone else.

Get references, Lewin says, and then come see a show. Klapman also advises getting references, but has reservations about seeing a band perform live. When you crash a party, stand backstage or peep around a door trying to look unobtrusive, you can't listen attentively. And while you're there, the band might not play what you need to hear. If you need a dance band but can't stay after the cocktails, talk to someone who's heard the band at a dance. It's better to hire a band you heard at a simchah to which you were invited, while you were relaxed.

If the band has a CD or a Web site, check it out, Klapman says. The Internet can be much like hearing them live, whereas a CD offers a wider repertory, and lets you listen at leisure.

Lewin recommends hiring a DJ and a band through one company. This saves time hiring and simplifies logistics: you only need one sound system, and transitions from band to DJ are easier with one leader. And, he says, this way is less costly.

The mix of live and DJ music varies from party to party, Lewin says. At a bar mitzvah, you'll want a live band for the adults, and a DJ for the kids. Lewin says that in his experience, kids are very particular. If they have an exact song list, pick a band that will follow it.

Also insist on a good sound system, he says; many guests are sensitive to sound. Some bands own their system while some rent. You're better off selecting a band that owns and takes care of its system.

The music should never be so loud you have to yell, Klapman says. Even during the dancing, you should be able to talk with your guests.

As for when to hire a band, book them the moment you have a date, Lewin says: the sooner, the better. Remember that of the 52 weeks in a year, only about 30 are good: the others are too close to dates such as Jewish holidays.

A varied repertory, Lewin says, is more fun for band and guests alike, though most bands have specialties. While The Ultimate Sound plays many genres of music, their forte is Jewish, mainly Israeli and klezmer styles; they also have male and female singers and dancers.

Klapman's specialty is obvious, but he also likes standards with universal, lasting appeal that can be performed many different ways. It depends on the band, he believes, more than the song.

A band that interacts with guests, Klapman says, is more fun. He encourages requests, lets musicians among the guests sing or play a song on stage and likes to see people dance in the aisles.

Klapman links klezmer music's popularity to the roots revival in the larger community: people want to know their cultural origins. Roots music is simple in form, speaks directly to feelings and invites participation.

On the other hand, Klapman says, just playing old songs in old ways would make the music very stiff. Keeping the tradition alive means preseving the roots yet letting the branches grow.

Other bands advertising in this supplement are: Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo, 416-693-8778; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment, 416-225-6977; Fabulous Harvey Seigel Band, 416- 782-9202; Hu-Tsa-Tsa, 416-651-7521; Joanna Jordan/Clazz Musical Productions, 416-967-4277; Joe Star Band, 905-881-1378; Kory Livingstone Band, 905-669-0728; Matt Pines Band, 416-234-5500; Nu Rhythm Sound, 905-882-5044; Paul Zurin, 905-770-3084; Larry Rodness, 416-650-5858; Rhythm Kings, 905-882-5044; Mark Selby, 416-784-1554; The Sky's Band, 416-565-1620; Rick Levine Band, 905-881-6400; Lori Viola, 905-773-4391.

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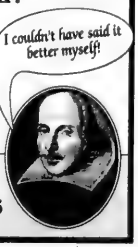

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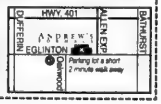

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Caterer gives customer full attention

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Looking for a catering company that can dish out any meal and solve all your menu dilemmas?

Look no further than Caterers York/Sweet York Desserts (416-783-4293) and Fine Touch Catering (905-889-2690, ext. 2117).

Owned by Sharon Firestone and Bill Batista, Caterers York and Sweet York Desserts can put together menus and devise desserts for any occasion, whether it be a wedding, bar mitzvah, corporate party or engagement party.

For instance, appetizers on a sample menu include butternut squash soup, sushi and antipasto, while main course menus feature Peking duck with berry chutney, fillet of beef, salmon or chicken breast in phyllo with wild mushroom jus.

The dessert menu is just as diverse and delicious. It includes mouth-watering items, such as crêpes, truffles and chocolate mousse tortes, to name just a small sampling.

"We create the whole meal, including desserts, the sweet table and the wedding cake. We keep current and are always sure to keep up with the latest trends," says Firestone, whose father began the business in 1955.

Owned by Allan Brearley, Fine Touch Catering is located in the Reena Foundation Building on Clark Ave. near Bathurst St. The three-and-a-half-year-old company caters to corporate parties, engagement parties, weddings at a home and Shabbat dinners.

"This Friday night we're catering to a Shabbat dinner for 100 people and people are always coming in on Fridays to pick up meals for their Shabbat dinners," says Brearley.

He says that clients are very health-conscious these days, and he's come up with a variety of delicious dinners that fit the bill.

"Our grilled dijonnaise chicken is barbecued and roasted. It's lean and very popular."

So is his maple smoked chicken, also barbecued and roasted. And starting in June, kosher sushi will be on the menu.

Acting as the onsite caterer of Reena and with all his offsite jobs, Brearley is always on the move.

So is Firestone. As the in-house caterers at Beth Tzedec synagogue and one of the caterers at the Pride of Israel and Beth Tikvah, Firestone is always busy. She also caters house parties and arranges for much more than just food.

"We also figure out what rentals are needed and we order everything, including chairs and tables," she says.

Wait staff are also provided.

Every party gets their utmost attention, says Firestone, from the initial meeting when the menu is discussed to the day of the event.

"We're always on site and very involved," she says. "There isn't anything we wouldn't do to make sure the party is a success, even if we pitch in and wait on tables. We treat every event as if it was a party for ourselves."

Prices range depending on the menu. Clients can book through the synagogue, and some book up to a year in advance.

Clients are health-conscious and Caterers York accommodates this.

Caterers York offers retail desserts by order. Custom-made cakes require 48 hours notice while special order cakes require 10 days to two weeks advance notice.

No doubt, this company, which caters to parties as large as 500 people, is unique.

"Our company is special because we've been in existence a long time and our reputation stands for quality," says Firestone.

Fine Touch Catering is special as well.

"We aim to please, we're easy to get along with and we take into account the special needs of clients," Brearley says.

"Our food is good, our service is good and our menus are different than what people are used to seeing at other kosher caterers."

He says his prices are very reasonable.

No matter which of these caterers you choose, your party is sure to be a sweet success!

Another kosher caterer advertising in this supplement are Miriam's Table Catering (416-633-6554).

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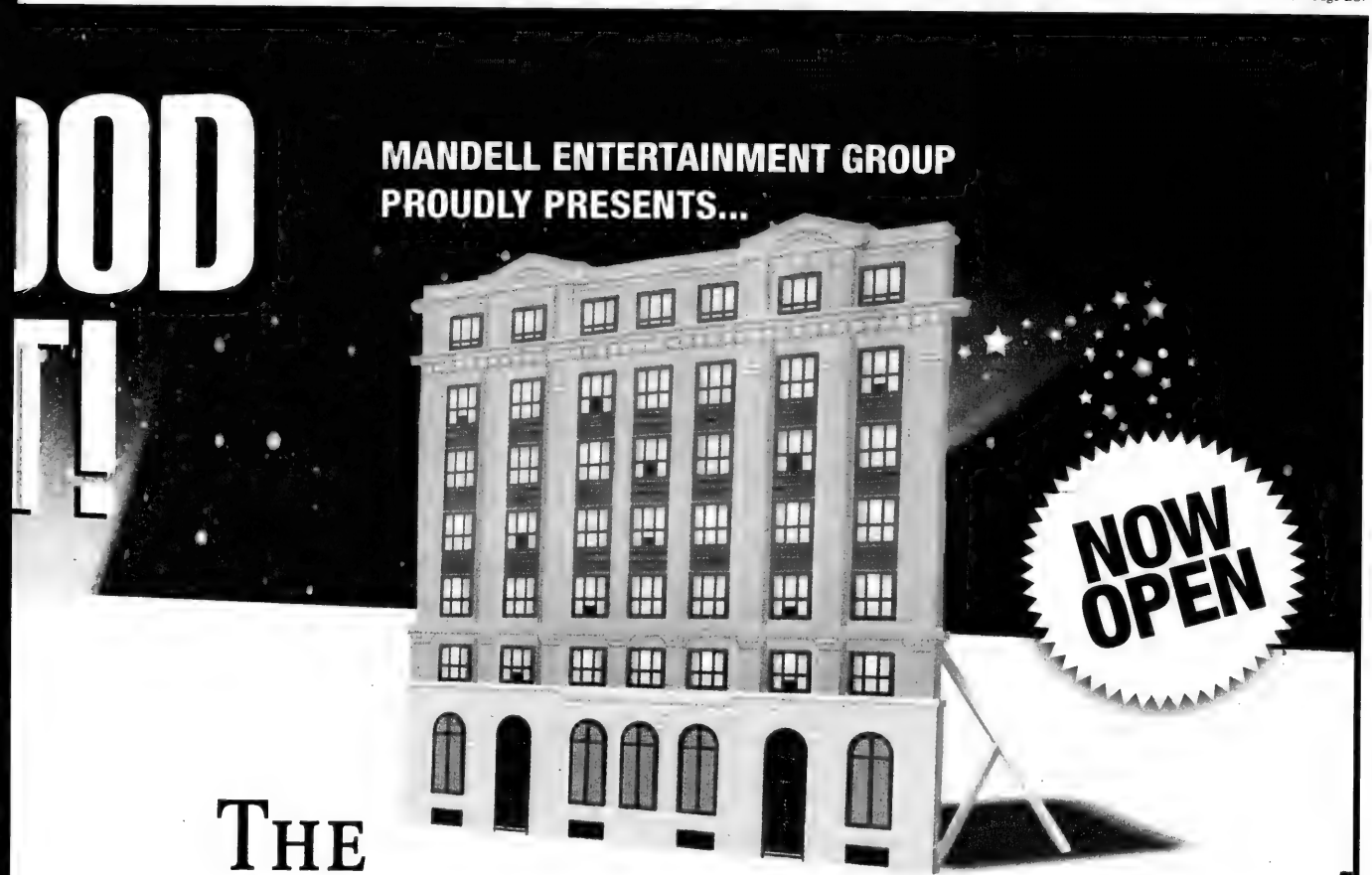

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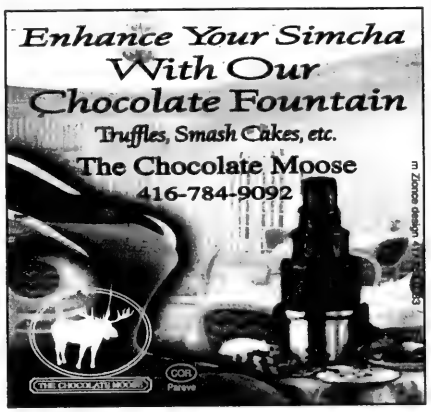

Party supplies are 'the finishing touches'

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Whether it's a light show, a life-size balloon structure or a cotton candy machine, some of the most memorable simchahs are the ones with great party supplies.

Sam Cohen of Balloon Bash (905-707-8177) and Jack Schnoll of Kosher 'N Natural (416-789-7173) both try to add that extra special something to a party.

"We are the finishing touches on a party," said Schnoll of his business that in 20 years has grown from a small candy store to a business offering kosher candy, snow cones, cotton candy, centrepieces and balloons. "It is the extra, the cherry on top."

Cohen, a certified balloon artist (CBA) who has completed a comprehensive certification program to become a member of the U.S.-based Qualatex Balloon Network, says balloons are "extremely" important to a good party.

"Balloons are vibrant, they fill the room and provide colour motivation. They are very necessary."

Cohen once created three giant motor vehicles out of balloons: a motorcycle, Porsche and a Sea-Doo. Altogether, they "totalled well over 10,000 balloons," he says proudly.

'We listen to you and go out of our way to be really flexible'

Schnoll says there are no rules to follow when thinking about party supplies.

"It is all about personal preference. Everyone has their own taste," he says.

Nevertheless, he highlights a trend called "smash cakes," a slab of cake that you can smash and then use the tiny pieces for dessert on a dessert table.

Both companies try to keep things as simple as possible for people planning their parties.

"We try to provide a one-stop shop," Cohen says of his balloon company. "We try to cater to them, so they get as much as possible. We do everything."

Scholl echoed Cohen's remarks.

"We listen to you and go out of our way to be really flexible," he says. "We are out there to please."

Party supplies are always in high demand, so Cohen recommends that people come and visit him at least three months in advance.

Schnoll says that he is already booking for April 2003.

Other one-stop party supply stores advertising in this supplement are: Dominion Smallwares (416-665-9526); Tyme to Party (905-737-2789).

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PARTY PLANNER

Mandell keep getting bigger – and better

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Mandell Entertainment Group (905-886-4000) is in the midst of a major expansion program.

In April, the 11-year-old the company opened a new banquet facility – the York Theatre on Eglinton Avenue near Yonge Street. The three-storey facility has a 1600-person capacity and can seat 500 people for dinner.

In May, Mandell also purchased The Prop House, a 40,000-square-foot facility that specializes in film and television sets and props that can be used for different theme parties.

Now called The Prop Factory, it's the largest prop company in Canada, says Corey Mandell, president of Mandell Entertainment Group. "There's 40,000 square feet of unbelievable stuff. We have anything from the set of *Moulin Rouge* to *Star Trek*.

"We have life-size Oscars. We can design the exact set of the Oscars. We could bring the magic touch of Hollywood to any type of party."

Other props include life-size bears and tigers, rickshaws, palm trees, grass huts, horse and carriages and towns from old-style westerns.

Located at King Street and Dufferin Road, The Prop Factory can be viewed by appointment by calling the prop master at 416-588-7725.

"The large scale props and theme sets brings us to a whole new level of event decorating."

In addition, Mandell says the company will be opening up its Event Gallery for showcasing event themes. "The large scale props and theme sets brings us to a whole new level of event decorating."

Mandell also announced that he is teaming up with his brother Jeffrey Mandell, a lawyer with an MBA, in this latest and other ventures.

Corey Mandell

And there are more changes in store for Mandell Entertainment. The company will soon be moving its headquarters from Richmond Hill to Avenue Road and Bloor Street. The new location will be directly above the venue of its next big venture – a restaurant and bar slated to open by the end of August.

Mandell envisions the restaurant as a modern lounge. "We'll be holding some intimate events there."

This will be the third party venue for Mandell Entertainment. The company also runs the Capitol Event Theatre at 2492 Yonge St. The restored art deco building can hold 600 to 800 people and can seat 250 for dinner.

"It's a great place to host events," says Mandell. "The community loves the Capitol because we saved the original integrity of the building."

The entertainment company founded by Corey Mandell in 1991 has come along way since it early days when it offered an interactive DJ service using a handful of DJs.

Today Mandell Entertainment is the country's largest DJ company. It has a staff of 350 people, from dancers and DJs to administrative staff for its many divisions. Mandell offers interactive DJ packages – with two DJs – that can be expanded to include dancers, as well as lighting and special effects such as fireworks and dry ice.

The amusement division MEGA: (Mandell Entertainment Group Amusements) rents out inflatable games, obstacle courses and inflatable water slides, and novelty food machines such as candy floss and snow cones. The rental includes an attendant.

The company also offers dance classes to the public for children and adults.

There are also private break dancing private classes, says Mandell. "Families come in before parties to learn routines."

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In men's fashions, it's ascots and sharpaes, baby

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

For some, the most rewarding part of a party is dressing up, looking great and feeling even better.

Nick Alampi of Andrew's Formal Wear (416-783-8181) and John Strauss of Stars Men's Shop (416-650-1404) have been making ordinary people look smashing for years.

"I truly believe that when you look good, you feel good," says Strauss. "It makes me feel good to help people. You are kind of like a doctor, you are helping people feel good."

Alampi says he likes "helping people with their one perfect day. I like taking their vision or idea and putting it together.

"I love it when the groom sits back and looks at himself and really likes what he sees."

In the fashion industry, trends come and go and new looks are introduced every day, so both men keep their clients on top of style.

"Colours are really hot, neutral tones are hot," says Strauss, who has 21 stores across Ontario. "People are starting to dress up again. They really want to understand what elegance and business casual are."

Strauss adds that men are gravitating towards coloured dress shirts, pants without pleats, soft jackets, microfibres and four-button suits.

Alampi notes some other trends.

"Some of the latest fashions and newest and coolest looks are [in] ascots, the English version of a tie," he says, adding that "it's more puffy than a regular tie… almost like a scarf."

In terms of jackets, Alampi says the latest look "is a three-quarter length coat, which looks almost like a trench coat."

While Alampi says more traditional ties and knots will never go out of style, he notes there is a new kind of tie known as the "sharpae," which resembles traditional knots but is more crunched and wrinkled at the top.

Regardless of styles, it is never easy picking a suit, nor is it easy to drag a groom to the store, which is why both Andrew's and Stars have a strong focus on customer service.

"People come in, they sit down and they have an espresso or a cappuccino. We talk and give them friendly advice," Alampi says of his 35-year-old, family-run store. "When we talk, we know what to look for. When their personality comes out, we know what their true look will be."

Customers at Alampi's store can also enjoy watching a satellite television feed while they shop, and youngsters, or young-at-heart adults, can play video games on the store's Nintendo system.

Strauss stresses that his salespeople are well-trained and intelligent and know what questions to ask.

"When you come here you know there is someone who will care about you," says Strauss. "We are there to help the customer. We go out of our way to make you comfortable, so you have a good feeling and good value."

Whatever suit you choose, Alampi advises all customers to "wear what they feel comfortable with, be daring, be bold, but most importantly, be happy."

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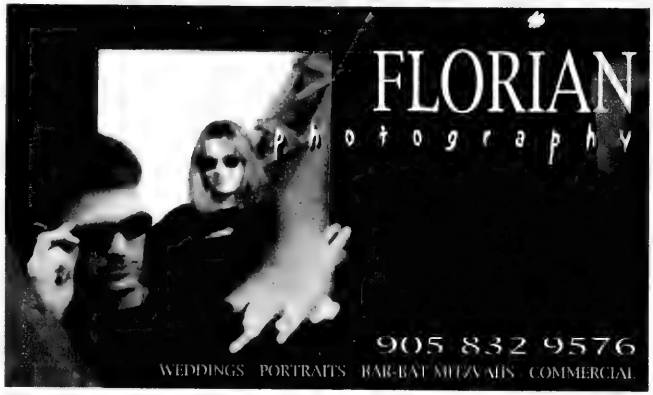

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NON-MEMBERS WELCOME

Party decor: anything goes as long as it's tasteful

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to the CJN

Party decor is no longer predictable: as long as it's safe and tasteful, anything goes.

Dean Northcott and Eldon Deroche's Bending Machine (416-530-2440), and Tammy Heisel's Artistic Creations (416-630-0750; www.tammyswebsite.ca), have benefited from this trend. Northcott was nicknamed "Dean, Dean, the bending machine" by the man who taught him to bend the tubes used in neon lighting. Hence the company name.

To create neon lighting, a tube is coated with phosphorus – light hitting different kinds of phosphorus makes different colours – and filled with neon gas. Electricity lights it up. Fluorescent light is neon with a wider tube and white light.

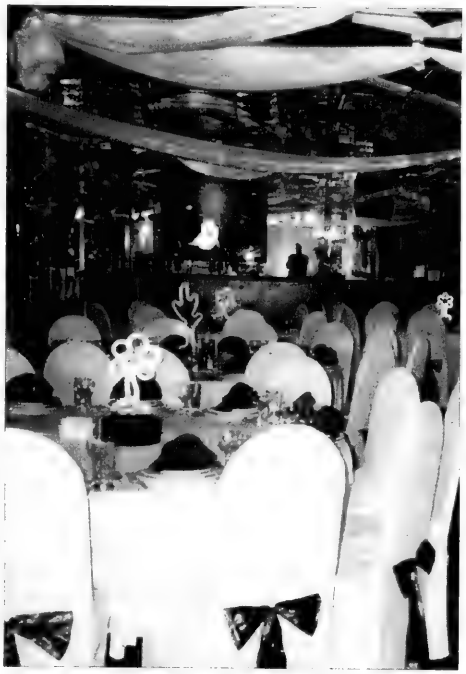
If the power's off, you can't tell what colour a tube produces. What's inside seems coated with white, so each tube is marked with a dot showing its colour. In the '70s, when neon only came in three or four colours, the advent of backlit signs seemed to spell its demise. No longer the malevolent "neon god" of Simon & Garfunkel's 1960s song *The Sounds of Silence*, it became a nostalgia object, snatched by collectors as fast as storekeepers dismantled it.

Today, neon is back. While the cumbersome old instllations were usually stationary, the new 12-volt transformers are so small that the tube slots into an 8x5-inch base as big as a cookie tin. All the equipment can fit in a crate and delivered to your party.

And the tube glass now has pigments for purer, brighter colours, in a wider variety. This, combined with the possible shapes of bent glass, opens up potential for neon as a medium of sculpture.

After five years in business, The Bending Machine has shapes for many themes: musical symbols, sports equipment and a magician's hat with a hand waving a bouquet of flowers. There are Jewish holiday items as well. The Bending Machine will make shapes to order.

Continued on page B47



The Bending Machine: Bending neon lights to order.

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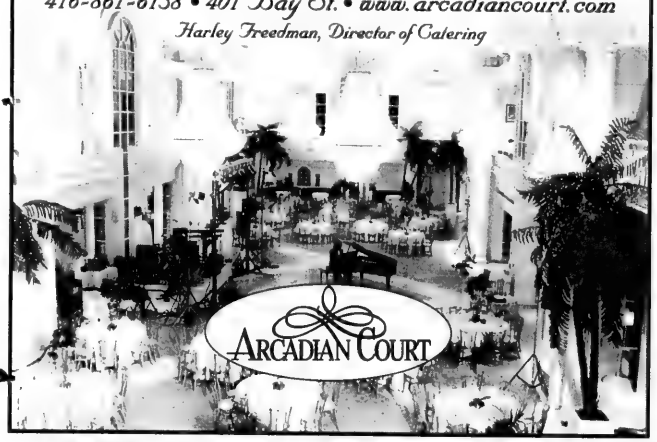

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PARTY PLANNER

Let these guys jump start your party

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

People often hail the advantages of hiring experienced party professionals, and they're right, as far as they go.

Sure, a company with staying power and a long list of repeat clients must be doing something right. But isn't there a danger they'll be set in their ways? What works for a person who likes the tried-and-true might not turn you on if you want a blast of fresh air.

One advantage of younger professionals is that they *haven't* earned their laurels yet. To prove themselves, they have to work harder, and smarter. The fewer gigs they have under their belt, the harder they have to try to get the next one.

Maybe your best option is to strike a balance of youth and experience.

There are plenty of entertainers and other professionals in their 20s and 30s, who are young enough not to be set in their thinking but who have done enough good work to be in the process of earning a good name.

Partners Sandor Nyman and Lorne Rapkin of Jump Entertainment (416-665-4103, www.jumpspecialevents.com), are young, with a fresh outlook and lots of original ideas. At the same time, they have 12 years of combined experience.

They can do "anything and everything that has to do with music," says Nyman. They want to branch into every sector of the business, combining promotions and entertainment. Their other company is Jump Promotions.

Sandor Nyman

Versatility is important. Even entertainers with a specialty can benefit from bringing in ideas from outside their field.

Jump Entertainment will play every kind of locale, from hotels and nightclubs to camps and shuls, as well as every kind of event, from bar mitzvahs to product launches.

They can bring in elevated dance floors and will work with dancers, comedians and singers, as well as themes and costumes.

Keeping your guests dancing and laughing for hours on end is a high-energy job, but Jump is a high-energy outfit.

"There's no stopping us," Nyman assures potential clients. "Let us jump into your next event."

Often, along with a DJ, Jump will have two MCs on the floor, mixing with guests and having fun.

Lorne Rapkin

Nyman and Rapkin like to see guests having a good time while they perform. But Jump won't be the stars: you will. If you, your family or your closest guests want to be in the dance or chorus routines, Jump welcomes you.

"If Jump has a good time," says Nyman, "your guests will have a better time."

Since you and your guests are there to enjoy the party, you'll want professionals who can take some of the organizational tasks off your hands. Free of charge, Jump will help co-ordinate your entertainment, and they'll do all the co-ordinating at a discount rate.

Whatever you need, be it a karaoke machine or security guards, Jump can arrange it. And at each party, they give away 10 free promotional prizes.

If budget is a consideration, Jump offers what Nyman calls "high-end entertainment for a relatively modest budget".

Book as far in advance as you can, Nyman advises. Being new, Jump has some open dates, but they're filling up, some as far ahead as 2005.

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Speeches are an integral part of party's entertainment

Continued from page B12

Neither Turner nor Brodkin ask clients to prepare anything specific, except Turner asks for help in drawing your family tree, so she's familiar with the key people and their connection to you. She adds that it's useful for her to have a copy of the basic agenda for the party, which your planner can provide. All Brodkin asks is that you have a general idea of what you want in your speech, such as a theme, and of the tone you're looking for.

Look for someone who puts you at your ease and helps you develop your ideas, both Turner and Brodkin advise. And be open to suggestion and professional advice. For Turner, her work includes a rehearsal so you can deliver your speech flawlessly.

Word'sWorth's Esther Turner

Both Turner and Brodkin believe in adapting to your needs. Brodkin will write your entire speech, or improve on yours. Turner writes speeches for everyone if you want, including the MC; she will also co-ordinate music with speeches, or even script the entire evening.

As with any other professional, experience and reputation are essential qualities. Turner calls her work "a Catch-22 profession since ghostwriters rarely get referrals." However, she does get long-term repeat clients as families pass through milestones from births to anniversaries.

Brodkin, too, has plenty of experience. Though Well Spoken is a new company, she has been a public speaker for years as part of her community work, and was vice-president of Women's FEDERATION CJA in Montreal.

Suppose you don't decide until fairly late that you need a speech writer? It's never too late, Turner says, but she suggests booking six to eight weeks before the party, around the time you mail the invitations. Brodkin says a month is sufficient.

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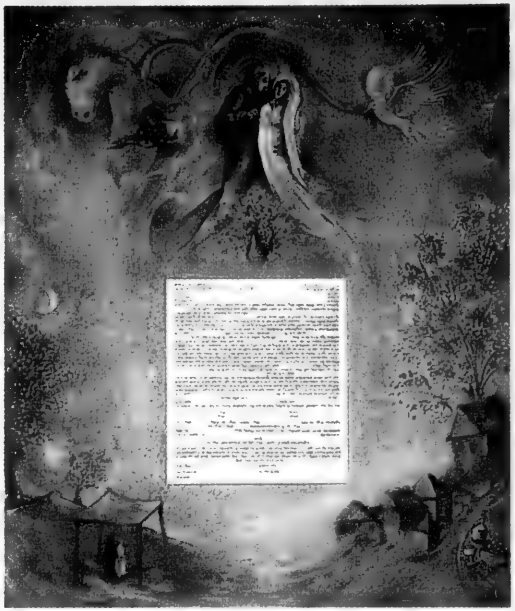
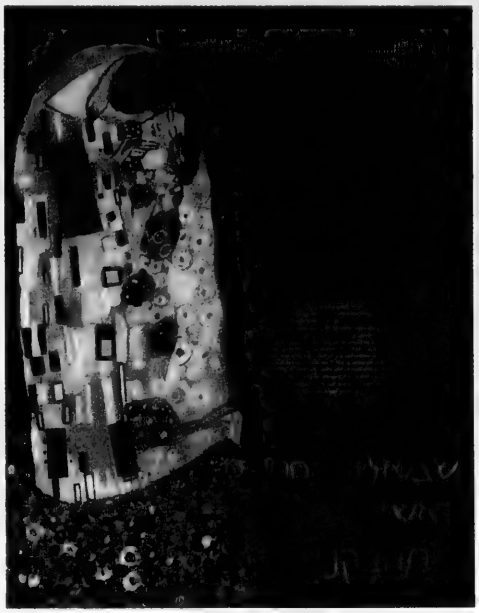
THE KETUBAH: A TRADITION REVIVED



LEFT: This extraordinary piece, Tradition II, is a collaboration between well-known artist and Toronto native Howard Fox and Susan Gold who penned the calligraphy. The design pays homage to the work of Marc Chagall, who depicted the Jewish world in a palette drenched with color. The ketubah depicts a wedding couple embracing, sharing in their mutual joy, accompanied by a single violin.



LEFT: Lovers "Homage to Klimt : The Kiss" by Stephanie Adler.

Please see story on page B36

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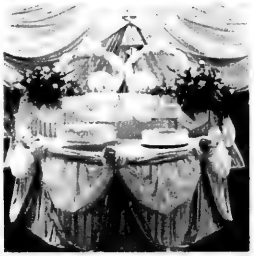

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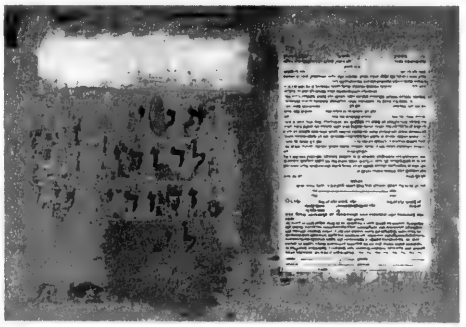
THE KETUBAH: A TRADITION REVIVED

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

In legal and religious terms, says Michael Shapiro of Ketubah Ketubah, a ketubah is a written marriage contract that has been part of Jewish tradition since at least Babylonian times. But it can also be a work of art.

While there are some extant medieval examples, most date from the last few hundred years. Until 20 or 25 years ago, the art of the ketubah had declined.

"My grandparents," Shapiro recalls, "didn't have an artistic ketubah. But now the artistic, even handwritten document is coming back." So is the illumination and ornament which once was so much a part of the tradition.



These ketubot are by Stephanie Adler.

As befits a marriage agreement, images from the Song of Songs are popular. However, there are no set requirements or limitations on style, beyond those of decorum. There are motifs, designs and images for every taste, ranging from Chagall to Klimt, from the Middle Ages to Art Deco.

Shapiro admits that not every ketubah from the time of hand-written manuscripts was a work of art. Indeed, some were nearly illegible. But while printing brought easier reading, it also took away from individuality and artistic expression.

Ketubah Ketubah is playing a role in reviving the art form. The company offers about 200 different designs, into which the artists have put a great deal of love and care.

Most of what the company sells is original and hand-designed. Usually, the artist produces an edition of a certain number of copies. Silkscreen and lithograph are common media and a few ketubot are made entirely by hand.

Giclee printing, a product of computer technology, keeps the legibility of print, while making the document look individually crafted, not like a form with blanks to fill in. Once the names are written in, text is lined up evenly, so that there are no extra-wide gaps or passages with cramped letters.

As to the text itself, rabbis have strong preferences, so before you choose your text, Shapiro urges you to ascertain what your rabbi wants.

The traditional Orthodox ketubah goes back centuries – some say to Talmudic times, about 200 CE. It was designed to provide for the woman in the event of marital breakdown, in an era when women were not considered equal, and had fewer rights than men.

This text speaks of a certain number of silver pieces. While a student of economics and archeology could translate this amount into today's money, what really counts is the principle of providing for the woman.

The Conservative text is almost identical to the Orthodox one, but adds what is called the Lieberman clause. A safeguard against a woman becoming an agunah, it stipulates that should the marriage break down, the man must give the woman a get. Some Orthodox rabbis, instead of altering the traditional text, make the same stipulation in a side agreement.

The Reform text is egalitarian: the man and the woman make identical commitments to one another. Canadian Reform rabbis have a standard version that includes a clause to address the issue of agunot. Ketubah Ketubah has a wide range of designs with this text.

Both the Orthodox and Conservative ketubot are in Aramaic, with some Hebrew. The Reform text is in modern Hebrew.

While Ketubah Ketubah is a Canadian company, it is also known throughout the United States. You can call 416-963-9191 to schedule an appointment, but to help make your selection, look first at the company's Web site at www.ketubah.com.

Also, if you live in Toronto, you can visit and look at samples. For a in-stock design that can be customized to your needs, come at least two to three months ahead. But if you want a totally handwritten ketubah, come earlier, Shapiro says.

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'Relive the party through the video'

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

The spirit of a great party should last a lifetime. Yet, as we get older, the aura definitely begins to fade and the images become a little foggy. Thankfully, a good videographer can create a video that ensures you will always recall those special simchahs.

Redstone Pictures: From left: Stan Endersby, Richard Saunders and Martin Smith.

Brian Korson of Video Excellence (905-731-4355) and Richard Saunders of Redstone Pictures (416-256-4666) know all about capturing the essence of a party.

"You can relive the party through the video," says Korson, who started Video Excellence 19 years ago.

Saunders also believes in the power of video.

"The video can take people back to that special time. It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," he says. "It keeps the function alive."

Saunders says he often hears stories of grandparents bringing their videos to Florida with them. This helps the families stay together and remind them of happy times, he explains.

However, it takes a good videographer to capture the true feeling of a party and Saunders explains what it takes to be at the top of his trade.

"You need to be heads-up and attentive. You must anticipate things," he says. "You should have years of experience and have been in a lot of different situations."

Both videographers try hard to not interfere with the party by remaining on the periphery.

"We are unobtrusive and dress all in black so don't draw attention to ourselves," says Korson.

Saunders says the greatest compliment is being called by the client the day after a party to ask whether he got everything, because the client didn't see him all night.

"We are flies on the wall and don't want to add anything to the party," says Saunders, who has been in business more than 10 years. "We are there to record and try really hard not to enhance anything."

Having each shot hundreds of simchahs, both Korson and Saunders have seen some amazing things.

Korson chuckles when recounting the tale of filming a hoiah in which a woman's skirt wasn't properly fastened, and of filming a bride and groom dancing on a table when it buckled under their feet. He also boasts of filming an Orthodox affair with more than 850 people.

Saunders recalls the heroic role he and his crew once played.

"The place lost the power grid and there was no back up," he says. "We ended up lighting the party with our battery belts, we escorted people to the bathroom [and] provided a spotlight so people could speak. The video guy became the big hero."

Saunders also marvels at one party where 720 people crammed into a room that had the capacity for 400. "It was huge and outrageous," he says.

Continued on page B39

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PARTY PLANNER

Screaming for ice cream

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

There's nothing like a grand entrance at a simchah, especially when you're the guest of honour. You can come by limousine or scooter or, if you like something different, by… ice cream cart.

Rolling Cones Ice Cream Corp. offers a variety of unique party ideas for all age groups. The company provides tricycle-style ice cream carts for family functions and corporate events, which can be incorporated into the party for some extra pizzazz, says Brian Barish, president of Rolling Cones (416-663-0999, ext. 230).

In one scenario, Barish says, "A groom peddles his bike out of the kitchen with the bride into the middle of the dance floor and serves ice cream to all their guests."

The ice cream carts are also popular at bar and bat mitzvahs; the boy or girl will drive the tricycle and distribute ice cream novelties to his or her friends, Barish adds.

"At the bar mitzvahs, the kids go wild for the ice cream carts, especially if the boy comes out riding the bike.

"[They] add a touch of originality and fun. No matter what age you are, every one likes ice cream. It's a treat that makes everyone feel good."

And Barish, who grew up in the ice cream industry, should know. His parents owned Dickie Dee and Richard Ds until 1992.

He stayed involved in the ice cream business, selling the equipment, and three years ago, he expanded into street vending, selling novelty ice cream from Nestlés and Haagen-Dazs.

"I have ice cream trucks and carts, hence the name Rolling Cones. As well, we're a rocking ice cream company."

The trucks sell products in Toronto, Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham, but they and the carts can also be leased, says Barish.

"We have nine different types of equipment to fit the occasion, from three-wheeled tricycles to push carts with umbrellas. People do all kinds of themes. The ice cream carts work all the time.

"I was also surprised at how many weddings we did. People are partying. They want to have fun."

And there are plenty of treats to choose from, he says.

"We have a selection of 25 to 35 different ice cream products available. Everything is pre-packaged and easy to serve. There are no health issues and sanitation is guaranteed."

He says he sometimes gets requests from synagogues or party halls, but "usually it's the parent who is creative enough to think of it."

People can also arrange to have the ice cream trucks stop outside their homes for birthday parties or other functions, he says.

There are different packages to choose from with or without delivery; the basic package starts at $100 plus the cost of the ice cream.

Adding an original element helps to differentiate one party from another, says Barish.

"Once in a while, someone does something you remember and it gives the party a memorable touch. A Rolling Cone ice cream will do that for you."

Metropolitan Ice Cream (416-245-1335) also has ice cream carts with umbrellas available for rental, says Beverley Golden, marketing director for the company.

People can choose to dish out scoops of ice cream or they can opt for novelty items like sundae cups.

"We do both pareve and dairy ice cream," Golden says. "Fruit sorbets are also enormously popular."

Metropolitan Ice cream, which is classified in the industry as a super premium or gourmet ice cream, offers a huge selection of products.

"We have 150 different flavours," Golden says. "If we're doing strawberries and cream, it's top quality strawberries and cream. We do four or five different types of chocolate. The cater can order our Lindt milk chocolate. We also do a dark chocolate. What you see in retail stores is [just] a small portion of what we offer."

Golden explains that the company works closely with caterers offering a huge range of unique flavours.

"We've even created unusual flavours like sour cream ice cream. There's a lot of champagne. There are many things available for an event. I usually deal with a party planner or caterer."

And all products are kosher. "We're a totally kosher plant," Golden says, adding that the ice cream is extremely high quality.

"All our ice creams are low fat. We're 10 per cent fat. We also use all natural products. There are no artificial colours, flavours or stabilizers. We're known for our vanilla ice cream. We use pure vanilla… We're going for the palate that likes a pure flavour."

Milk, cream and sugar are the main ingredients of ice cream, she explains.

"You need the sugar for texture, not for sweetness. We believe you can't get the creamy texture without sugar, especially for the sorbets…

"People compare ice cream by price, but don't check what's in the cheaper products. There's a lot of air and chemicals. We really do care about what we're putting out. We care about the consumer. We're putting out a high quality dessert."

Sorbet, a fruit in a frozen form, is extremely popular with kosher caterers and comes in many flavours including tropical fruits, says Golden.

"We're using real fruit – real strawberries, raspberries and mango. When you eat our fruit sorbets, you're literally eating real fruit. The raspberry and strawberry is really intense. We do a lovely orange."

The company also has a chocolate orange sorbet called chocolate sunset that is extremely popular, she adds.

Also available are pareve ice creams and a new product, a soy-based gelato which comes in French vanilla, cappuccino, mocha, strawberry and chocolate.

There are various options for a simchah, ranging from fruit sorbets and pareve ice cream desserts to sundae bars with lots of toppings, she says, explaining that she can help the caterers plan a sundae bar.

Golden recommends that people order half the amount of ice cream rather than over-order because not everybody will eat dessert.

She also suggests that people consider serving fruit sorbets in between courses as a palate cleanser.

"This is very popular in a lot of finer hotels and restaurants, especially if you're doing a seven or eight course meal," Golden says. "It's great to refresh your palate. Traditionally, you use a citrus – a lemon, or great fruit or pink grapefruit mint."

Offering unusually flavoured sorbets at the sweet table is another one of her suggestions.

"We do a great lemon champagne. There's a lot of good kosher champagnes. It just depends on where your imagination wants to go."

Other specialty food places advertising in this supplement are: Sweet B Wraps (905-889-1703); Chocolate Charm (416-787-4256); The Chocolate Moose (416-784-9092).

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PARTY PLANNER

'Relive the party through the video'

Cont'd from page B37

With parties constantly changing and people's demands increasing, firms need to keep up with party trends and changes in technology.

Saunders says it's now popular at simchahs for people to show pre-made videos, such as a montage of a bar mitzvah boy's baby pictures, before speeches or candlelighting ceremonies.

"[This trend is] really effects-driven and now represents 30 per cent of our business."

Saunders says the biggest recent change in the industry is the introduction of the digital camera, while Korson cites the DVD as another major innovation.

"There have been four to five major technology changes in my 19 years," Korson says. "The big difference now is between VHS and DVD. Even though [many] people don't have DVD machines, they still want the video on DVD. We can do that."

Brian Korson of Video Excellence.

Competition in the industry is fierce, so both companies like to offer something special to their clients.

"We offer a written guarantee to our clients that most of our competition doesn't," says Korson. "We are customer-service oriented and we always stay in tune with what is fresh and needed."

'We offer a written guarantee'

Saunders says it's his staff that make his company special.

"Our people are seasoned vets. They work for us full time. It is the only job they do," he says, emphasizing that his people are not freelancers or part-time. "The clients feel comfortable seeing the same face all the time."

With many options in an industry that has grown incredibly over the years, Saunders cautions that "you get what you pay for."

He says that some less-reputable companies won't finish jobs, or they will run out of batteries or lighting during a shoot. "There is a huge price scale and people who 'cheap-out' are [sometimes] sorry in the end."

Both Korson and Saunders advise clients to do their homework when shopping around for a videographer, because this person will create your own personal piece of history.

Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: D.M.S. Video Productions, (905-470-4040); Lisa Productions, (905-764-1033); Northern Memory Productions (905-763-6513); Show Me! Films (416-963-8472); Twins Photo & Video (905-707-2385); Video Affairs (905-889-0909); Video Productions by Josh (905-709-9277).

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Writer Erin Silver gets a facial treatment from Makeup by Mandy.

Make yourself esthetically pleasing

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Though everyone deserves to be pampered on their special day, sometimes it's hard to find good help.

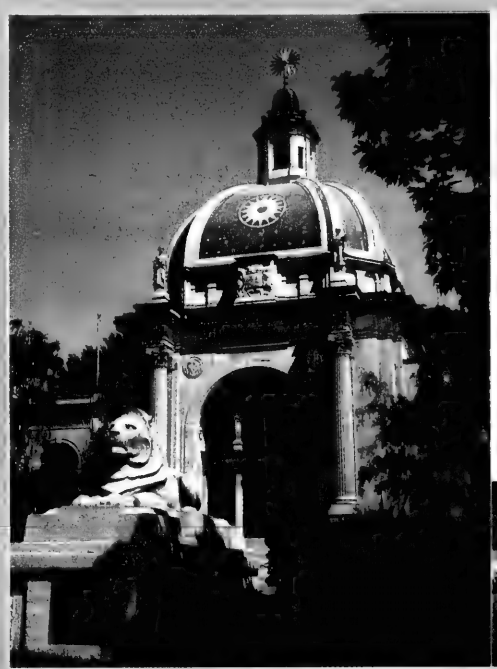
But you won't be disappointed if you enlist the services of either of these two businesses.

Romeo Lofranco owns a day spa called Jeunesse Hair and Spa, located at Yonge Street and Major Mackenzie Drive (905-787-9848).

"It's a place where women and men come to re-balance the body and mind," says the Italian-trained owner, colourist and stylist.

"You will be entirely absorbed by unparalleled professionalism, creativity and results."

Continued on page B41



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RENAISSANCE ROOM AND GOVERNOR'S ROOM PHOTOS BY JOLI PHOTOGRAPHY

Party Planner

Look great on your wedding day

Continued from page B40

Lofranco has just two rules when it comes to pleasing clients: "Service is imperative. The client has to feel like they're number 1. Rule number 2: Read number 1."

His complete spa offers a number of services including customized facials, massages, waxing, updos, haircuts and colouring, manicures, pedicures and makeup application.

Jeunesse has been helping brides, bridal parties and other clients look and feel their best since opening in February of 2001.

Packages are available at very reasonable prices. One package, which includes a facial, half-hour massage, manicure and hairstyle, costs $99.

Makeup by Mandy is another terrific choice (416-633-4040). A one-woman company, Mandy Primack takes extra care when working with clients. She offers makeup application for brides, bridal parties and other clients as well as updos, skin assessments and basic manicures.

Jeunesse Hair and Spa (top and above) offers many services.

"My main philosophy centres on making clients feel the best they can be, whether they're going to a bar mitzvah, a graduation or an awards ceremony," says Primack, who can pack up her multitude of products and go to her clients to apply her talents.

"I always like to do trials for bridal work. I ask them a lot of questions about their personality, the theme of the wedding, the colour of the flowers. They bring in pictures of makeup they like and we work together to create a look," she says.

"It's a collaborative effort."

She says she's interested in creating "that timeless" look and making sure brides are happy and comfortable with they way they look on their wedding day.

"It's not about creating the look they saw on models in the latest fashion magazine. It may not suit them."

Prices are very reasonable. Makeup trials cost between $40 and $45 while makeup applications the day of are $30 to $35. For bridal parties, it's an extra $20 to $30 per person while updos start at $20.

It's best to book in advance, especially for weddings.

"I like to do trials three to four weeks prior to the wedding in case they have questions or want to try a new look."

She even makes herself available to accommodate clients who book at the last minute.

Other esthetics places advertising in this supplement are: Dani's Hair Studio, Inc., 416-787-4322; Estee Levine Make-Up, 905-707-5259.

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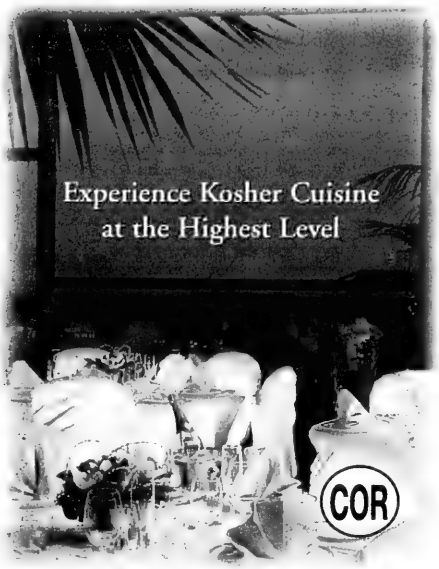

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Miki Klevan believes in the Freedom of Sound

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to the CJN

If you're looking for a complete entertainment package for your function or simchah, check out FOS Entertainment Group (905-760-0040).

FOS stands for Freedom of Sound, the DJ division that's been around since 1996. Miki Klevan, owner of the company, started out with two DJs six years ago. Today, the company has 40 DJs and MCs and 30 dancers.

Before he went into the DJ business, Klevan, 24, ran the Diamond Club, a dance club for preteens.

"The kids started requesting us for bar mitzvahs," he says. "We closed the club in 1999 and started focusing on Freedom of Sound as an entertainment company and it evolved from there. The clients were there. The demand was there. The concept proved to be very successful."

The company's basic DJ package, which includes two people – one DJ and one DJ assistant, a complete sound system and complete music library, starts at $600, he says.

"We give the clients a great service at a great price."

During the party, the DJ gives away 10 Freedom of Sound T shirts from Nike, the company sponsor, he says.

"Nike was looking to align itself with an entertainment company and we were looking for a clothing sponsor. It's a marriage that works. They give us products like Nike hats and T- shirts. [We've done] a lot of events for Nike."

In addition to being the company's owner, Klevan also performs. "Being a DJ for me started out as hobby and turned out to be my current occupation," he says. "I can't imagine doing any other thing."

Maybe the Leafs could have used Miki Klevan in Game 6.

Freedom of Sound supports a variety of fund-raising organizations and does an annual summer camp tour.

Freedom of Sound also offers other live entertainment services, including magicians, illusionists, live bands, celebrity look-alikes, fire-breathers and "human statues."

"We produce events for our clients," Klevan says. "We can take care of all their entertainment needs."

The company's headquarters are located in a 5,000-square-foot warehouse/office at Dufferin Street and Steeles Avenue that stores its music and lighting equipment, inflatable and other amusement games and fun food machines.

"Part of our warehouse is set up as a showroom where people can see the lighting, sound systems and demo videos of DJs," Klevan adds.

For special effects, the company has a variety of laser lighting systems to choose from, which can be added to the DJ package, as can effects such as fireworks, dry ice, smoke machines and streamer shots.

"We shoot streamer shot guns during the horah," Klevan says. "We lift the bar or bat mitzvah onto the chair and the streamers come down on everybody. It looks pretty cool."

Freedom of Sound also has audio visual equipment that includes projectors and screens for presentations.

"It's common at bar and bat mitzvahs to show a five-minute presentation of the young person," Klevan says. "At weddings, they sometimes show how the bride and groom met."

In 2001, Freedom of Sound started a games and amusement division that includes a bungee run, sumo wrestling, children's bouncers, inflatable mazes, as well as carnival and casino games.

"The live entertainment department has professional casino dealers on staff who come dressed in tuxedoes," says Klevan.

The company also carries inflatable sky dancers, 15-foot puppets that look like they're dancing to the music, he says.

"They really add to the decor. They can be matched to different themes."

Freedom of Sound's fun foods department stocks candy floss as well as snow cone, popcorn, doughnut-making, hot dog and Hawaiian shaved ice machines. All the food machines are kosher.

Continued on page B48

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Venues for when home or a social hall doesn't cut it

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Not all children feel comfortable dancing at a bar or bat mitzvah. The girls are usually ready and willing, but the boys... well they often lack the maturity or the confidence to ask the girls to dance. One solution to this dilemma, is to hold the simchah at a venue that offers activities to complement the dancing.

A popular choice is Dave and Buster's (905-760-7600), a 65,000 square-foot entertainment complex located at the northeast corner of highways 400 and 7 in Vaughan. The building, which holds 2500 people, offers all kinds of activities for the young, and the young at heart.

"There's nothing like Dave and Buster's in Canada," says Michael Mandel, the Canadian licensee for the Dallas-based entertainment chain. "People walk in and they're amazed by the whole facility. They walk around for 20 minutes exploring the place before they do anything."

He describes Dave and Buster's as an "upscale" setting. "There's stained glass and a lot of brass and mahogany finishes. Our stained glasses is made by fourth generation members of the Tiffany family. Every piece is unique."

The complex boasts a 35,000 square-foot midway with the most current and high-tech video games, including a driving range, hockey simulators, sports video games, a shooting gallery and basketball. There's even a '50s style diner. For a bar or bat mitzvah, the host gives the guests a power card to play the games and can arrange for a pre-determined amount for each card.

"We do organized events for a bar or bat mitzvah that revolve around competition on the games. Prizes can be awarded," says Mandel. "Anybody who plays on the midway gets tickets they can trade in for prizes. The prizes range from plastic frisbees to televisions and signed sports memorabilia. There are more than 400 different items."

Many games and activities appeal to people ages 22 to 35, he notes. "We're often called the Chuckie Cheese for adults."

The complex houses a large upscale casually elegant restaurant and three bars, including a sports bar with 20 televisions, and there are a variety of rooms for private parties.

Dave and Buster's is ideal if you want a party venue that will "wow" your guests, says Mandel. "It's a popular place for bar mitzvahs. We can conform to any service...

"We're very flexible and very affordable. We can customize any menu. We can bring in kosher food. All the food is prepared fresh the day of your event."

He says the most popular room for bar and bat mitzvahs and other private functions is the Showroom, a two- tiered room that can hold up to 300 people. "You can set up a dance floor to accommodate a DJ or band. It also has self- contained washrooms and a hand-carved bar with stained glass."

There are also custom-built mahogany billiard tables scattered throughout the complex, including some located adjacent to the Showroom, which is also the venue for in-house murder mystery dinners, when the room is not being used for private functions.

A luxury customized bus is also available to transport the people to and from a party. "It's big for corporate events. It's a convenience we offer."

There is even transportation service from the parking lot to the building. A 10-seat golf cart picks people up and later delivers them back to their cars.

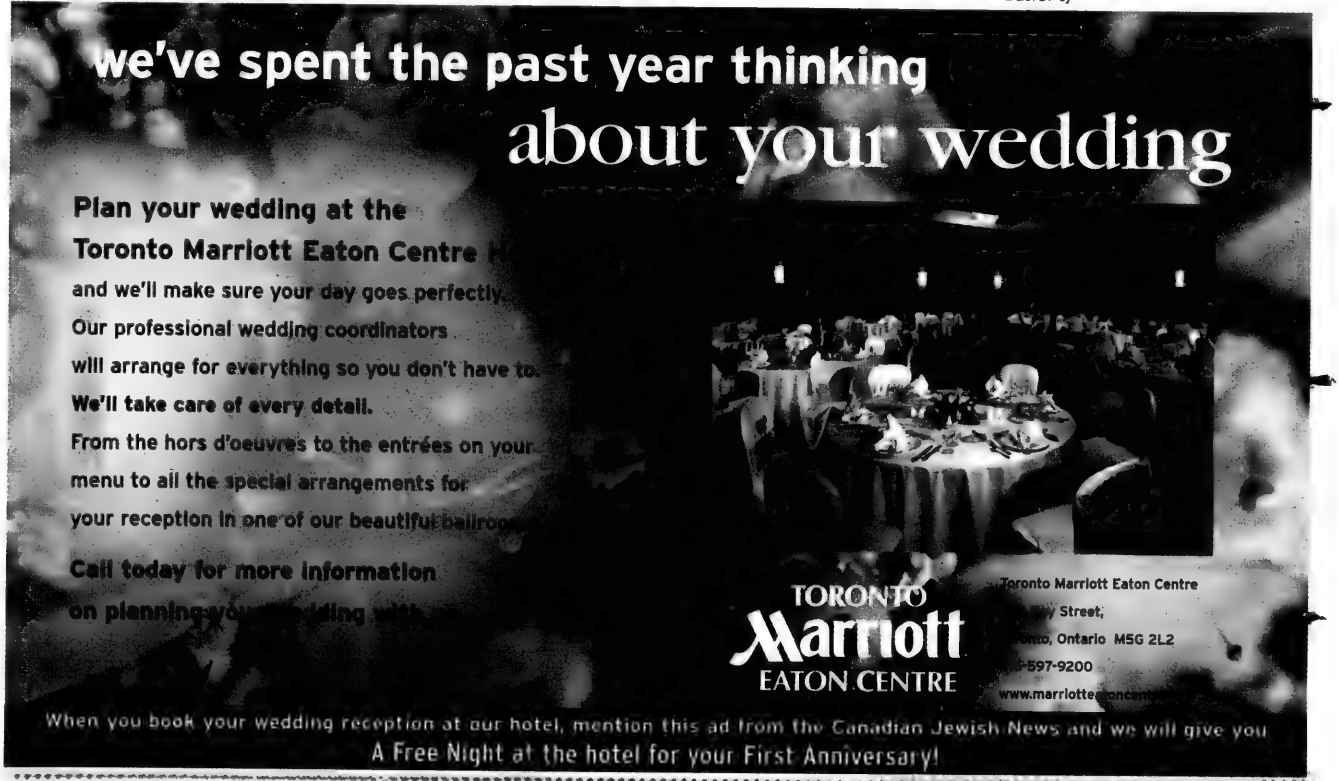
But leaving isn't always easy, says Mandel. "The little kids cry when they leave. They don't want to go. They're having so much fun. The adults don't want to leave either. I often hear the adults say, 'It's fun to be a kid again.'"

For kids' parties on a smaller scale, parents may want to consider Rainbow Cinemas (905-886-7464) at the Promenade Mall in Thornhill, on Bathurst Street, just south of Highway 7. The party package is $8.25 per child, which includes a movie, popcorn, a small drink, candy and a small loot bag.

The movies are all first-run, says Gulshan Singh, marketing manager for Rainbow cinemas in Ontario. "We offer a unique concept that makes movie- going very affordable for families. Our locations are beautiful, posh and updated with Dolby sound."

He says Rainbow Cinemas, which will also be opening locations at Fairview and Woodbine malls this summer, has very affordable prices for both parties and regular shows. "Our admission price is $7.50 for adults and $4.25 for kids, and for matinees it's $4.25 for everyone."

The matinee price applies to holidays and weekends, Singh adds. The mall location is very convenient, Singh says. "People can do their shopping and then end the evening off with a movie." (Pictures by Dave and Buster's)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PARTY PLANNER

Making a big production out of a marriage proposal

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

A few decades back, someone who hired a skywriter to write "will you marry me?" was guaranteed his proverbial 15 minutes of fame, and a stunt like this would still turn a few heads toward the heavens.

But to Louisa Jaslow and Jonah Stroh, skywritten proposals are old hat.

Jaslow and Stroh are the co-producers and co-directors of *Will You Marry Me?*, a TV show produced by Docutainment Plus Productions' (416-537-5004; marryme@microtainment.com; www. marrymetv.ca) about the extraordinary lengths some people will go to in order to make a marriage proposal.

In one episode, a man named Darryl and his girlfriend Pauline visit the zoo. Darryl is carrying T-shirts printed with the message "Pauline, will you marry me?" but bundled up so Pauline can't read them.

He takes her to the cage housing a family of orangutans, tosses the T-shirts in, and hopes the orangutans will put them on, showing Pauline his proposal.

She and Darryl had just had a baby, so Darryl told her he was appearing in a (fictitious) show called *New Fathers* that planned to make a humorous comparison between a human and orangutan family.

Wasn't Pauline liable to wonder why T-shirts were being thrown to the apes? Yes, but there was a plausible explanation for this too.

In fact, the keeper often works with students of animal behaviour who are very interested in orangutans. They are known to be intelligent – so much so, that normal zoo routines bore them. Cognitive experiments not only help science, they also liven up life for the primates.

Pauline thought she was witnessing one of these "mental enrichment exercises," as they're called. She was asked to guess which orangutan would be first to put on a T-shirt; she guessed that it would be the mother.

Well, was it? And what happened with Darryl's proposal? Jaslow and Stroh aren't telling.

"You'll have to watch the show," is all they will say.

The special aired June 4 on the Life Network, but it will be repeated; as well, six more episodes will air in January.

Jaslow and Stroh say it's still usually the man who pops the question. In an era when male roles are undergoing continual re-evaluation, an out-of-the-ordinary proposal seems to be a way for a man to show his mettle. Yet Jaslow and Stroh say they look forward to having many women on their show.

Docutainment's other productions include *The Zoo Diaries*, which goes behind the scenes at the Toronto Zoo to tell the stories of the men and women who work with more than 5,000 animals, starting its fourth season July 3 on the Life Network; *Glenn Gould: the Russian Journey*, about the pianist's famous 1957 tour, airing this fall on CBC Opening Night; and *Military Machines*, to air on the Discovery Channel on a date to be determined.

Radiating positive energy

Continued from page B10

Look for someone with a competitive advantage, both entertainers advise – someone who offers unique services. With Magen Boys, that means having two DJs at every event: one to play the music and one out on the dance floor, interacting with the guests. With Bouaziz's Starr Productions, that means having male as well as female dancers. In the past, with notable exceptions like Fred Astaire, most dancers in popular entertainment have been female, but if men enjoy watching a woman dance, why shouldn't women enjoy watching men?

For better quality entertainment, Magen recommends choosing a smaller company that will give you more personal, hands-on attention. Success in his field, he says, isn't a matter of turnover: it's better to do fewer parties, and have the guests enjoy themselves at every one. He says he has never heard people talk about an entertainer who's just OK: party guests only remember those who are especially good or bad. So for him, the only way to be remembered is to be especially good.

The Magen Boys

Other interactive entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Crown Entertainment, 416-204-1900; Entertainment Xtreme, 416-488-8411; Events Toronto, 416-698-5084; Freedom Of Sound, 905-760-0040; Hart Entertaiment, 416-762-2200; Mandell Entertainment Group, 905-886-4000; Mister Disc Jockey, 1-877-473-3800; Times Square Entertainment, 905-881-6400.

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PARTY PLANNER

Cruises a popular form of travel

By ADAM GRACHNIK

Whether it's a bar mitzvah or a honeymoon, travelling to a faraway place will make any simchah memorable and rewarding.

Stanley Lupka from Manor Travel (905-669-1347) and Emile Aufgang from Aufgang Travel (416-789-7117) echo this belief and strongly encourage all people to consider travelling when planning their next simchah. They point to their own experiences to illustrate their point.

"I love finding some faraway small place," says Aufgang, who has visited Israel 60 times and boasts about the small corners of the world he has seen. "You really can't conceive a place until you have been there."

Lupka simply likes seeing new things.

"I have been doing this for 21 years," he says of the business that has allowed him to lead 30 group trips to Washington, several to Israel and more recently to the Catskill mountains. "I love it; you always get to seen new things."

According to Lupka, the first thing travellers should think about is how much they want to spend, since that will narrow down the options of where they can go. Aufgang, who also stresses the importance of setting a budget, claims that travel is very subjective.

"Some people like the busyness of New York City," he says. "While others like deserted sand dunes."

Either way, Lupka and Aufgang both agree that cruises are currently the most popular form of travel. Yet they point to different areas of the world where tourists are beginning to cruise.

"Alaskan cruises are getting more popular," says Lupka. "Some people like to try something new or like what they have seen in the past."

Aufgang says that many of his clients choose to go on cruises in the Mediterranean Sea. But one couple, he said, just returned from a cruise on the Norwegian coast.

While traditionally people go to Israel when celebrating their simchahs abroad, some families are starting to explore other areas of the world.

"I have started to do a few bar mitzvahs in eastern Europe," Aufgang says. "People are going to places of old Jewish heritage with refurbished synagogues."

Part of the process of travelling is finding an agent that you can trust. Aufgang says for his company this comes down to their experience.

"We have been doing this for years and have firsthand travel experience," he says of his staff who have a minimum of 12-15 years' experience. "We pay attention to detail."

For Lupka, he said that his staff speaks many different languages, which allows them to cater to many different people.

"We are specific and all [the agents in the office] specialize in different things," he says.

Lupka and Aufgang are both proud of what they do and truly enjoy being able to deal with people on a personal level.

"I love the action between myself and people. I love talking to people and speaking to them in their language," says Lupka.

Aufgang says he feels rewarded each time someone returns from a trip and tells him how good it was.

So whether it's a Norwegian cruise or a bat mitzvah celebration in Budapest, start saving your dollars because there is an entire world to discover.

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Abstract artist tailors work to specific event

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Looking for a unique and personal gift for a newly married couple, a graduate or a bar mitzvah boy? Try to express yourself in abstract terms, or at least commission an expert to do it for you.

That's what abstract expressionist artist Jonathan Hiltz (905-881-5270) has been doing for an ever-increasing, ever-enthusiastic number of patrons for the past three years.

Jonathan Hiltz (pictured) with one of his paintings.

"People call me up and ask me to paint something for a certain event or a special person," says Hiltz, 27, and an owner of Hiltz Squared Media Group Inc., an entertainment conglomerate based in Canada.

"I ask them to tell me about the person or the couple, and from that I try to capture their essence on canvas," he says. "I take aspects of the people and create dreamlike visions, shapes and free-flowing images."

He says his art is more about painting visions than it is about solid objects, such as a bowl of fruit on a table.

Across the bottom of each piece he paints a black strip and on it he writes a personal message from the commissioner to the receiver.

"It's like a greeting card, but a lot more personal," he says. "The art is tailored to a specific event and the commissioner is saying something from their heart."

Recently, he says, a patron requested a painting for his son, who was graduating from university and moving into his own apartment.

"He wanted a gigantic painting and he wanted to say something dealing with motivation and achievement, so at the bottom of the painting I wrote, 'Success is the only result of determination,' and he loved it!"

Across the bottom of a painting tailored to a bride and groom, he inscribed the words, "Love is eternal." Another painting commissioned by a husband for his wife, reads, "Right now, I'm thinking of you."

"This is something that hasn't really been done before," says Hiltz. "Traditionally, artists paint something they like and sell it to people who like what they've done. I'm turning that notion on its head. I tailor paintings to you. I only know one other artist who does that."

Another unique aspect of Hiltz's artwork is the incorporation of words into the painting, something he says nobody else does. As a result, his paintings make for memorable gifts.

"It's the type of gift most people wouldn't expect to get," he says.

The trend Hiltz started is catching on, and he says his work "is becoming fantastically popular."

He's currently working on nine canvases at once and he says he does at least 120 pieces a year. Using acrylic and pastel on canvases as large as eight by five feet to ones that fit in a frame on a desk, Hiltz has designed a range of pieces. He's created everything from album covers to works of art to commemorate the openings of restaurants and nightclubs to weddings and birthdays.

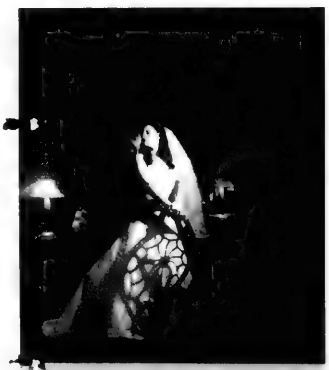
Prices range from about $800 to $5,000, depending on the size of the work and also on where it's being shipped. (He's created pieces that have been sent to commissioners in countries such as Italy, Portugal and the United States.)

He says he usually requires about two weeks' notice from commissioners, but he can arrange to make masterpieces on tighter deadlines as well.

The hardest aspect of being a part-time artist, he says, is not so much managing his time or deciding how best to capture the essence of a person, but parting with his creations.

"Sometimes it's hard to have to hand over my work to commissioners because I'd love to hang it on my wall, but I give it to them with a smile, knowing it's going to hang on theirs."

Where is the most unusual location you've shot at?



FLORIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

"My clients were in a hot air balloon high above the countryside and I was flying in another hot air balloon beside them to take their engagement portrait."

MARK STERN PHOTOGRAPHY

"Shooting with mirrors for a difference."

PLATINUM STUDIOS

"Fire escape"

SIGNATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

"On a movie set"

Party decor: room for fun

Continued from page B32

"If it can be written or drawn with a single-stroke pen, it can usually be made in neon," Northcott says.

Bending Machine created one memorable group of pieces for a party at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre. A column of flowers was set on each of 23 tables; above each column was a neon sculpture in pink and purple. When the lights were dimmed, the room was suffused with a pink and purple glow.

Artistic Creations specializes in middle- to higher-end theme-related decor, working in various materials. Rather than create a single piece as part of a decor scheme, Heisel likes to design an entire room.

Artistic Creations specializes in middle- to higher-end theme-related decor

With her background in art and graphic design, Heisel uses her talents to generate new ideas. Her artistic experience has helped give her a sense of style, and of what is suitable for each event.

Heisel doesn't always plan themes, although they take up 90 per cent of her commissions. She's done a lot of sports and recently, some work with Hawaiian motifs. She also makes themed place cards (for example, in the form of hockey pucks) and centrepieces.

"My work never gets boring," she says. As every function is unique, she treats each job as a new challenge and encourages clients to be creative.

Among the things Heisel also creates are memory books, guest books whose pages you sign at an event. Pages without signatures are used for keepsakes such as cards and photos. Heisel scans them for her portfolio so the client gets the originals back.

Most artists are versatile and learn to work in more than one genre or medium, but usually each has a specialty they enjoy most.

Heisel's forte is cartoons. She does not, however, create caricatures. Cartoons don't have to remind you of a real person, she says, and being less personal, they're less likely to offend.

Heisel likes to work with kids. They often know exactly what they want, she says, but they're spontaneous and fun. She volunteers with kids as well.

One of Artistic Creations' products is Curing Kisses, a lip gloss that can be personalized with a phrase such as "Shana's Bat Mitzvah." A percentage of the profits goes to your choice of charity, Heisel says.

After 10 years in business, most of Heisel's work comes from referrals. Even so, she attends one trade show a year to network with other professionals and scout out new ideas. She refers her clients to others in the business who create items that she doesn't.

Book her services as far ahead as possible, Heisel advises. Six months ahead is great; more is even better.

Other decor places advertising in this supplement are: The Candyman, 416-789-7173; Party Toons, 905-669-4778.

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PARTY PLANNER

Modern music edges out Mendelssohn during ceremonies

By SUZANNE WEISS
Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

Four centuries ago, Shakespeare wrote, "If music be the food of love, play on." And all this time, the music has been playing and lovers have been listening.

Tradition tends to govern the choices Jewish couples make in music for their wedding ceremonies. A number of experts agree that the old Wagner and Mendelssohn wedding marches are out and Israeli music is in, but opinions are mixed about *Sunrise, Sunset* from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"The music from *Fiddler* is very popular," maintains Cantor Henry Greenberg of Congregation Beth Israel-Judea in San Francisco. "The classical stuff, like Mendelssohn, a little less."

Greenberg's been performing weddings in the synagogue for more than 25 years. "Some of the couples want more modern, contemporary 'love' music rather than Jewish music," he continued, "but we try to encourage the Israeli music. It's really up to the rabbi. What makes the bride and groom happy is the first consideration. Russian Jews enjoy having the music of their own background, and that's OK with me."

Erev Shel Shoshanim, *Dodi Li* and, for the recessional *Siman Tov, Mazel Tov*, were pretty universal among others who were asked, as well as selections from the Song of Songs. They are, in fact, the undisputed selections of Cantor Roslyn Barak of San Francisco's Congregation Emanu-El.

"I tend to sing liturgy," Barak said, "the wedding blessing, the *Sheva Brachot*. If I do a song, it's from Song of Songs. I like to stay traditional. But actually, I don't get a lot of requests. [The bride and groom] may want more from the organist. I think I sang *Sunrise, Sunset* once."

That's one time more than composer Stephen Richards has sung it lately. "Years ago we got a lot of requests for music from *Fiddler*, but that's kind of gone by the wayside now," says Richards, cantor emeritus at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in Walnut Creek.

He says he tries to guide couples toward appropriate wedding music. "Sometimes couples come with their music pre-selected and, if I don't like it, I'll let them know."

In addition to the selections already mentioned, he noted that the *Pachelbel Canon in D* is frequently used as a processional. He also likes the music of contemporary composer Michael Isaacson, one of whose songs was played at his own wedding in 1958, along with Richards' own arrangements of Israeli music.

Jerry Derblich, owner of Afikomen in Berkeley and its adjacent Wedding Store, hasn't seen a change in taste in the 10 years he has been in business. And he's prepared to help couples who are not having a cantor.

"People come in, they have a band that doesn't play much Jewish music and they ask us for sheet music," he said. For that purpose, he stocks *Mazel Tov: Music for Jewish Weddings* (Tara Publications), a book that contains music for three different types of ceremonies. A CD and cassette also are available.

Isaacson also has a CD called *Kol Simcha: Jewish Wedding Music*. And, finally, *The Real Complete Jewish Wedding & Party*, a two disc collection from Worldwide Success Records has 50 songs performed by David and the High Spirit that will take a couple down the aisle, through the ceremony, dinner, party and out the door into a new life.

Miki Klevan believes in Freedom of Sound

Continued from page B42

"We have professional staff that run the machines," says Klevan. "They're treats. We bring them out the last two hours of the event. We set up an area for [them]. The kids don't really enjoy the sweet table that much. They don't eat the fruit."

For outdoor events, the company stocks power generators, inflatable slides and obstacle courses.

Last November, Freedom of Sound introduced a trade show division that features different vendors such as caterers, decorators, videographers, photographers and florists.

"The vendors get a chance to showcase what they have," says Klevan, noting that the next show will be held on Nov. 19 at the Paradise Banquet and Convention Centre at Jane and Highway 7.

He stresses that the company is always on the lookout for new items.

"We are constantly searching the global entertainment industry to find new and innovative products and services to bring to Toronto," he says.

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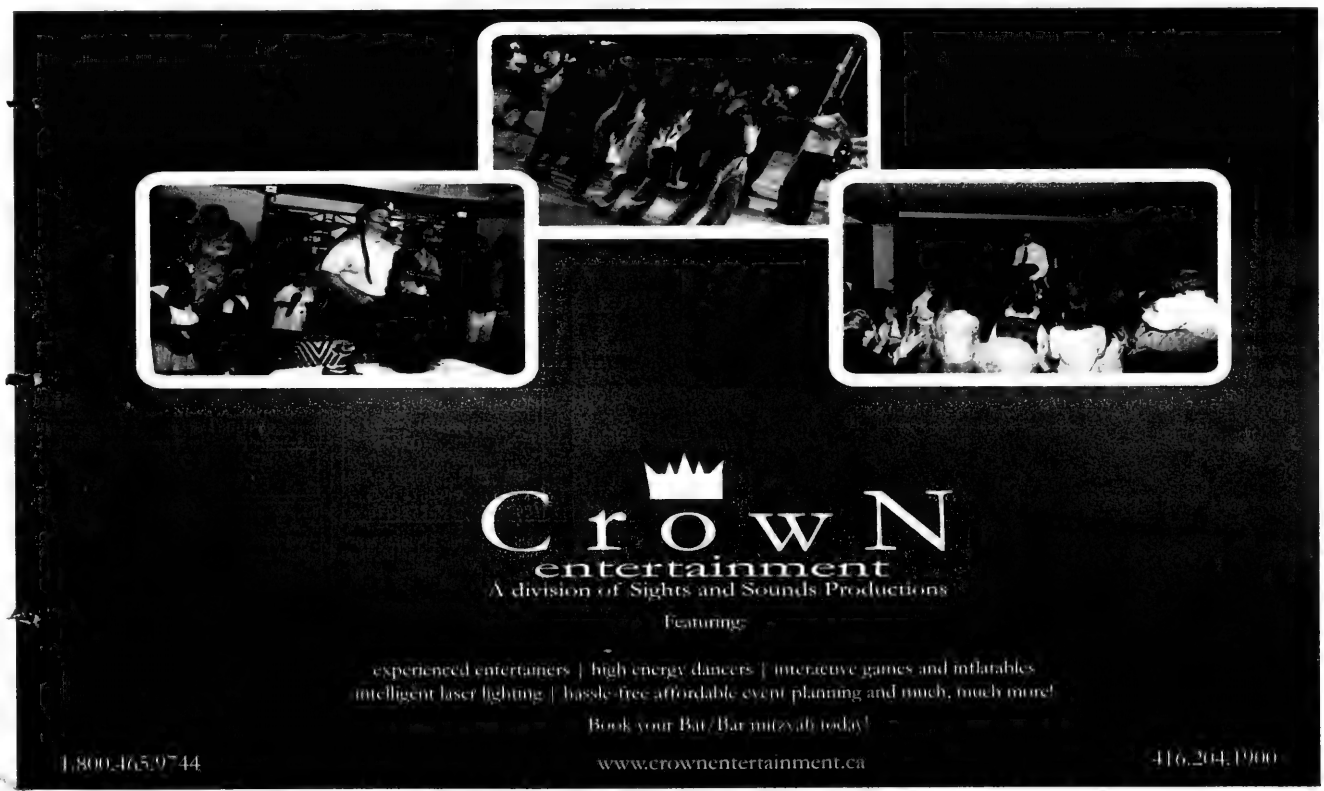
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PARTY PLANNER

A lively party with Times Square

BY BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Rick Levine's love of music dates back to his teen years. By the time he was in his twenties, he was singing and playing guitar at all kinds of simchahs.

"It was wonderful to get paid for something I loved to do," Levine says today.

In 1980, he formed his own band, the Rick Levine Band, and in 1994, he parlayed his experience into an entertainment company, Times Square Entertainment (905-881-6400).

Times Square offers its clients access to top-quality entertainment services, including DJs, dancers, live bands and MCs as well as access to event-planning expertise. In fact, Times Square has developed a referral service and event planning Web site – www.torontopartyguide.com – to help people plan their events.

Levine co-produces event-planning shows with wedding planner Lynn Cohen, to showcase bands, DJs, caterers, florists, photographers videographers and decorators. One show takes place in the fall at Beth Tikvah Synagogue and the other is held in the winter at the Inn on the Park.

Rick Levine with planner Lynn Cohen.

"These shows are a great start for someone who's planning a simchah," says Levine.

Times Square Entertainment was established, he says, because over the years, he became knowledgeable about community functions.

"We have been serving the community for over 20 years, so we can also offer event planning services based on our wealth of knowledge and experience," Levine says.

"When someone hires the Rick Levine Band or a Times Square Entertainment DJ, we provide them with event planning services free of charge."

The key to a successful function is good organization, he says.

"You have to know when to play the right music, when to pick up the party with the dancing or to play quietly when they're [eating] dinner. With our experience, we can foresee a lot of the concerns people might have when they're planning a function."

As for the music, there are several options.

"We've developed a high-quality interactive DJ service where we offer a variety of entertainment packages to suit every occasion," says Levine.

"Some of our DJs are professional singers and entertainers, so they can sing live to backtracks, giving a new dimension to the entertainment music throughout the evening. That's very unique in the industry."

Times Square also has live band and DJ combinations and continuous music packages.

Promotional DVD that showcases a live event for perspective clients

The company takes great care to help the clients choose the right music, says Levine.

"We invite our clients to supply us with a list of songs. We have the bar or bat mitzvah child e-mail a list of songs. We e-mail them a list of songs as well.

"We have virtually any song that people would want. We work from the list that the clients provide. We also take on spot requests. If anybody has a particular song they want us to play at a function, we can play it...

"We arrange the songs in advance with the clients. We suggest songs. We can work with any song that they would like to have."

Times Square also has a lot of expertise when planning candle-lighting. And dancers boost the party spirit and lighting packages "add to the ambience and excitement of the evening," says Levine. "We also have access to a DJ booth which is unique to our company. You don't see the equipment and wires. It gives a more finished and professional look to the stage area."

Clients can count on Times Square for a lively party, he says.

"We have contests and games and all the latest music that the kids want to hear and we have great renditions of the horahs and ethnic music that's required at a bar or bat mitzvah.

"We offer versatile entertainment. We can reach all the age groups. We're able to please the adults and the kids. Our DJs play the right music at the right time and they don't take too many breaks."

Times Square has a promotional DVD that showcases a live event for perspective clients.

"We can pull together a unique and fantastic evening based on my experience and the resources I have available," Levine says. "I invite people to call me or talk to me in person at the next party show, which will be held at Beth Tikvah on Oct. 2."

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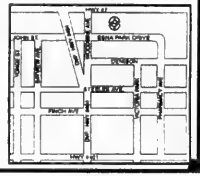

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PARTY PLANNER

Invitations set the tone

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

A party's first impression is created by one very powerful piece of paper. It comes in many shapes, sizes, colours and textures and has the ability to excite people or completely turn them off. Worried? Don't be, it's only an invitation.

Gail Shapiro of Paper Expressions (905-764-7784) and Gilda Lefton of Stationery Plus (905-881-5588) understand the impact an invitation can have and the commitment that goes into making a special one.

"The invitation sets the tone for the party. It gets your guest there and starts the mood," says Shapiro.

Lefton adds that "it's the first glimpse of an affair. People get most mileage in this one item, because guests see this everyday."

Both agree that there are no rules for a good invitation, since it is a personal matter.

"You are never going to please everyone," says Lefton. "Choose a kind of invitation that you like."

Adds Shapiro: "A good invitation is all personal taste. Some people write a poem, while others are more religious so they have more Hebrew or put on a Star of David."

The industry is always changing, with new printing technologies and printing styles being introduced each year.

Shapiro says people are starting to use more flowers, ribbons and, in some cases, even rhinestones, to get away from the traditional three-layer paper.

Lefton says that some older traditions, such as embossing – raised words or graphics – are also making a comeback.

A slowly growing trend is the low cost and quick method of inviting people by e-mail, which Shapiro disagrees with.

"I don't agree with e-mail stuff. That's tacky and very impersonal," she says. "A party is a very personal thing and e-mail isn't."

Some people are even choosing to print invitations on their computers at home, but Lefton warns against it.

"With computer printed invitations, what you see is what you get. The ink can smudge. Quality printing gives an added dimension and really perks it up," she explains.

Ultimately making people happy is of utmost importance for both Shapiro and Lefton.

"I like seeing people happy," says Shapiro. "I love it. I meet all kinds of people and I am doing things that are creative."

For Lefton it's the "look of gratification that people have when they get my invitation, this makes me happy and fills me with pride."

Other invitation providers advertising in this supplement are: Barbara Mortfield Invitations, 905-738-1232; Henco Consulting, 905-881-5736, 416-409-2377; Paper Ideas, 416-929-3888; Papers 'N' Prints, 905-764-7455; The Printed Word, 416-484-4600.

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Find it on the Internet

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

The more information you have, the harder it is to sort out what you really need to know. If you're planning a celebration, finding out what's new on the party scene may seem like a daunting job. Why not just grab the Yellow Pages, and call the people you know?

On the other hand, you want the best for yourself and your guests. Inventive party professionals are coming up with new ideas every day, and some of the new people won't be in the phone book. Sooner or later, you'll have to do some research.

The old way, with address books, directories and the phone, can eat up many hours. In the same time or less, you can get more information on the Internet, and be more up-to-date.

Karen Garscadden and Karen Jacobs of Up & Coming Events Inc. (905-886-8148; www.upandcoming events.ca), and Lowell Brown of Eventtips.com (416-782-0322; www.eventtips.com), offer Web directories to meet your needs. Each directory has a different approach to how it does so.

A page from Eventtips website.

Up & Coming's Web site introduces you to the company, its services, staff and the many ideas it has for occasions such as weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs and corporate events. At www.upandcomingevents.makesparties.com, you'll find a catalogue of supplies, accessories and novelties.

Up & Coming and Eventtips are free information sources and one-stop shopping for novelties, prizes and ideas to make a party unique. There's more here than in the Yellow Pages, and to get an overview, you don't have to visit a store. It's faster and easier to find what you want clicking on Internet links than by flipping back and forth among catalogues or directories.

"On the information highway," as Garscadden says, "the Web is the fast lane."

The time saved can be spent exploring links that just *might* be interesting – and chancing upon ideas you otherwise wouldn't have dreamed of.

Up & Coming also has an Internet showroom. Garscadden realizes that even computer-friendly types like to take things in hand, and to touch and feel. The Web doesn't supplant being there in the flesh, but supplements it.

But no matter how high-tech, Garscadden says, we still need to meet and talk with people. An online service allows you to quickly eliminate the people you decide not to use – leaving more time for those you want to work with.

Eventtips' site is organized into four categories: weddings, corporate events, bar or bat mitzvahs and special occasions. From each, you can go to the tips archive and resource directory. The site also offers consulting services. You can click on a button and talk to Brown himself, or e-mail him.

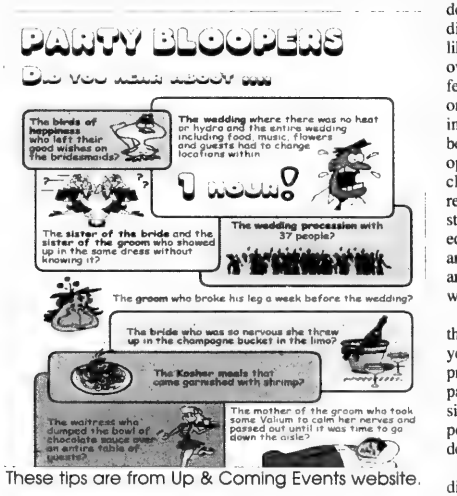
The tips archive is a collection of advice, articles and information on everything from questions to ask your photographer to games and decorations. The resource directory, with categories like caterers and DJs, lists over 900 companies and professionals. This number is only a fraction of the people in the party sector; and because new businesses are opening, diversifying and closing every day, the resource directory is constantly updated and expanded. Eventtips also publishes an e-zine four times yearly, and offers a monthly draw with prizes.

Hard-copy directories like the Yellow Pages are updated yearly; by the time they're printed and delivered, they're partly out of date. On a Web site, it's easier and faster to post new information and delete what's obsolete.

Besides being information dispensers, Up & Coming are event planners, and for what they don't do themselves, they can refer you to someone who does. They can do all your planning or a small part – although in Garscadden's experience, a small part usually expands into something larger.

To help companies promote themselves, Brown is also developing a virtual trade show. Here, you'll be able to talk to companies in detail, and it will provide a variety of services, even including providing a companion for an elderly person at your party.

For some time, it's been possible to find the information you need on the Internet. Up & Coming and Eventtips don't only add more information, they make that information easier to use.


PARTY BLOOPERS
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The wedding procession with 37 people?
The groom who broke his leg a week before the wedding?
The bride who was so nervous she threw up in the champagne bucket in the limo?
The Kosher meals that came garnished with shrimp?
The waitress who dumped the bowl of chocolate sauce over an entire table of guests?
The mother of the groom who took some Valium to calm her nerves and passed out until it was time to go down the aisle?

These tips are from Up & Coming Events website.

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This Week

National

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Emma Richler wins fiction prize for first novel. *Page 30*

Toronto collector's movie posters on display in Israel. *Page 31*

Sports & Leisure

Memorial tournament brings Jews together in a unique way. *Page 38*

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MASSACRE NEAR MEGIDDO: 17 Israelis were killed last week and more than 40 wounded when a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated a car laden with explosives beside an Egged bus near the northern Israeli town of Megiddo. This photo shows the burned-out bus and the remnant of the bomber's car. *[Israel Sun photo]*

CUPE resolution angers members

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Union locals representing office workers at Toronto-area Jewish agencies are steaming mad at an emergency resolution passed recently at an Ontario regional convention of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) that they say was introduced at the last minute without opposition and is biased against Israel.

They are also concerned the resolution will be introduced at this week's meeting of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in Vancouver and be given the national labour body's seal of approval.

However, CUPE Ontario President Sid Ryan disputed criticism of the resolution, saying there was nothing wrong with the procedural steps taken to introduce it and that it fairly addresses both sides of the Mideast dispute.

He also downplayed the influence it might have at the CLC convention, saying any final resolution reached by the national body will likely be a composite document that reflects the views of various unions.

The emergency resolution, introduced by Toronto CUPE Council at the CUPE Ontario convention late

Continued on page 17

The CJN wins Rockower award

EVANSTON, Ill. — For the seventh consecutive year, *The Canadian Jewish News* has won a Simon Rockower Award for excellence in Jewish journalism.

At the annual gathering of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA), this year held in Evanston, a suburb of Chicago, *CJN* staff reporter Frances Kraft received Honourable Mention for Excellence in Feature Writing for newspapers with a circulation of more than 15,000 for the article *Jewish foster parents fill urgent need.*

The AJPA, founded in 1944, is the umbrella organization for North American Jewish media and journalists.

The Rockower Awards were created in 1980 to foster the achievement of the highest standards of journalism in Jewish publications.

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Israelis unimpressed with PA reforms — please see page 25

The News in Brief

CANADA

Palestinian Charged

TORONTO — A leader in the Palestinian community has been arrested and charged in the March 30 assault on Dr. Bernard Goldman. The prominent surgeon dislocated and broke his shoulder when he was shoved after confronting Palestinian protesters outside Israel's consulate here. Murad Awin Ebied, 37, of Mississauga, was charged with assault causing bodily harm. He will appear in court July 11.

CIC Calls on Ottawa

OTTAWA — In the wake of last week's suicide bombing attack on a bus that killed 17 Israelis, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) called on the federal government to make it clear to Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority "that Canada will no longer tolerate their refusal to take meaningful actions to end the terrorist campaign against Israel, and that there are severe consequences for failing to do so." The CIC also called on Canada, in its capacity as head of the G-8, to form an international coalition that will condemn "the continued use by the Palestinian leadership of terrorism and anti-Israel incitement as tools of diplomacy."

ISRAEL

Mad Cow Confirmed

JERUSALEM — Results from a Swiss lab have confirmed Israel's first case of mad cow disease. Brain samples from a Golan Heights cow confirmed it was infected. Health officials will implement emergency procedures, which require testing all cattle over the age of 30 months and banning the sale of any meat products that have not been tested.

Crime Down

JERUSALEM — The crime rate in Israel dropped by 1.5 per cent during the first four months of 2002, compared to the same period last year. Car theft dropped 14 per cent, and the number of murders fell from 62 to 53. The number of reported rapes, however, rose by 24 per cent.

New Movement

JERUSALEM — Labour Party dove Yossi Beilin has launched a new Israeli political movement. Its name, Shahar, means dawn in Hebrew and is also an acronym for peace, education and welfare. Addressing supporters in Tel Aviv last week, Beilin stopped short of declaring a new political party. He also criticized Labour's participation in the national unity government, and blasted former prime minister Ehud Barak for what he said was Barak's mishandling of negotiations with the Palestinians.

No TV Porn

JERUSALEM — A Knesset committee has approved for final votes a bill that would forbid TV stations from broadcasting pornography. The committee defeated an alternative bill that would allow restricted access to pornographic programming.

WORLD

Annan at Babi Yar

KIEV — During a trip to Ukraine last week, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan visited the Holocaust memorial at Babi Yar, where an estimated 100,000 Jews were murdered. Annan said he went to the site "to express my solidarity with the victims of anti-Semitism and intolerance." He also said that attacks on synagogues in Europe in recent months "should trouble people everywhere who are concerned about human rights and human dignity."

Slaughter Blocked

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch agricultural ministry has blocked the kosher slaughter of full-grown bulls, saying the method contravenes laws banning animal abuse. Ruben Vis, head of the Jewish community in the Netherlands, said the government's objection is limited only to bulls, which are so large that kosher slaughtering methods do not always kill the animal right away. The government contends the bulls suffer unduly.

Jews Blamed

MOSCOW — Anti-Semitic leaflets posted in the Ukrainian city of Lvov have blamed Jews for Joseph Stalin's terror famine in the 1930s that killed millions of Ukrainians, according to the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union.

Street Name

BERLIN — A Berlin street named for a Nazi theologian may soon be renamed. The street, Seebergsteig, is named for Reinhold Seeberg, who once called Judaism the "deadly enemy of every true culture." Historians say Seeberg's anti-Semitic sermons aided the Nazi rise to power.

Seinfeld to Israel

NEW YORK — Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is planning a solidarity visit to Israel, where he will give a single performance. No date has been set. Seinfeld is expected to perform in Tel Aviv.

Wasserman Dies

HOLLYWOOD — Lew Wasserman, the last of the great Jewish Hollywood moguls of the 20th century, died June 3 at his home in Beverly Hills. He was 89. A major donor to Jewish causes, Wasserman was credited with changing the talent agency business and building Universal Studios. He oversaw production of such blockbusters as *Jaws*, *E.T.* and *Jurassic Park*.

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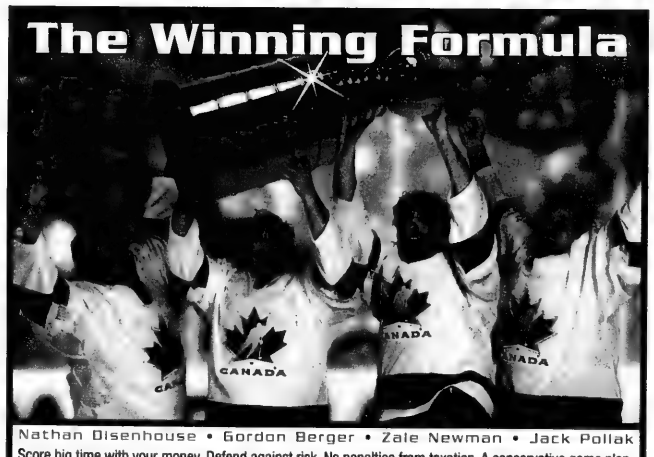

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Due to an increase in our postal rates, *The CJN* will be raising the price of an annual subscription. Effective July 1, the price of a one-year subscription will be changing from $29.95 to $32.95, including taxes. A two-year subscription will cost $59.95.

A one-year subscription to the United States will be $75 (US).

A one year foreign subscription other than to the United States will be $90 (US).

The price of an annual subscription to *The CJN* has remained the same since 1995. Now, however, we have no choice but to keep pace with the increases in our costs. Canada Post has already advised us that our mailing costs will be increasing each year for the next three years. We will do our very best to keep additional increases to a minimum.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Israel resolution stirs controversy at OISE

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Some faculty members at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE) are feeling dismayed about a resolution and covering letter condemning Israel that have been making their way around Canadian universities.

The April 29 letter, signed by Sherene Razack, director of the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies, requests that her colleagues circulate and sign a resolution pertaining to the Middle East.

Razack urges her colleagues to "join us in this initiative by immediately circulating the attached Resolution to your colleagues so that we can make our voices heard..."

The letter notes that "in the context of the current atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinians by the Israeli state and army, we, Canadian scholars meeting at the first national conference on Critical Race Scholarship and the university, find it imperative to stand up and denounce these crimes against humanity..."

The accompanying resolution is addressed to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham and the chancellors and presidents of Canadian universities. It was issued after a conference on Critical Race Scholarship and the University held at OISE at the end of April.

Among other things, the resolution condemns Israel for its recent invasion of the "occupied territories" and calls for the immediate creation of a Palestinian state and the recognition of the Palestinian refugees' right of return.

After reading the resolution and accompanying letter, OISE educator Avi Hyman wrote a letter to the dean and U of T's race relations committee asking advice on how to deal with the matter.

Because the resolution was circulated with a letter from the Centre of Anti-Racism studies, "there were many of us at OISE who felt uncomfortable with the possibility that people reading the resolution might feel this is an official resolution of the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies at OISE.

"Since the centre is an official centre, it could then be perceived as the OISE position," Hyman noted.

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Simon Rosenblum said the resolution presents "a prejudicial, inflammatory and highly biased view of the conflict.

"The resolution paid no attention to Israel's attempts to achieve peace nor Israel's legitimate need for self-defence," Rosenblum noted, adding that it was problematic that the centre, an institutional part of the university, seemed to be passing judgment on the Middle East situation and taking sides.

On May 15, Cecilia Reynolds, the acting dean of OISE, responded to the uncertainty over the status of the April 29 resolution by stating that it "does not constitute a formal statement of OISE/UT or the University of Toronto."

However, she added, "faculty at all ranks are protected by the principle of academic freedom, which allows them to voice unpopular or controversial ideas, short of those that are illegal or create an environment that violates other university principles such as freedom from harassment."

Prof. George Dei, who teaches anti-racism and is the incoming chair of OISE's department of sociology and equity studies in education (SESE), said "the resolution represents the position of the people who signed and does not represent the position of the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies." He declined further comment.

According to the 2002-03 OISE catalogue, the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies, which is part of SESE, brings together faculty and students whose "research interests and political commitments are in anti-racism."

The catalogue says the centre's activities include "a study of class exploitation, sexism, ableism and heterosexism."

The study of anti-Semitism is not listed in the centre's documentation, but Reynolds said "it is possible that it does get taught and just isn't listed."

The director of the centre would be the only one who would have that level of detail about the program, Reynolds said.

Razack was not available for comment.

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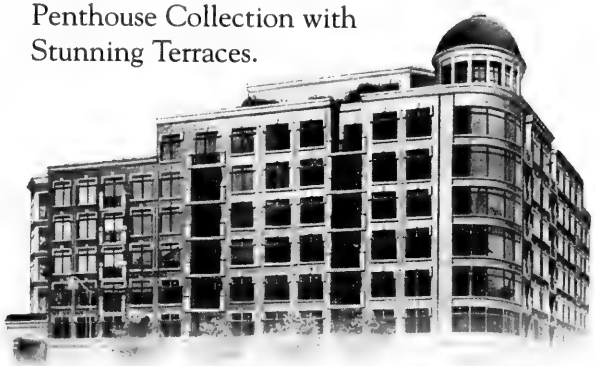
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Israel and the media

From the editor's desk

It should be obvious not only to the supporters of Israel that reportage of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is laden with anti-Israel bias. By reportage I do not mean analyses or commentaries, however misguided, misleading or infuriating they may be. We may disagree with others' opinions, but the holders of opinions usually make no pretense in trying to pass off their opinions as fact.

Rather, I refer to stories that purport to objectively impart news but which are infused with personal statements and conclusions. This type of reporting is offensive; indeed, it is unethical. It is a form of dishonesty.

One of the most egregious examples of this kind of "dishonest" reporting occurred in the aftermath of the army's operation in Jenin.

The Palestinian leadership immediately let loose the cry of "massacre" and "war crimes." Many NGO Palestinian supporters, EU officials and even UN officials echoed their cry. And then the cry became reported as fact in many media outlets around the world.

But, as we know, there was no massacre and there were no war crimes in Jenin, as many Palestinian combatants and non-combatants themselves reported to some of the journalists on the spot who were actually inquisitive for the truth.

Around the Jewish world, there are now a handful of media watchdogs who report on the reporting about the Middle East. One of the very best, by the way, is Paul Michaels, the Canada Israel Committee's director of communications. Michaels writes a weekly column in this paper called *According to Reports*, in which he incisively points out the nuances of Middle East news coverage, both good and bad.

Last December in Jerusalem, Prof. Amos Shapira, the former dean of the Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University, chaired a panel discussion on the International Media and Public Opinion at the annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

The proceedings of that discussion were published in the Spring 2002 edition of *Justice*, the association's journal, a publication whose pages I have occasionally excerpted in this space.

The panel consisted of Ehud Ya'ari, a leading expert on Middle Eastern Affairs and an associate editor of *The Jerusalem Report*; Raanan Gissin, senior adviser to Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; and Dan Pattir, editor of *Justice* and former press secretary to both Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin.

The panelists offered some fascinating details as well as useful insights on the media's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I reproduce only the briefest of highlights. It bears emphasizing that the discussion was held in December 2001, before the Passover massacre and before Israel's response, Operation Defensive Shield.

Ya'ari, who is renowned for the depth of his analysis and the reliability of his sources, began with a review of the chronology of the violence that began in Sept. 2000. He spoke about the events as they actually unfolded in the field and then he asked: "Why does the media get it wrong? The Palestinians have managed to turn the territories under their control into *Judenrein* territories. The Israeli press is unable to operate in Palestinian territories. Journalists can only operate in the territories on two conditions: either they write what the Palestinian authorities like to read... or provided they are invited and accompanied... seeing what they are allowed to see and talking to persons with whom they are allowed to talk.

"Ninety-five per cent of the video tapes coming out of the territories, covering the Intifadah are taken by Palestinian cameramen and Palestinian crews."

Gissin, who was recently in Toronto as a guest of the UJA Federation, spoke more theoretically about the intrinsic, structural nature of the difficulties faced by Israel in relation to the media's presentation of its side of the conflict.

"Our stories are complex stories, they cannot be told in 30 seconds. The Palestinians did a brilliant thing when they started using the media: they talked about 'rights' and we talked about 'security'.

"... Our major error throughout the years is that we never stood up and said: 'Jews also have rights.' Rights are on a higher moral pedestal than security and the Palestinians stand on that pedestal.

"... The Palestinians have not recognized the Jews' rights to this land, only their might, and that is the problem. Israel has become the strongest military power in the Middle East and its might is recognized; its rights are not and those are what have to be claimed."

Pattir expressed doubt that Israel could ever gain "some kind of understanding from the public" in light of the fact that it "ceased to be an underdog in 1967."

Then he lamented that "we ignore the fact that the media organs try to be policy-makers themselves; they try to dictate, or engage in reporting in a way that is not only not impartial but definitely affects public opinion and consequently policy-makers here or elsewhere.

"An example of this [was] the terrible lynching at Ramallah. The behaviour of the international media was appalling. All the media were there; most were taping the whole scene. Only one courageous crew, from Italy, an independent television company, made the footage available to the Israelis and to others... Most of the other TV outlets 'volunteered' to give the tapes to the Palestinians because the Palestinians threatened them and actually confiscated tapes from the hands of certain Western outlets."

If we cannot prevent dishonest reporting, we should at least be aware of it when we see it.

—MBD

SeeJN

ARTS IN BLOOM:

United Synagogue Day School, Bayview campus, recently celebrated the creative spirit with a musical performance that focused on dance, instrumental music and song, for its annual Arts in Bloom. A musical performance was followed by an art show displaying work by students from grades 1 to 8.

[Dominique Grundberger photo]

Still much to do as Claims Conference hits milestone

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the first agreement forged by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (better known as the Claims Conference), Michael Rosenberg has a lot on his plate.

As president of the Toronto-based Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada, Rosenberg regularly receives calls from survivors wondering how much longer they'll have to wait for compensation for their wartime slave labour.

He is involved in petitioning the conference for a grant that would fund home care for aging survivors.

And he has just received word that the government of Germany has proposed extending pension benefits to survivors of Nazi-controlled ghettoes during World War II.

"A lot of things are happening," Rosenberg says, "and that's good because every day, there are fewer and fewer of us."

To survivors who have applied for slave labour compensation, Rosenberg counsels patience.

To date, the Claims Conference has received 260,000 applications for compensation for slave and forced labour, and processed about 85,000 claims. So far, Germany has distributed $383 million (all figures US unless indicated) and is processing claims at the rate of 10,000 a month.

In 2000, Germany and German industries announced the creation of a $7 billion (Cdn) compensation fund for an estimated one million war-era slaves – most of them Jews who worked under extreme conditions, including in concentration camps – and one-time forced labourers, who were mainly non-Jewish civilians seconded to work on farms and infrastructure.

Rosenberg says all of Canada's 16,000 to 18,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors are eligible for compensation for slave labour, even if they did not perform it.

The first installment of payments is roughly $7,200 (Cdn), on top of about $1,000 (US) from the $1.25 billion settlement from Swiss banks made in 1998. Rosenberg said the amount of the second installment isn't known yet.

(Of the Swiss settlement, $200 million was set aside in a humanitarian fund for needy survivors worldwide. In Canada, $3.7 million Cdn was distributed to 7,091 survivors with immediate financial needs, for an average payout of $521 Cdn.)

Although recipients of payments from the conference's long-established Article 2 or Hardship funds may have already been compensated for incarceration in a ghetto, Germany announced last month that it is considering extending pension benefits to those who worked in ghettoes.

The new rules to extend social security benefits to Jews who laboured in Nazi-held ghettoes are likely to be approved by the Bundestag – the German parliament – Rosenberg said.

The proposed filing deadline is June 2003. There is no requirement to hire a lawyer when applying.

Rosenberg is also involved in pressuring the Claims Conference to approve ongoing grants for home care for ailing survivors.

"That's a very big issue for all survivors. Currently, OHIP [the Ontario Health Insurance Plan] covers 15 hours a week of home care. As people age, we need to boost that."

The Claims Conference was founded in New York in 1951 by 23 Jewish organizations and representatives of the State of Israel. Largely as a result of its efforts, more than 500,000 survivors in 67 countries have received compensation and restitution payments valued in current terms at about $50 billion.

Since the fall of the former Soviet Union, the conference has been able to reach needy survivors who had not received compensation under previous programs.

Needy "Righteous Gentiles" who saved Jews during the Holocaust also receive assistance through the conference's Foundation for the Righteous.

In all, the conference has distributed some $500 million to organizations that help needy survivors, document the Holocaust and help rebuild Jewish institutions destroyed by the Nazis.

This year, the conference is expected to disburse more than $1 billion to Holocaust survivors.

The next meeting of the Claims Conference takes place in Luxembourg July 22 and 23, and will mark the 50th anniversary of the Luxembourg Agreement, the conference's first pact, which paved the way for all the other agreements.

Canada is to be represented by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) president Keith Landy and CJC national executive director Jack Silverstone.

– With files from JTA

CORRECTIONS

The address to the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto was incorrectly listed in a story in the June 6 issue on an exhibit of Chinese and Jewish artworks. It is 5183 Sheppard Ave. E.

***

In the article "Book helps parents deal with losing a child," (*CJN*, June 6, 2002) there was an error in the description of the medical care. The family left the Hospital for Sick Children without being seen by medical personnel when they realized that there would be a five hour wait. It was a pediatrician who accused the parents of being "paranoid."

Also, *Samantha's Unicorn* is available at The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe bookstore.

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Greater Toronto Area

Hate on Internet said growing

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

David Duke and William Pierce are heroes of the radical right in the United States, but lately the white supremacists' list of admirers has expanded in an unlikely direction – to Islamic opponents of America and Jews.

Duke, a former Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and Pierce, author of the *Turner Diaries*, the book that inspired the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, have increasingly been quoted with approval in the Mideastern press, said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles.

And while both American racists and Islamic radicals share a deep animosity to the American government and Jews, the Muslim press seems oblivious to the fact American racists refer to them domestically as "mud people," Cooper said.

Rabbi Cooper was in Toronto recently for the release of the centre's new CD-ROM on racist Web sites and other high tech manifestations of Jew-hatred. Titled *Digital Hate 2002*, the CD highlighted 200 problematic Web sites – including one that turns suicide bombings into a computer game.

The problem is massive in scale, Rabbi Cooper said. The 200 sites on the CD are sampled from a list of 3,300 URLs worldwide. Considering that moral suasion has prompted a number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to terminate the service of some racist sites, the growth in this kind of Web presence is troubling, he said.

The centre and other opponents of Internet hate sites have had some success, Rabbi Cooper said, persuading E-Bay, the Internet auction house, to remove Nazi memorabilia from sale.

But other sites are popping up all the time, and they are causing concern among researches. One URL offers viewers the chance to play "Kaboom," a computer game in which participants accumulate points by bombing civilians and watching body parts fly around the screen. The game opens with a picture of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Another game on the same site rewards contestants who shoot unarmed, stereotyped Africans who are wearing traditional clothing. A third game that originates in Austria is aimed at extracting as much value as possible from Turkish workers and then killing them. Yet another game encourages participants to hunt Jews while a video game, released by Pierce, is called "Ethnic Cleansing" and targets Jews and Blacks.

"You get this subculture that's flirting with racism in that way," Rabbi Cooper said.

Meanwhile, Iranian Web sites have been quoting Pierce lately and he in turn "has picked up that he's an international player" who's been cited by sites in Iran, Pakistan and by Hezbollah in Lebanon, Rabbi Cooper said.

Despite their differences, the coincidence of views on shared enemies have brought Islamic radicals and white supremacists closer together – at least on the point of hatred of Jews and the U.S. government.

"There are people in the anti-government movement who see the government as the enemy and who have more than grudging respect for the Taliban, because it weakened the [U.S.] federal government," Rabbi Cooper said.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, sites that promote suicide bombings have sprung up in the Muslim world. An Iranian site and another hosted by Hamas have both tried to encourage and recruit suicide bombers. Rabbi Cooper noted that one Islamic cleric, Sheikh Yussef Al-Qardawi, has sanctioned women becoming suicide bombers even if their husbands disagree. (Al-Qardawi has also stated that there are no civilians in Israel, thereby justifying attacks on unarmed women and children.)

At one point, Internet advocates argued the World Wide Web would be a great democratizing tool in the Muslim world. But, Cooper says, extremists have carved out their own niche, developing sites in Arabic and Farsi.

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UJA Federation holds annual meeting

UJA Federation will be expending greater effort to enlist support for Israel outside the Jewish community according to Ralph Shedletsky, chair of UJA Federation's board.

"This past year, as a community, we witnessed profound and historical events and challenges that impacted us emotionally, spiritually, and intellectually," said Shedletsky, at the recent UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 85th annual general meeting.

"For most, if not all of us, the state of siege in Israel, and the experience of a different yet no less disturbing sense of feeling singled out and under attack for our defence of Israel and for being a Jew, occupied our hearts and minds.

"We plan to expand UJA's efforts to promote the understanding of Israel's position beyond the Jewish community."

Also at the meeting, Leslie Gales, vice-chair, awarded 10 people with leadership and campaigning awards.

Abe Glowinsky received UJA's highest honour in campaigning, the Granovsky Award, named after the late community leader, Phil Granovsky.

Winners of the UJA Leadership Development Awards – Richard Diamond and Allan Gales – were also announced.

Seven volunteers received the ShemTov Award, presented to individuals representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

This year's winners are: Rhona Shulman, UJA's Board of Jewish Education; Helen Finder Guttman, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre; Bernice Royce, Circle of Care; Agi Mandel, Jewish Campus Services; Stephanie Olin-Chapman, Kehilla Residential Programme; Mark Sarner, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, and Alan Motsyn, Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa.

The Faces of Israel Today

Here are the reasons why UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 must generate a generous response.

Photo credit: Messa Godnik Group

All other photo credits: Israel Sun

Gift increases to UJA Federation Emergency Campaign 2003 will be designated for the following needs in Israel:

- Assistance to victims of terror and their families
- Increased security for children in day cares, kindergartens and other facilities for children
- Increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by the crisis, particularly the poor, the elderly and new immigrants

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A catastrophic leader

As these words were being written, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had just arrived in Washington for his sixth visit with U.S. President George W. Bush. Sharon landed in Washington shortly after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak left. Before Mubarak, Bush met with Jordan's King Abdullah. Before Abdullah, Bush heard the counsel of the crown prince of Saudi Arabia.

It's clear that the U.S. administration is intent on trying to fashion a political initiative to lift some of the dead and dying air between Israel and the Palestinian leadership. But whether the flurry of high-level consultations is merely stage-managed motion or actual diplomatic movement will only become clear in the days and months ahead. What is clear however, is that no progress in the political process can result unless there is progress in ending the campaign of violence against Israelis. But an end to the violence will occur only when the Palestinian people themselves decide once and for all to spurn violence and to cast out its planners and perpetrators from within their midst. Alas, that appears not to be happening.

"On the eve of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to Washington," Ze'ev Schiff wrote in *Ha'aretz*, "it is clear Palestinian terrorism is on the increase; not a day goes by without Israeli casualties."

The Palestinian people, the majority of whom, one hopes, simply want to live in peace, are trapped in a never-ending whorl of violence spun by an autocratic, corrupt and prevaricating leadership. And they appear incapable of changing that leadership. The so-called political reforms last weekend by the Palestinian Authority prove the point.

Unfortunately, violence appears to be enjoying increasing popular support among Palestinians. Last week 17 Israelis were killed near Megiddo. Two weeks ago, an 18-year-old Palestinian walked up to a cafe in Petach Tikvah, crowded with children and their parents, detonated the bomb strapped to his body, killing himself and an older woman and her infant granddaughter.

The *National Post* reported that when the murderer called his mother to bid her goodbye, she said to him, albeit tearfully: "Oh son, I hope your operation will succeed." After the murders, the boy's father added: "I would hope that my son would be a nuclear bomb, not a normal bomb, to destroy everything." The testimonies of the young murderer's parents are horrific but profoundly eloquent proof of the fact that Yasser Arafat's leadership has been catastrophic for the Palestinian people. It has been an abject moral and national failure.

He has made the distance between his people and an independent homeland far greater than it has ever been. He has alienated the trust of every mainstream Israeli from the possibility of ever making peace with him. He has increased Israeli resolve never to surrender to violence and terror. He has squandered untold millions of dollars that were intended for his people's welfare. He has built no reliable, trustworthy institution of government. But saddest of all, he has brought some Palestinian parents to the crazed, hate-filled desperation of applauding even the wilful deaths of their own children. It is long past time that, for the sake of the Palestinian people, the world asked Yasser Arafat to step aside.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones
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Favours boycott of Europe

In recent months, *The CJN* has carried news of the Jewish communities in Europe, news virtually unavailable from any other Canadian source. Your editorials have been strong in support of those communities. Letters to the editor have suggested that we should show our individual support of our European Jewish family, not only by gathering at peaceful public protests, but also by taking personal action such as writing letters to the governments concerned and to the press and by boycotting the countries that have demonstrated a lack of concern towards acts of anti-Semitism.

To that end, my wife and I have just cancelled a two week trip to Paris which we had been planning since last fall. Our cousins from Finland were to meet us there. They too have cancelled. We will instead be vacationing in Canada, as will our Finnish cousins. I don't know if four people not going to Paris out of the millions that do go will make a difference, but we all felt that in good conscience, we could not spend our money in a country in which the government appears to allow acts of anti-Semitism to go unchallenged.

Sydney Moscoe
Toronto

* * *

Opposes boycott of Europe

A boycott of French goods would not in the least way contribute to alleviating anti-Semitism in France and might even alienate some people. You don't punish a whole nation because 10 per cent of them are prejudiced. If we did that, we would need to boycott most of the world, including the United States. Even Canada is not entirely free of prejudices against some minorities. Some French importers may be Jewish. Do we want to punish them too? I doubt that French Jews will agree to a boycott. Many of them escaped Adolf Hitler and were helped by some French good samaritans.

We won't get National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen soundly defeated by boycotting French imports. There are better ways to oppose anti-Semitism.

Sidney Cohen
Windsor, Ont.

* * *

Many issues still on Jewish agenda

Although the primary concern of the Jewish community at this time must be Israel, which we must support morally and materially, we must not lose sight at the same time of other issues, which the Jewish community and federations must address.

Among these issues are:

- Ensuring that children receive a good Jewish education, whether at a day school or supplementary Hebrew school without lack of affordability being a deterrent to access. As Rabbi Aaron Soloveitchik so eloquently put it: "If a child desires a Jewish eduction, the community is required to provide it."
- Ensuring that lack of affordability does not prevent children from attending Jewish camps, especially in view of the fact that Jewish federations provide funding for such an express purpose.
- Ensuring that every effort is made by the various Jewish denominations and the community to provide means for Jewish singles to meet, whether for socialization or matrimonial purposes.

When addressing their congregations, rabbis must be alert not only to the situation in Israel, but should also, for the good of the community, emphasize these other issues.

Charles Abshez
Toronto

* * *

Clothing donated to Israel

Because of the generous donations of many Canadians, many Israeli families in need now have beautiful clothes. Special thanks go to the Bais Yaakov of Toronto Elementary School and to the Eitz Chaim Girls School for donating hundreds of bags of clothing. We commend the administration and parent body of these schools for continuously encouraging their students to be active participants in this special act of chesed.

We also convey our special appreciation to Ellie Korenblum and to Laura Moll for their efforts in this project.

Larry and Naomi Pinczower
Toronto

* * *

Israel's painful sacrifice

The Jenin "massacre," propagandized by the Arabs and certain European journalists, has now been exposed as the first great media hoax of the 21st century. Still, most of the world always wants to believe the worst of Israel.

I will never understand why the Israel Defence Forces had to sacrifice 23 of Israel's finest in ground combat in Jenin, for fear of hurting civilians, when it could have pulverized the barbarous enemy from the air, as the Americans have done in Afghanistan. Why did Israel need to prove its morality before a deceitful and wicked world?

Jacob Mendlovic
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The 1941 pogrom in Baghdad: 'We cannot afford to forget our past'

By NAIM DALLAL

Sixty-one years ago, on June 1 and 2 of 1941 – the two days of Shavuot that year – the Mufti-inspired, pro-Nazi coup of Rasheed Ali Al Gaylani incited a pogrom (*farhood* in Arabic) in Baghdad, Iraq, that resulted in the murder of nearly 200 Jews and the wounding of almost 1,000.

That such atrocities were committed against the oldest Jewish community in the Diaspora, a society that had lived in Babylonia (modern Iraq) for more than 2,500 years since the destruction of the first Temple, remains a source of sorrow for not only myself, but for Jews around the world.

Prior to the *farhood* of 1941, Iraqi Jews lived under numerous regimes, from the Arabs and Persians to the Mongols and the Turks, with varying degrees of human rights and freedoms. But never before did the Iraqi Jewish community experience such success as under the rule of King Faysal.

Israel stamp issued in 1970 commemorating the 20th anniversary of "Operation Ezra and Nehemia"

Crowned in 1921 after a referendum controlled by the British administration, King Faysal insisted on the equal treatment of Jews in the newly created Iraqi kingdom. Jews received appointments in several key posts in the government. The first finance minister was Jewish, as was the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Iraqi Jews held key positions in transportation, the administration of railways and the ministries of interiors and foreign affairs. The community boasted famous schools, hospitals and clinics as well as talented professors, doctors, lawyers and engineers. And Jewish delegates were elected to the Iraqi parliament in accordance with a quota system that allowed for a maximum of six Jewish members of parliament and one Jewish senator.

In fact, according to government sources, the Iraqi Jewish population reached 120,000 in the 1930s, representing 2.5 per cent of the nation's population. And Jews of Baghdad, the vast majority of whome were Orthodox, accounted for 25 per cent of the city's people.

Unfortunately, the favourable conditions that allowed the Iraqi Jewish community to flourish soon deteriorated, laying the groundwork for death and destruction.

Persecution and discrimination of Jews in Iraq started in the early '30s when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and the conflict between Jews and Arabs in the Holy Land was exaggerated by Nazi agents in Arab countries, who spread the propaganda that Jews committed atrocities against the Arab population. At the centre of this campaign of hatred was the grand mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin El Husseini, and the German ambassador to Iraq.

In 1936, several Jews were murdered in Baghdad, which brought horror and concern to our peaceful people. In response, Jewish establishments waged a strike. It was a bold move that was called off only after the authorities assured our chief rabbi that the safety of Jewish citizens would be a priority of the Iraqi government.

In 1941, Al Gaylani, who had strong anti-British leanings and was assisted by the Iraqi army's chief of staff and four powerful colonels, conducted a successful coup d'etat, deposing the pro-British regent of the throne, Prince Abdul Ilah and his right-hand man Nuri Al-Said, who had his own strong following. Forced to leave Iraq, this group fled to Jordan (then known as Transjordan).

Al Gaylani, together with the Iraqi Army, was humiliated by the Arab (Transjordanian) Legion under the command of the British general Glubb Pasha, who was sent by Prince Abdullah of Transjordan (who later became the king of Jordan) to support his nephew, the regent of the Iraqi throne.

However, on June 1, 1941, the first day of Shavuot, Al Gaylani, his officers and the mufti fled to Persia, and a self-appointed committee was established to supposedly enforce law and order until the regent officially took over. At this time, the regent and the British army were stationed in the western section of Baghdad.

At about 4 p.m. of the same day, the pogrom started against the Jewish community and lasted all night. Stores were looted, hundreds of Jews were killed, Jewish girls were kidnapped and raped, many Jewish people were declared missing and houses were burned. Neither the regent, who was in full command of the army, nor the British troops tried to stop the atrocity and save our defenceless people. In fact, history tells us that in the following days, a group of young Jewish men successfully smuggled arms into Baghdad and trained themselves to fight in the event of a repeat occurrence. Following the exile of Iraqi Jews, authorities discovered the weapons amassed by the brave men.

In 1948, the Arab countries invaded Israel and martial law in Iraq was declared on the pretext that the security of the nation was threatened by the Zionist fifth column. Many Jews were arrested on false charges and tortured or sentenced to hard labour, and their assets were confiscated. Many Jews were fired from their jobs and replaced by Muslims with lower qualifications. Professionals were ordered to move out of the cities they were practising in or be faced with arrest. Heavy restrictions and regulations were imposed on Jewish merchants. Colleges rejected Jewish students, and Jews were forbidden to travel.

By 1950, many Jews had no choice but to leave Iraq in order to escape the continuous persecution. But the government only permitted them to depart on the condition that they renounce their Iraqi nationality. Once their nationality was renounced, the government immediately froze their assets and seized their property. If the Jews who had left Iraq before 1950 did not return within three months, they were stripped of their nationality and their assets were frozen in their absence.

Major Jewish settlements in Iraq according to the official 1947 census.

The New Synagogue of Baghdad, consecrated in 1797. [Encyclopedia Judaica photos]

In 1969, Jews were hung in public squares and their bodies left dangling to the delight of the Muslim crowds. Since that time, many Jews have vanished. The government claims they ran away to Israel, but the truth is they were kidnapped and murdered, and the government seized their property. Also in 1969, synagogues under government control were confiscated and converted to factories for homes for Palestinian refugees. Some Sifrei Torah are considered government "heritage" property and have been placed in museums as antiques, but cannot leave the country.

To date, nearly one million Jews have been forced to flee Arab countries, leaving behind them a trail of blood and tears. Fortunately, many exiled Jews have been absorbed by Israel, a country that, despite its small size and limited resources, has never turned its back on its own people.

All of which raises questions about the Arab nations' treatment of the Palestinian refugees. Six Arab countries invaded the newly formed country of Israel in 1948, ignoring the United Nations' resolution that created the Jewish state, humiliating Palestinian refugees and thrusting the Palestinian refugee problem onto the shoulders of a nascent country.

Israel's treatment of the Jewish refugees, on the other hand, has been nothing short of miraculous. It has absorbed Jews from such places as Yemen, Syria, Egypt, North Africa, and of course, Iraq. The result is a nation that is not only certain to survive the actions of its modern-day enemies, but one that simply cannot afford to forget the terrible pogroms of its past.

Born in Baghdad, Naim Dallal is a dentist in Toronto. The founder of the Iraqi Jewish Association, he is currently on the national executive committee of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Why didn't they?

As I write, the current issue of *Time* magazine is headlined: "While America Slept." The sub-heading reads: "Why so little was done."

The headline referred to reports that the Bush administration received warnings before Sept. 11 that Al Qaeda might hijack airplanes. I read the accompanying article with some interest, but even more so with amusement. Not that the subject matter was funny – quite the contrary. What struck my funny bone, however, was the rather simplistic implication that Sept. 11 might have been prevented if the people concerned had realized the full extent of the potential threat. It makes for interesting reading, but it has little to do with reality.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

As an example, I will cite a question that I hear time and again. When Nazi Germany is being discussed, people inevitably ask me:"Why didn't the German Jews leave the country before it was too late?"

The reason was simple: there had been no precedent of any political party behaving the way the Nazis did once they came to power, and even some Nazis were not fully aware of what was being done to the Jews. There was simply no precedent, but the Monday-morning quarterbacks of course know what should have been done.

Jews had lived in Germany for thousands of years. They had come with the Romans in the first and second centuries and, on the whole, they had fared reasonably well. Jews experienced various kinds of governmental oppression, and they usually stuck them out. But no one could have anticipated what the Nazis would eventually do. At the time, they were judged to be like similar regimes before them. The fact they turned out to be very different was not anticipated by Jews or, for that matter, by anyone else, including many Nazis themselves.

Of course, today we know that the Jews in Germany and Poland and other countries would have been smart to leave before it was too late. Afterwards, it is always simple to make the right judgment, and that's the way the *Time* headlines struck me.

I found it interesting to hear the U.S. president announce recently that, sooner or later, America would again be struck by terrorists, but neither he nor anyone else has any idea from where such attacks will come and what nefarious activities will take place. Afterward, of course – if in fact there is another attack – many of us will be moved to say "We should have known."

Yes, Jews should have left Germany earlier but, relying on 2,000 years of fairly positive experience, we had no sense of the terrible future that lay ahead.

In sum, Monday morning quarterbacking is one thing; calling the shots on Sunday is another.

From Beirut to Ramallah

Many feel that to understand the events of the last two years, one has to begin with the Lebanon story. In retrospect, the 1982 Lebanon War was a "first" in several critical ways – all of which represented a sober awakening from earlier myths of Israeli military omnipotence and a blind acceptance of the establishment's position. As Israelis mark its 20th anniversary, it is striking to note the similarities and differences between that war and the debate over the current war against Palestinian terrorism.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Lebanon was the first war in which the phrase " a war of choice" was coined to question the very reason for the military action. Because there was no consensus on the need for the push to Beirut, it was the first war that was criticized even as it was being waged. The famous article by journalist Amiram Nir, *Quiet, They're Shooting*, in which he called for a halt to the criticism until the end of the war, was essentially rejected by his colleagues in the Israeli press. Their position was that since there was a choice inherent in that war, the patriotic thing to do was to raise the questions.

The dissent also spilled into the streets. For the first time in Israel's history, reserve soldiers held demonstrations once they returned home from their stint of duty. And Eli Geva, a colonel in the Israel Defence Forces, challenged the scope of the war while in uniform, thereby creating another significant precedent.

Further, Lebanon was the first war in which Israeli soldiers came face to face with civilians and in which they encountered terrorists using civilians as human shields. The PLO was scattered throughout the villages of southern Lebanon, and it was impossible to distinguish fighters from civilians whom they held as virtual hostages or who actively supported them.

Soldiers and civilians agonized over the legal and moral questions that arose as a result of this new reality. *Ricochets-Shtei Etzba'ot Mitsidon*, a film produced by the IDF itself, shaped the public debate over the impossible choices soldiers had to make. Israelis' consciousness of these issues came to a head in the public outcry after the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Although Israel was in no way responsible for the violence perpetrated by its Lebanese Christian allies, the public reacted as though it was. The Kahan Commission's subsequent inquiry was a further indication of the seriousness attached by Israelis to the new circumstances of war.

Finally, Lebanon was the first case in which the Israeli army withdrew unilaterally from territory it controlled as a result of war. In 1985, Israel's unity government, led by Shimon Peres and Yitzchak Shamir, withdrew the IDF from most of the area it had controlled since 1982. The IDF remained in a narrow security zone just north of the border, as a compromise between the Labour party, which wanted to withdraw completely, and Likud and the IDF, who wanted to keep forces in Lebanon. Twenty years later, prime minister Ehud Barak terminated Israel's controversial presence there and withdrew the IDF, due to intense public pressure over the large number of Israeli casualties at the hands of Hezbollah. Looking back, it is not at all clear if the continued presence in the security zone in fact saved Israeli lives, or if a full withdrawal in 1985 might have been the more prudent choice.

Today, both sides in the Israeli political debate use the withdrawal from Lebanon to reinforce their positions. "Doves" argue that it saved soldiers' lives, while "hawks" blame the unilateral withdrawal for the PLO's perception that Israel could be forced to do the same in the West Bank and Gaza. Both arguments are correct.

For Israelis generally, however, there is a major difference between Lebanon and today. The current war against suicide bombers is viewed as a war of no choice, and as a result, public and media debate and dissent have been far more muted. As in the case of Lebanon, only history will provide a more complete perspective on the results of Operation Defensive Shield. However, it is already clear that any military gains from the incursion will last only if translated into an aggressive diplomatic initiative aimed at achieving a political settlement.

Gay pride in Jerusalem

A gay pride parade was to have taken place in Jerusalem last Friday, in the midst of some controversy. Actually, the controversy is good news, as it focuses Israeli attention away from daily political and security worries to another aspect of life.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

While the parade should take place, apparently gay and lesbian activists have asked the Israeli High Court to order the city of Jerusalem to help fund it. The judges are seeking to find out what kind of support the municipality offers to other parades before rendering a decision. The municipality has agreed to provide security fencing and flags for the gay pride parade, but organizers understandably seek equal treatment.

The debate on the parade has triggered some nasty commentary from one Nissim Ze'ev, a member of Knesset from the haredi Shas party. In a radio interview, he reportedly compared homosexuality to having a "pig in the Holy Temple" and warned that homosexuals could spread AIDS and turn Israel into "a second Africa."

Most North American cities have large gay pride parades, just as they do parades for all manner of groups and causes. The opposition voiced by some residents is not seen as weakening the free speech and free association rights of gays and lesbians. Those opposed to homosexuality need not attend the parades.

The fact that a large segment, and possibly a majority, of Jerusalem's population – both Jewish (especially Orthodox) and Muslim – might share Ze'ev's hostility to homosexuality is irrelevant. It is minorities that need to have their right of free expression protected.

While Orthodoxy remains officially opposed to homosexual practices and does not countenance gay Jewish marriages or gay rabbis, there is change afoot from the ground up. Apparently some of the gays and lesbians interested in marching in the Jerusalem parade are Orthodox themselves.

The recent movie *Trembling Before God* traces the anguish and dilemmas facing gay Orthodox Jews. I know of no reliable statistical evidence about the proportion of gay and lesbian Jews in the ranks of the Orthodox, but they do exist. Some of the more liberal Orthodox synagogues may well have evolved a kind of "don't ask, don't tell" approach to shul members who are thought to be gay.

The organized Jewish community in North America has generally supported equal opportunity and non-discrimination for gays and lesbians. This is part of a more general civil rights position. After initial periods of resistance, gay Jewish organizations, including congregations, were openly established and incorporated into wider Jewish communal frameworks. Jewish social service agencies and professionals invariably take a non-discriminatory approach to such issues as they arise.

Moreover, individual Jews, being generally liberal on social issues, would be less likely to openly express homophobia, to discriminate against gays, or to engage in gay-bashing or the like.

But this tolerance is far from universal. Many Jewish parents do not fully accept the sexual choices of their gay children. Family relations can, and do, become severely strained. As a result, many Jewish gays and lesbians are reportedly still "in the closet," at least to family and some relatives. And these tensions are likely more severe among the more religious elements of the community.

The holding of a gay pride parade in Jerusalem has symbolic importance for Jews everywhere. While traditional Jews in Jerusalem are certainly free to express their reservations about homosexuality, the holding of the parade could be seen as entrenching a spirit of pluralism both within Israel and the wider Jewish community. This is all to the good. Moreover, suicide bombers blowing up pizzerias in Jerusalem do not worry about the sexual orientation of their victims.

The Kirshner File

A 'localized' conflict with great consequences

The Six Day War broke out 35 years ago this month. It was Israel's most brilliant military feat of arms, bar none. The triumph had widespread repercussions. It sowed the seeds of the 1967-1970 War of Attrition and the 1973 Yom Kippur War, which in turn laid the groundwork for Israel's historic 1979 peace treaty with Egypt.

In addition, the Six Day War galvanized Palestinian nationalism and touched off a passionate national debate about the final disposition of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the political fallout of which haunts Israel to this day.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

" Rarely in modern times has so short and localized a conflict had such prolonged, global consequences," writes Michael Oren in his magnum opus, *Six Days of War*, published by Oxford University Press.

Oren, having had the benefit of access to declassified documents, has made the best of this opportunity. His cogently-written book sets a new gold standard of scholarship. He devotes 169 pages to the crises that triggered the war, the third in Israel's history, and almost as many pages to the war itself.

Its causes are clear.

Syria, citing Algeria's recent victory over France, called for a " people's war" to defeat Israel, which Arabs viewed as an outpost of Western imperialism. Backing up this proclamation with provocative steps, the Syrians actively supported raids by the newly-formed Palestine Liberation Organization into Israel, tried to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River and attempted to stop Israel's cultivation of the demilitarized zones in the northern Galilee.

In the face of mounting border incidents with Israel, Syria accused Egypt's president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, of "going soft" on Israel. Nasser, unwilling to be outmanoeuvred by rival Syria, became embroiled in the anti-Israel frenzy sweeping the Arab world. Nasser knew full well that Egypt was unprepared for a war. Nevertheless, he ordered United Nations peacekeeping troops out of the Sinai Peninsula and closed the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping. Israel, rightly, regarded these moves as a casus belli.

Meanwhile, King Hussein of Jordan foolishly entered into a military alliance with Egypt. The Soviet Union stoked the tension by cynically circulating false reports about an Israeli buildup of forces along the Syrian frontier. Israel's prime minister, Levi Eshkol, was reluctant to launch a pre-emptive strike against Egypt. But when he concluded that the United States had no quick and viable plan to restore the status quo ante in the Gulf of Aqaba and the Sinai, the die was cast for war.

Egypt, bogged down in a war in Yemen, realized that Israel had two options: to accept the new situation or to attack. "We must expect the enemy to strike a blow within 48 to 72 hours, by June 5 at the latest," Nasser presciently told his generals on June 2.

Although Nasser, privately, was none too eager to fight Israel, he found himself in a quandary of his own making, Oren observes. He could only recall his army from Sinai at the risk of humiliation. A continuing buildup, on the other hand, would greatly enhance his stature as an Arab leader. Nasser hoped he could remilitarize the Sinai without risking war. It was a huge mistake.

The Syrians, the original instigators of the slide toward war, miscalculated too. Syria, having refused to co-ordinate its policies with Egypt, had prepared a strategy to conquer northern Israel in six days. Syria would seize Kibbutz Mishmar Hayarden and the settlements in the Dan region, capture Tiberias and Safed and then regroup to take Afula, Nazareth and Haifa. The defence minister, Mustafa Tlass, thought that Syria, in league with Egypt, could destroy Israel in four days.

Fearing Soviet intervention, Moshe Dayan, Israel's defence minister, rejected a full-scale war with Syria. Dayan's reluctance to confront Syria was nothing new: Israel's massive retaliatory raid into the Jordanian village of Samu, on Nov. 13, 1966, had been ostensibly meant to punish Palestinian villages in the Hebron area which had aided Fatah guerrillas in attacking Israel. In actuality, Samu was an indirect warning to Syria to desist from heating up the border with Israel.

Oren claims that, beyond the goals of destroying the Egyptian army and eliminating the threat from Egypt, Israel had no intention of expanding the war into the West Bank, the Golan Heights or even eastern Jerusalem. As he puts it: "The vagaries and momentum of war, far more than rational decision-making, shaped the fighting's results."

In this vein, Oren quotes Rechavam Ze'evi, then deputy chief of operations and later minister of tourism in Ariel Sharon's cabinet, as saying: "The Israeli government never set specific goals for the war. The objectives rose from the bottom up, from the military to the political echelon."

The Six Day War started at 7:10 am when waves of Magister Fouga jets, followed by Ouragon bombers and Mirage fighters, took off from airfields at Hatzor and Ramat David. Flying low to avoid detection, and observing radio silence, the planes swung west toward the Mediterranean and south toward the Red Sea. Almost all of Egypt's aircraft were on the ground. In an incredible gamble, Israel left only 12 planes to defend its airspace. Within about 30 minutes, Egypt had lost 204 planes, half its air force. By the end of the day, Egyptian losses had jumped to 286, a fact of which Nasser was blissfully unaware. Nasser had been informed that the tide of battle had turned in Egypt's favour.

Gamal Abdel Nasser

Through the United Nations, Israel warned Jordan to stay out of the hostilities. Jordan, having been misled by fantastic Arab claims of stirring victories, walked pell-mell into a disaster. Jordanian artillery bombed the suburbs of Tel Aviv and Ramat David. Jordanian planes strafed Netanya, Kfar Saba and Kfar Sirkin. Jordanian howitzers fired 6,000 shells into West Jerusalem, killing 20 civilians, wounding about 1,000 and damaging over 900 buildings, notably the Hadassah Hospital.

Moshe Dayan

Israel struck back, first with punishing air raids and then by capturing East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank. Shlomo Goren, the Israel Defence Forces' chief rabbi, called on Uzi Narkiss, the Israeli commander, to demolish the Temple Mount's mosques, but he chose to ignore the request.

Jordan's offensive drew the Syrian and Iraqi air forces into the war. Syria bombed settlements in the Galilee, while Iraq hit settlements in the Jezreel Valley, including Dayan's village, Nahalal. An Iraqi Topolov bomber that crashed wiped out 16 Israeli troops in one fell swoop. Israel retaliated, hitting several Syrian air bases and one Iraqi base. When Iraq's 8th Brigade tried to cross into the West Bank, Israeli aircraft decimated it.

Syria raised the possibility of striking Israel through Lebanon, but the Lebanese government resisted. Syria then proceeded to shell Israeli settlements on a 30-mile front. Residents lobbied Dayan to invade the Golan, but he declined, as did Eshkol.

Dayan's opposition to taking on the Syrians was such that he preferred to move vulnerable Israeli settlements out of Syrian artillery range. Subsequently, Dayan changed his mind, and Israel stormed the Golan. In an intriguing footnote, Oren says that Yitzhak Rabin, the chief of staff, cancelled orders to take the southern Golan. David Elazar, the head of northern command, basically countermanded the order.

The cautiousness Dayan displayed with respect to the Golan applied to the Gaza Strip as well. Dayan forbade a thrust into Gaza, not wishing to embroil the army in the horror of urban warfare or to saddle Israel with the responsibility for 250,000 Palestinian refugees. Rabin, however, overruled him.

The United States was essentially ambivalent about Israel's successes. Dean Rusk, the secretary of state, was relieved that Israel had not been driven into the sea. Lyndon Johnson, the president, regretted that Israel had not given diplomacy sufficient time.

Oren discusses the USS Liberty incident – during which Israel fired on an American reconnaissance ship off Gaza's coast and killed 34 sailors and wounded 171 – at length.

In 132 hours of war, Israel sustained casualties of 800 dead and 2,563 wounded. Egypt lost between 10,000 and 15,000 soldiers, and Jordan and Syria 700 and 450, respectively. Materially speaking, Arab losses were fearsome. Egypt lost most of its military equipment, which was worth $2 billion (US). It was promptly replaced by the Soviet Union. In all, the Arabs lost 469 aircraft. By comparison, Israel lost 36 planes (and 18 pilots), or 20 per cent of its air power.

On June 19, 1967, Israel secretly decided to exchange Sinai and the Golan for peace treaties with Egypt and Syria. The idea met with fierce resistance in cabinet and was tacitly dropped.

Israel won a great victory in the Six Day War, but was unable to translate it into peace. Israel would have to fight several more wars to come within reach of a rapprochement with some of its Arab enemies.

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Moshe Halpern - 3rd Place, International Division
Rebecca Winter - 5th Place, Diaspora Division

יישר כוחכם

Jewish Life

A new Zionism

Comment

By SHIRA GOLDBERG

The urgency to visit Israel is increasing as it shifts from a state of crisis to catharsis. I recently returned from a volunteer mission to Israel with 70 young Canadians. This trip provided me with an understanding of the new Zionism.

In the 19th century, and until 1967, Zionism had a positive connotation, as settlers reclaimed their land in a vibrant display of self-determination. However, since the Six Day War, negative propaganda has influenced a new inimical view of Zionism, one that is being defined by the anti-Zionists. This anti-Zionism has been embraced by journalists around the world. Even some of my Jewish peers at McGill University have bought into the anti-Zionist dialectic advanced to promote the Palestinian struggle. That is what prompted me to participate in the mission.

My experience demonstrated the importance of establishing personal connections with Israelis. I seized every opportunity to chat in Hebrew with the Israeli soldiers on the army base, our tour guides and the guest speakers. I strongly encourage everyone with family and friends in Israel to maintain their ties through frequent communication and, especially, through regular trips to Israel. It is also vital to forge new connections, for example by adopting an Israeli family victimized by terrorist bombings.

Our sages teach us: *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh*, that all of Israel is responsible for one another. As a community, we must take responsibility for our distressed Israeli brethren.

The Israeli economy has been severely weakened as a result of the intifadah. On my visit, I witnessed firsthand the misery of tour guides forced to become taxi drivers, Jaffa artists who did not bother to open their shops, restaurant owners with no clientele. There is an obvious correlation between fear and economic decline. Thus, visiting Israel and spending money there has immense political, as well as economic, benefits. The majority of both Israelis and Palestinians understand that war hinders tourism and other industries. A resurgence in tourism would stimulate and stabilize the Israeli economy.

When the volunteer program ended, I toured Israel for a week with my father. He introduced me to several Israeli family friends who received us very warmly. I felt an immediate bond with my host families, many of whom have maintained enduring relationships with my grandparents and parents. These unique "generational friendships" transcend barriers of space and time and unite the Jewish people. The trip underlined to me the importance of *shmirat hakesher*, keeping the connection.

On the last night of the mission, all the participants gathered to assess the trip's significance. One group member pointed out that while the trip gave us the opportunity to volunteer and display our solidarity, it also led to an important new affiliation of young leaders across Canada. Along with heartfelt friendships, the trip facilitated the development of ideas for helping Israel. On our bus rides to and from our volunteer stations, we discussed joint investments in Israel and collaborated on models for future trips. Even after the day's activities had ended, heated philosophical debates about Zionist and Jewish ideologies went on late into the night.

Many of the participants had expressed their sense of helplessness as detached individuals before visiting Israel. Now, lasting bonds have been created amongst a group that intends to be an active part of the future Jewish leadership in Canada.

For myself, the trip was a revitalizing experience that infused me with a renewed sense of Jewish purpose. I believe it is imperative that we repopulate the tourist sites, invigorate the economy and cultivate personal relationships in Israel. Once again, we must make the desert bloom.

Shira Goldberg is from Toronto and studies at McGill University.

Is it anti-Semitism or paranoia?

Guest Voice

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

Rena, a survivor of the Holocaust, once told me about her youth in Budapest, and her friendships, both Jewish and non-Jewish. But after the war, Rena told me, "it wasn't the same... I simply don't feel comfortable around non-Jews."

The sad secret of Jewish life in the Diaspora is that most of us are not completely comfortable with non-Jews. Often, we are hyper-sensitive to any hint of anti-Semitism, to the point of paranoia. This is understandable; centuries of Crusades, pogroms and Holocausts tend to do that to people. While understandable, this paranoia is also dangerous.

Yes, anti-Semitism is on the rise. Look at the Arab world, France, Durban, Saskatoon, Quebec City, Toronto, Concordia University, and of course, Israel. (I won't bother repeating the details; I'm sure you get the point just by reading the list.) There is also no question that many times in the course of Jewish history we have been foolishly optimistic. (Like it's twin brother paranoia, naiveté is also the product of persecution, the excessive optimism of a people desperate for a better future.) Most German Jews were proud, patriotic citizens, eager to prove their loyalty to the Fatherland, and then Adolf Hitler arrived. Too many German Jews dismissed Hitler as a noisy demagogue and thought their beloved fellow citizens, the products of a superior culture, would prevent anything wrong from happening. They were wrong.

This naiveté was at work during the Oslo peace process. Many of us – myself included – strongly supported the peace process as the best alternative for Israel's future. But, as it turned out, we made a mistake. The Oslo accords were the right plan with the wrong partner. Like Theodor Herzl after the Dreyfus trial, we've started to realize that we can't always depend on the kindness of enemies.

Having been burned by misplaced idealism, it is tempting to become paranoid. Amy Wilentz, in the May 6 issue of *New York Magazine*, writes about the fear that many American Jews are feeling. She quotes different columnists, including Ron Rosenbaum, who talks about the possibility of a "second Holocaust" and Nat Hentoff, who says, "As I've said before, if a loudspeaker goes off and a voice says, 'All Jews gather in Times Square,' it could never surprise me." This, frankly, is paranoia, and paranoia is costly.

Paranoia sows distrust and causes us to snub genuine friends. One of the most encouraging pieces of news in the past 20 months has been the enormous support evangelical Christians have given Israel. The response of Jewish organizations in the United States and Canada has been decidedly cool. This reflects paranoia at work.

We see the evangelicals as too rural, too western, too conservative to truly like Jews. Some see evangelical support of Israel as a ploy to convert Jews. It could be that conversion motivates some evangelicals, but the vast majority support Israel unconditionally, and the support they give is remarkable.

Last year, I was part of a group of rabbis who went to Ottawa to lobby in support of Israel. One of our meetings was with James Lunney, a freshman member of Parliament from British Columbia who is an evangelical Christian. He told me he has been to Israel 13 times, and he told me how much he was doing to support Israel. His support was purely personal, as he has very few Jews in his riding. After the meeting, I realized what a shame it is that our community has not built partnerships with Israel's strongest supporters.

Ultimately, paranoia turns Jew against Jew. Like an auto-immune disease, paranoia eventually attacks those closest to us. If the world is out to get us, then Jews who don't share our paranoia must be out to get us too. A good example of this are the ads in New York's *Jewish Press* signed by "Jewish Victims of Oslo" with hate-filled messages aimed at Israeli leaders who deviate from the group's extreme political views. The ads see Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, former prime minister Ehud Barak and even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as disloyal to Israel. These views, expressed in defence of Israel, are actually self destructive. The tragic, but inevitable conclusion of this type of thinking is the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Paranoia is not a tolerable eccentricity. Unchecked, it is extremely dangerous.

There is a crisis. Israel is under attack, and in Europe there has been a dramatic increase in anti-Semitism. We have real enemies, but we have phantom enemies as well. What we need to do is fight our enemies, trust our friends, and have the wisdom to know the difference between anti-Semitism and paranoia.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz is the spiritual leader of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

Jewish Life

The enormous loss

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

In the Torah readings this month we are told of the deaths of two leaders in Israel and foretold of the death of a third. We read of Miriam's death first, and shortly thereafter Moses is told he will die before entering the Land. We subsequently read of Aaron's death.

Three siblings, three pivotal leaders – the loss is enormous. Each of them has lived a unique life and fulfilled a distinct leadership role, and each portrays a different death from which we learn many things.

Miriam's death, the first loss, appears to us suddenly with no preparation for the event. We are not told of an illness or an accident or a weakening of the body as her years progress. We are suddenly and quite surprisingly informed of her death. This kind of sudden death in an older person is termed by the rabbis as "death by a kiss." In other words, God has taken this person quite suddenly yet quite tenderly. It is almost as if God has waited as long as He could and now cannot wait any longer to have this person next to Him. We are unprepared for it.

There are no words of comfort in the text and there is no expression of mourning. Perhaps the shock deprives us of the reality of the loss and the healing cannot yet begin.

Aaron's death is different and unique in that Moses is told it will happen and Aaron is ushered to his death by his brother and his son.

There is a private and proper transfer of priesthood from Aaron to his son and Aaron then dies peacefully. This death is not sudden, for it is known and expected by all. Loose threads are tied together and leadership is transferred so that a smooth transition is already in place before the death.

But we see that no preparation can result in true readiness in these matters. When Israel sees that Aaron has died they mourn for 30 days. Perhaps the awareness of the coming event allowed the people to begin to let go of Aaron and they are now ready to mourn and heal.

Moses' death is likewise unique in that he is not told the time of his demise but rather the limit that will be put on his life. In other words, Moses is not given a date upon which he will die but a historical marker that he may not pass. Moses will not enter the Land of Israel; it is this event that serves as the border for his lifetime. The reality of this awareness is that Moses' remaining years are now framed for him and he realizes his limitation. When Moses dies, Israel will mourn him and the text will eulogize him in a profound manner.

With the deaths of these three leaders we learn of the realities of life. There are those who leave us suddenly, those who know their time will shortly end and those who know the limitations of their lives. Death is never welcomed but always a loss – it always leaves a gap. The Talmud states that when the soul leaves the body, its cry goes from one end of the world to the other. We are too wrapped in our own tears to hear its anguish.

Three leaders, brothers and a sister – unique in every moment of their lives. Every year we read of their deaths, every year we feel the loss of their leadership. We have no gravesides to visit, no gravestones to erect. Yet we find comfort in the Talmud when it states: "No monuments need be put up for the righteous – their words are their monuments."

How to help Israel – Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, we continue looking at the many resources on the Internet that you can use to help Israel through its current crisis.

Give Tzedakah: Here's a challenge from Uri Miller, Ovadiah Jacob and Gershon Strauchler, three students at Yeshiva University in New York. "Project One Percent" calls on high school and college students to pledge at least 1 per cent of their summer income to support Jewish victims of terror **[http://www.pledge4israel.com/]**. According to the Web site, over 1,200 students have already pledged to donate that amount since the project was created in April. That number should rise thanks to the assistance of Hillel, the World Union of Jewish Students and the CAJE, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education.

There are many organizations that will take contributions for Israel, including the United Jewish Appeal's (UJA) Israel Emergency Campaign **[http://www.uja.org/]** or your local federation **[http://jewishfinder.com]**. Israel's Magen David Adom welcomes all contributions and will work with organizations or individuals that are interested in donating an ambulance – $54,900 (US) or a mobile intensive care unit $69,900 (US) **[http://www.magendavidadom.org/ambulances.html]**.

Always investigate any charity before donating by mail, phone or through the Internet.

Show a soldier you care: You can send your wishes by e-mail to an Israeli soldier at LetterToSoldier@jazo.org.il. If you prefer to mail a letter or send a fax, you'll find the address at this page **[http://www.bjeny.org/287.html]**.

In April, Israeli Shimon Aharon came up with a unique way to help boost the morale of the country's soldiers. Aharon set up PizzaIDF where anyone in the world could donate money to have pizza and cola delivered to Israeli soldiers **[http://www.pizzaidf.org/]**. Since then, 4,000 pizzas have been delivered to army bases, foot patrols and army checkpoints. The idea of delivering treats to soldiers came after years of successfully sending them Mishloach Manot on Purim **[http://israelvisit.co.il/MM/]**.

Unfortunately in these tense times, even the best intentions can raise concerns over security. The army has decided to bar soldiers from accepting pizzas that they did not order. They are concerned "that hostile elements may exploit the pizza deliveries to soldiers" **[http://shlk.com/79]**. But even if you can't order a pizza, you still can send those soldiers a care package of goodies **[http://www.dashcham.com/idf.html]**.

Visit Israel: There are many solidarity missions and tours scheduled for the summer months. The Israel Ministry of Tourism's Go Israel Web site specializes in finding the right Israeli tour for North Americans **[http://www.goisrael.com/]**. The UJA's travel page has more information plus some very emotional memoirs written by recent visitors to Israel **[http://www.uja.org/travel_home.html]**.

If want to try a trip to Israel with a difference, consider becoming a volunteer on a kibbutz, for the Magen David Adom or to work with children and adults with special needs **[http://www.jafi.org.il/daily/vol.asp]**.

The students of Yeshiva University have been very busy. Despite the downturn in Israel's tourism industry, 200 YU students travelled to Israel in January as part of Operation Torah Shield **[http://www.torahshield.com/main.html]**. While there, they met with families who have lost loved ones to terror. And when the students returned to America, they created the Kol Haneshama (Every Soul) Web site to tell the stories of "these ordinary people, whose extraordinary lives ended so abruptly."

While there, they met with the friends and family of Keren Shatsky, 14, who was killed in a mall bombing in the town of Karnei Shomron on February 16. "'All of my memories of Keren are of her smiling,' said Chani Friedman, a close friend. Together with her siblings, Keren sang to their favourite songs and regularly prepared meals for Shabbat. When her friends felt ill, Keren sent cards with sweet wishes for a full recovery. 'She was always trying to make people happy,' noted one family friend. 'That just reflects how much everyone loved her. She was only trying to return the love.'" **[http://www.kolhaneshama.net]**

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Holy Blossom sends medical delegation to FSU

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

On a recent trip to the former Soviet Union, a group of physicians, all members of Holy Blossom Temple, demonstrated the difference between treatment and healing.

Rabbi Yael Splansky, associate rabbi at Holy Blossom, who accompanied the delegation on the 10-day trip, said that although the doctors did not actively treat the patients who lived in Minsk and nearby towns, "by speaking with them one-on-one, they were able to help in the healing process."

The delegation – Holy Blossom's first with a medical focus – included Barbara Organ, a neonatal nurse; Ted Rosenstock, an ophthalmologist; Earl Silverman, a pediatric rheumatologist; Marvin Ganz, a pediatrician; and Stuart Egier, Randi Shaul and Rhonda Wilansky, all family physicians.

The doctors took with them thousands of dollars of medical supplies donated by such firms as Apotex, Novopharm and the Canadian Medical Aid Program. Six boxes of medicines were prepared by Health Partners International.

They distributed some over-the-counter medicines directly to patients, and gave prescription drugs to local doctors for distribution.

As well as meeting with patients, Wilansky, who is also a mohel, met with the only Reform mohel in the former Soviet Union, and made future plans to gather doctors and lay leaders to train them in the ceremony and technology of brit milah.

"We found that in the former Soviet Union, brit milah is not on the radar screen. When the Reform rabbi had a baby in Minsk, the mohel had to come from Moscow to perform the circumcision," said Rabbi Splansky.

Training others to perform brit milah, she said, would affect how Jewish lifestyle is observed.

While consulting with patients, said Egier, who is also medical director of specialized geriatric services at Trillium Health Centre, the Toronto physicians discovered that patients "really wanted to connect with Canadian doctors. We encouraged people to take their medicines, to make appropriate lifestyle changes, and to follow-up on their own doctors' recommendations."

Soviet doctors take a paternalistic attitude towards medicine, Egier said. "They rush people through examinations and they do not talk to them enough."

The Toronto doctors were disturbed, he said, to discover that many patients took their medications, such as heart medicine, only when they felt unwell. "I believe we made a difference."

Rabbi Splansky said Soviet doctors routinely withhold information from their patients. "The patients came to see us with sealed envelopes. They did not know what is in their file."

Dr. Ted Rosenstock, part of Holy Blossom's delegation to the former Soviet Union, examines a patient.

The Toronto doctors knew that what they were doing for the patients was only a "band-aid" solution, Rabbi Splansky said, but just coming and listening to them was a big help. "It was Jew to Jew, and real doctor-to-patient care. Sometimes, just telling them they're OK makes a big difference. That is something they do not get there."

Wilansky, who travelled with an interpreter to nearby Tsimikovici, a town where her ancestors lived, said the town was typical of an eastern European shtetl, except there is no longer any Jewish life.

"The trip was very emotional. There were no monuments or plaques commemorating the Jews – no remnants of the rich Jewish life that used to exist there."

She is committed to a project to commemorate Jewish life in Tsimikovici. "There are still about one million Jews living in [the former Soviet Union] and we need to help [develop] their Judaism, but we also need to commemorate the rich Jewish life that existed before."

Rabbi Splansky said a number of people are interested in joining the delegation next year. "What we want next time is to add an educational component. We can reach more people if we do patient and physician education. We could hold seminars on such things as hypertension, and help doctors and patients understand what steps to take."

Now that they have made a connection with the physician community in Minsk, said Egier, the Toronto doctors hope to bring their expertise to them.

The big breakthrough on this trip, Wilansky said, was making connections and ascertaining where certain needs lie. "I can't wait to go back. I have a personal connection to the area, and the people appreciated us coming. They felt good that Jewish doctors cared about them."

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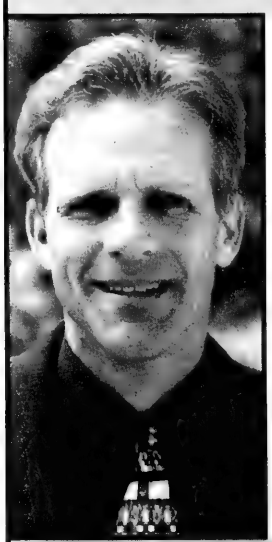

Michael Oren
Mon. June 17, 2002, at 8 p.m.

With its swift and stunning military victory against an Arab coalition led by Egypt in the Six Day War, Israel preserved its existence and redrew the map of the region — with fateful consequences.

The Camp David Accords, the assassinations of Anwar Sadat and Yitzhak Rabin, the first intifada, the failed Oslo Accord and the current crisis, all trace their origins to the Six Day War.

Michael Oren, a Princeton-trained scholar in Middle East history, Senior Fellow at The Shalem Center in Jerusalem and former advisor to the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, will give a gripping account of one of the pivotal events in modern Middle Eastern history.

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Greater Toronto Area

Jews need to change view of Poles: survivor

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

The Polish people have been undeservedly accused of anti-Semitism during the war years and after and it is time to change this attitude, Auschwitz survivor Nate Leipciger told a recent meeting of the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation.

He spoke at the annual Louis Lenkinski lecture at the Workmen's Circle in memory of the trade unionist and Jewish activist who died seven years ago.

Leipciger, a past chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress Holocaust remembrance committee and a board member of the International Council for Auschwitz, said that he swore he would never go back to Poland after a visit to Auschwitz in 1975, although he later changed his mind.

After his 1975 trip, he was angered at the lack of recognition for the Jews who died there, and by the fact a cross was used in the main memorial.

These problems have since been fixed, Leipciger said, and he spoke of the "friendly reception" he got from Poles when he visited Poland in 1992 for the dedication of a memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

"It is now time for Jewish people to be educated about Auschwitz," he said, in a speech titled Changing Attitudes of a Survivor Toward Auschwitz and Poland.

He said his talk could be summed up as "Auschwitz then, and Auschwitz now."

Leipciger said many survivors do not give enough emphasis to the fact that 80,000 Christian Poles died at Auschwitz. "Half the names gathered by Yad Vashem are of Righteous Gentiles," he said.

Although he and his companions were taunted by an anti-Semite during his 1992 visit, Leipciger said the anti-Semite was silenced by other Poles and there were no other incidents during the trip.

Leipciger said part of the Auschwitz site is now an educational centre, and noted that the centre recently hosted more than 400 student teachers for a two-week workshop on the Holocaust. "The seminars are oversubscribed," he said.

He added that he is confident the Polish government will solve the problem posed by a proposed shopping centre to be attached to the camp's main wall, which survivors have called inappropriate.

In the meantime, he said, many things have already been done to improve conditions at Auschwitz, including the relocation of a Carmelite convent at the perimeter of the camp and the dedication of memorial plaques in 18 languages indicating that many Jews died there.

His assertions were challenged by some of the 50 people in attendance, some of whom spoke to Leipciger after his speech and maintained that the Polish people were anti-Semitic.

Leipciger also described his family's hardships when the Germans attacked Poland. At age 11, he said, he became the head male of his household after his father was taken for a German work gang.

Leipciger said he later survived Auschwitz because of the skills he learned as a member of a "gang" on the streets of his home town, a village near the German border. As anti-Jewish measures increased in the late 1930s, the gang would have nothing more to do with him and he lost more and more of his non-Jewish friends.

In his talk, Leipciger also debunked some common perceptions about Jews in Poland before World War II.

He noted that 32,000 Jews died serving in the Polish army, and that the image of the "shtetl Jew" in prewar Poland was misleading, since most Polish Jews lived in large and small cities.

BGU, Mount Sinai to honour doctor

On Sept. 18, Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Mount Sinai Hospital will join forces to honour Dr Zane Cohen.

Guest speaker at the tribute, to be held at the Sheraton Centre, will be Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.

Cohen has lectured worldwide and is an international figure in surgery and in the study of colon and rectal disease.

He is entering his third term as surgeon-in-chief at Mount Sinai Hospital, and is also chair of the division of surgery at the University of Toronto.

Cohen has launched a project that is part of the Leadership Sinai Advanced Surgical Technology Centre which allows surgeons at Mount Sinai Hospital to demonstrate skills to professionals worldwide.

Wiesel, one of the most articulate exponents of contemporary Jewish thought, has worked on behalf of oppressed people for much of his adult life.

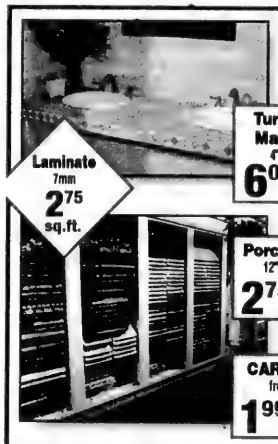
His personal experience in the Holocaust has led him to use his talents as an author, teacher and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world.

Dr. Zane Cohen

Ben-Gurion University will present Cohen with the Negev Award, and will create the Zane and Joan Cohen Endowment Scholarship Fund which will provide scholarships and fellowships for individuals working in the area of gastrointestinal disease, both medical and surgical, at Ben-Gurion University.

Funds raised will support Cohen's work by helping to create a new and vital surgical same day admitting unit at Mount Sinai Hospital.

For further information and reservations call 416-665-8054.



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She'arim to honour two leaders

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Two prominent members of the Jewish community are being honoured for their outstanding contributions to Jewish education.

Sandy Brown and Gerry Goldberg are being honoured at the Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School annual tribute brunch June 16.

"We want to [recognize] someone who has an impact in some way or form on Jewish education," says Marci Tenenbaum, the event's co-ordinator. "It [the brunch] raises awareness in the community for the school."

Both honorees speak passionately about the school that provides Hebrew education for students with learning disabilities.

"She'arim has always been the best kept secret in the community," says Goldberg. "There are a lot of kids with disabilities. This place is essential for them."

"[It's] the kind of school that you hope would have no students," adds Brown. "It's been a wonderful opportunity to continue the Jewish education system."

Goldberg has a personal connection to She'arim. His youngest son spent three years at the school, after being diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) – a disorder that slows down the nervous system and severly hinders a person's – usually a child's – ability to concentrate.

"I believe that it is the right of every child to get a Jewish education, regardless of exceptionality," Goldberg says.

Brown said that she has seen tremendous growth at She'arim over the years.

"We have been able to see students move back to mainstream schools," she says, adding that the school's objective is to return students to regular schools, after spending time at She'arim.

Brown says she learned the importance of volunteering in her hometown.

"It [Saint John, N.B.] is a very small community, everyone counted there. It was the natural thing to get involved," she said about the city, where she was actively involved in the Zionist youth movement Young Judea.

Since then, Brown has held many positions in the community, including national chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' education and culture committee, chair of the UJA Board of Jewish Education of Toronto (BJE) and president of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Goldberg immigrated from South Africa in 1976, the country where his parents taught him the importance of education.

"Jewish education is very important. It keeps people Jewish," says Goldberg.

He has been active in many organizations, including the board of Associated Hebrew Schools, treasurer of Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), the BJE and president of board of directors of She'arim.

The brunch will be held at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre, 7026 Bathurst St, Thornhill, at 10:30 a.m. For tickets, call Tenenbaum at 416-633-4783.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

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טאָר. ייִדישער פּאַלקס כאָר זינגט געבירטיג

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

הײַנטיקן יאָר 2002 צײַכנט אָפּ די ייִדיש־ליטעראַרישע וועלט אַ טאָפּלטע יאָטע אין לעבן פֿון מרדכי געבירטיג: זײַן 125סטן געבירטנײַאָר אין זײַן 60סטער יאָרצײַט זינט ער איז דערמאָרדעט געוואָרן דורך די נאַצישׂ אין זײַן הימשטאָל קראָקע. איז עס טאָקע געווען אַ גוואַלדיקער אופּטאָ, וואָס דער פּראָגראַם קאָמיטעט פֿון טאָראָנטער ייִד. פּאַלקס כאָר האָט געווידמעט דעם גרעסטן טייל פֿון פּראָגראַם אין אָנדענק פֿון דעם גרויסן קונסטלער מרדכי געבירטיג. מיט דעם האָבן זיי אָפּגעגעבן דעם געהעריקן כבוד צום „קונסטלער פֿון ניט", אַן האָבן פֿאָר זיך אַליין פּאַרדינט גרויס אָנערקענונג פֿון טאָראָנטער ייִדישן ישוב בכלל אָן פֿון דער ייִדישער קולטור־געזעלשאַפֿט בפרט.

דער קאָנצערט, וואָס איך אָן מײַן פֿרוי, צוזאַמען מיט נאָך אַרום 600 מענטשן, האָבן ביגעוווינט דעם 5טן מאַי, איז געשטאַנען אויף אַ היכן ניוואָ אָן איז זיכער געווען אײַנער פֿון די בעסטע, וואָס דער פּאַלקס כאָר האָט אויפֿגעפֿירט. מען קען אָן ספֿק זאָגן, אַז דער קאָנצערט וועט געדענקט ווערן פֿאַר אַ לאָנגער צײַט. בלײַך דער פּאָקט, וואָס מענטשן זײַנען אַרײַנגעקומען פֿון זאַל זינגעווידקע אָן פֿרילעכע, איז אַ באַווײַז אויף וויפֿל דער פּראָגראַם איז זיי געווען נאָענט צום האַרצן.

אָן פֿאַר וואָס נישט? זײַנען דאָך דאָס די לידער, וואָס מיר האָבן זינגענדיק אין אונדזערע קינדער־יאָרן; זײַנען דאָך דאָס די לידער, וואָס אונדזערע מאַמעס, טאַטעס, באַבעס אָן זײדעס האָבן זינגענדיק צו אונדז; זײַנען דאָך דאָס די לידער, וואָס זײַנען זינגענדיק געווארן אין די נעמאָס, כדי אויפצוהײטערן אונדזער עמיט. אויך בין פֿמעט ווי זיכער, אַז אַ גרויסע צאָל פֿון די כאָר־זינגערס האָבן געהערט די לידער אין זייער יוגנט אָן טאַקע פֿון זיערע עלטערן. די מערהײט אין זאָל איז זיכער געווען באַקאַנט מיט די לידער. מען האָט עס אַנגעזאָגן, ווען זיערע העכט האָבן מיטגעזונגען מיט די אַרטיסטן, אָן זיערע העכט האָבן צוגעקלאַפּט צום טאַקט.

דער קאָנצערט איז געווען אײַנגעטיילט אין 3 טיילן. דער ערשטער טייל האָט זיך אָנגהויבן, ווי שטענדיק, מיטן לידּ פֿון ז. ווייַנפֿער: „ייִדיש איז מײַן לידּ". (אוגוסט 12, 1952), דורכן סטאַלידרעשׂים.

אין 2טן טייל האָט די זינגערין קלעיר קלײַן אָסיפֿאָוו, מיט דער פֿיאָנע באַגלייטונג פֿון וועגדי בראָס סטוראַרט, געזונגען אַ צאָל ייִדישע לידער, וואָס האָט אַרײַנגענומען אַ לידער־זאַמלונג פֿון געבירטיג. זי האָט באַלד געווונגען דעם עולם אין זיי האָבן איר געענטפֿערט מיט הילכיקע אַפּלאָדיסמענטן. עס וועט זיך נעונג צו זאָגן, אַז איך אונ־דזער מיינונג איז קלעיר הינטער־צרטאָג איינע פֿון די בעס־טע אויסטיבּשׂרינס פֿון ייִדישן לידּ בכלל אָן פֿון די געבירטיג׳ס לידער בפרט.

דער דריטער טייל איז געווען געוויידמעט אויסשלי־לער צו מרדכי געבירטיג. די נאַראַטאָרס: סידנעי פֿעול־מוטער אָן דוד אַבראַמאָוויטש האָבן געגעבן אַן אַריינפֿיר וועגן לעבן אָן וועגן די לידער פֿון מרדכי געבירטיג. דער כאָר אָן די סאָליסטן, אונטער דער דירעקציע פֿון אסתר גאָן פֿייערסטאָן, האָבן געזונגען אַ צאָל באַקאַנטע געבירטיג־לידער. קלעיר קלײַן אָן דזשאָן באַטען האָבן זיך דאָ זיערע אויסגעצייכנט, ספּעציעל באַטען. דער פּאַראַמלטער עולם האָט אַרויסגעווינן זיך צופֿרידנקייט.

צום סוף וויל איך נאָך אַמאָל אונטערשטרײַכן: עס איז געווען א הערלעכער קאָנצערט אין דער טאָראָנטער ייִד. פּאַלקס כאָר מעג זיך שטאָלץ מיט זיך דערגרייכונג. דער היגער ישוב מוז אַזעלכע קאָנצערטן אונטערשטיצן.

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Jewish locals angry at 'biased' CUPE resolution

Continued from page 1

last month, came under fire from Jewish locals and from Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) for saying Israel "invaded" territories in 1967, for referring to suicide bombings in a passive voice while omitting references to Palestinian perpetrators, and for urging Ottawa to make demands of Israel but not the Palestinians.

"It's a very biased perspective," said Carolyn Roberts, president of CUPE local 2137, which represents workers at Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Toronto. "I'm uncomfortable with how quickly it happened, with how little consultation there was. No Jewish agency in Toronto was consulted on this."

In a letter to CUPE National President Judy Darcy, Roberts asks "that CUPE National consider the implications, for its members and for the cause of peace in the Middle East, of advancing this resolution in its present form at the [CLC] convention, and that it withdraw its support for the resolution."

In a statement to the CJC, Darcy said that "complex struggles dealing with issues of land, social justice and human rights are not easily reduced to a few words. History cannot always be clearly captured in convention resolutions."

She added that "CUPE supports an independent Canadian foreign policy that respects the rights of all peoples in the Middle East to lasting peace and security" and that Canada should do all it can "to de-escalate the conflict and support the pursuit of peace negotiations that bring all parties to the table and respect the rights of Israelis and Palestinians to security and land."

Roberts, who was recently elected to her post, said she finds it "odd that we have an emergency resolution that was railroaded through."

She said CUPE's protocol for resolutions, which was not followed in this case, requires that they be filed 35 days in advance, adding that potential opponents were unaware the resolution was going to be presented and were not at the conference to dispute it.

JVS workers "were outraged" at its passage, particularly since it seemed to violate CUPE's own "mantra," of " 'Solidarity. An injury to one is an injury to all,' " Roberts said.

"We pay dues to be incensed in this way? That's not why we're in the union. We're interested primarily in workplace issues."

Lil Nobel, president of CUPE local 2063, which represents about 80 workers at Canadian Jewish Congress, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, said her members were also angry at the contents of the resolution, which she called inaccurate and unbalanced, and for the way it was introduced without notice.

Nobel disputed the resolution's claim that Israel "invaded" Arab territories, saying the land came under Israel's control in a defensive war. She also took issue with the resolution's claim that UN Resolution 242 requires a unilateral Israeli withdrawal, saying the UN document specifies that a pullback should only come in the context of a peace agreement.

Moreover, "the slant of it put all the blame on Israel and none on the Palestinians" she added.

"The members are just so hot on this subject," she said.

Despite members' anger, Nobel said local 2063 will not withdraw from CUPE, as had been suggested in earlier media reports.

Doreen Benou, a member of CUPE local 79, which represents public health workers with the City of Toronto, said many Jewish union members she has spoken with are angry the union passed the resolution without prior notice. "Where does this belong on the agenda of workers' issues and working in the workplace?" she asked.

Bonnie Kates, a shop steward with local 79, which is currently negotiating a new contract with the city, said CUPE should avoid political issues.

"I've spoken to three Jewish CUPE members who are disgusted," she said, adding that she is so angry about the resolution that she is reconsidering picketing for the union in the event of a strike.

Gilbert Levine, CUPE's founding national research director and a union member until his retirement in 1988, said the resolution mirrors recent Israeli polls that support the withdrawal of troops from occupied territories. "However, I too was disturbed that the CUPE resolution did not acknowledge the right of every state in the region to live peacefully within secure borders," he said.

"I hope those employees at Jewish agencies that are considering leaving CUPE as a result of this resolution will change their minds. CUPE is open to a variety of points of view. It is important their perspectives are heard in the union."

Early last week, a CJC delegation met with Ryan and other CUPE officials to discuss the issue.

Ed Morgan, chair of Congress' Ontario region, called the meeting productive and said CUPE officials seemed receptive to Congress' views.

The resolution is "problematic in what it says and it's problematic in what it leaves out," Morgan said.

Adopting a combative tone, yet sounding conciliatory on several points, Ryan acknowledged that the use of the word "invaded" in the preamble to the resolution has created concern. "If I had crafted the resolution, I wouldn't have put that word in there," he said.

The aim of the resolution was to promote peace and human rights and to call for Israel to withdraw from occupied territories, Ryan said, noting that even U.S. President George W. Bush has called on Israel to withdraw.

He said emergency resolutions can bypass the rule requiring 35 days advance notice and that the ongoing killings in the Middle East warranted treating the situation as an emergency.

Ryan said critiques of the resolution by Congress verged on "union-busting that is not helpful to their cause."

At the same time, he said the resolution stands little chance of being adopted as it now stands at this week's CLC meeting. The CUPE resolution will likely be only one of several views that will be expressed on the Mideast situation, and "I suspect they'll come up with a composite resolution."

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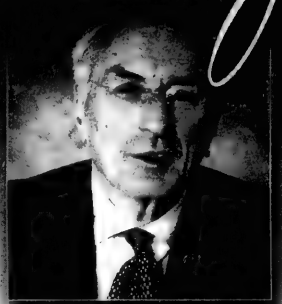

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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at the Holocaust Wall
Information:
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 17 is deadline for June 27 issue and Monday, June 24 is deadline for July 4. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, June 16

EVENING OF COMEDY

The Entertainment and Cultural Committee and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood Comedy Evening starring **Les Aaron, Murray** and **Evelyn Hoffman, Louis Zeifman, Maxwell Kates, Meyer Mechanic** and others, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. If you are interested in participating, **Jerry Genesove** 416-789-3213.

Monday, June 17

SIX DAYS OF WAR

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning at Holy Blossom Temple presents the Canadian launch of an important new book, Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East. Speaker is **Michael Oren** of the Shalem Centre in Jerusalem. 8 p.m. 416-789-3291.

ROOTS! ROOTS! ROOTS!

Join My Women's Group of Jewish Women International of Canada for dinner and a program on How to Trace Your Roots-Jewish Genealogy 101 with **Henry Wellisch**. Dinner 6:30 p.m. at the Wagman Centre followed by program. Reservations required. 416-630-9313.

ADOPTION MYTHS

Adoption Council of Ontario presents Debunking Adoption Myths, an evening of discussion led by a panel of birth parents, adult adoptees and adoptive parents, 7-9 p.m. at North Toronto Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Register. 416-482-0021.

SUPPORT GROUP

Support group meeting for parents and families of lesbians and gays. For more information, **Ruth**, 416-763-9111.

Tuesday, June 18

SISTERHOOD MEETING

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood luncheon meeting 12:30 p.m. featuring a musical program with **Faye Kellerstein** and accompanist, **Ruth Fruitman**, 905-731-6660.

LOVE TO COOK?

Come to a demonstration of the Pampered Chef's cooking tools. Program is hosted by Club Dafna of Na'amat for women ages 40 to 45, at 8 p.m. in Richmond Hill. Call **Wendy** at 905-886-7187 to RSVP.

Wednesday, June 19

TIKKUN OLAM

Jewish authors **Miriam Edelson** (*My Journey with Jake*) and **Ben Carniol** (*Case Critical*) speak on Tikkun Olam: Celebrating Jewish Values in Health Care and Social Services. Moderator is **Arlene Perly Rae**. Also featuring **Allan Merovitz** and the Simcha Klezmer Trio. 7:30 p.m., at Holy Blossom Temple. Presented by Between the Lines Press. 416-535-9914.

Thursday, June 20

COMEDY CABARET

Know any good jokes? Like to tell funny stories? Want to smile and laugh? Calling all amateur comedians and raconteurs to come and get your 5 minutes of fame at the Bernard Betel Centre's Comedy Cabaret. 2:30 p.m, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. **Ruth Cohen** 416-225-2112.

And What Else Is New

SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA

The Jewish Health Alliance, a social and professional network for health care providers, and Baycrest Centre, are sponsoring a lecture titled

Continued on page 19

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What's New

Continued from page 18

Learning from Holocaust Survivors: Advances in the Treatment of Survivors of Trauma, with **Paula David,** co-ordinator of the Holocaust Resource Project, Tuesday, June 25, 7:30 p.m., Fireside Lounge, Baycrest Terrace, 55 Ameer Ave. RSVP 416-208-0610.

PARENT/TOT COOKING

Parent/tot cooking classes July 14, 21, 28 and Aug. 11, 10:30-11:45 a.m. at Loblaws store on St. Clair W. near Bathurst St. All proceeds to help women and children in Israel. Sponsored by Club Ora, Na'amat Toronto. Reservations required. **Susan** 416-932-0742 or **Eileen** 416-221-9546.

DATING FOR YOUR DESTINY

Aish 20s presents Dating for Your Destiny, hosted by Canada AM personality **Adrienne Gold**, who brings her unique perspective on finding Mr./Ms. Right. Monday, June 24, at the home of **Moshe** and **Robin Pamensky**. Call **Hadassah** for the address. 905-764-1818, ext. 215.

JF & CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Service workshops. **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan, on establishing a business-like relationship with your "ex" and the benefits for your children, Tuesday, June 18, 7-9 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Building.

High Conflict Divorce: Developing Strategies to Take Charge of Yourself and Distance Yourself From the Conflict. The focus is on active participation Tuesday, June 18, 6:30-9 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St.-Lipa Green Building.

Adolescents and Divorce, for parents and teens, Wednesday, June 19, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

YOUTH SUMMER PROGRAM

If you are between the ages of 13 and 24, Baycrest Centre is looking for you to be part of the Summer Youth Program. You'll have lots of fun, meet new friends and have the opportunity to assist in a variety of activities with the elderly, work with computers, help out in the gift shop and much more. If you are interested, contact the volunteer services department, 416-785-2500, ext. 2575.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

BBYO and Maccabi Canada Ontario Region 8th annual golf tournament, Tuesday, July 16, at Woodington Lake Golf Club. The day includes golf, lunch, dinner, raffle, auction and more. Shotgun starts at noon. If you are interested, call **Debbi Silver** at 416-398-2004.

A TRIP TO ARTPARK

Adath Sholom annual trip to Artpark, Sunday, Aug. 18, starting at 10 a.m. to see *Copacabana*. Luxury air-conditioned bus included. Bring a picnic lunch. Phone 416-635-0131 to reserve.

SIGN LANGUAGE CAMPS

Registration is now underway for the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf "Sign Out" Day Camps for hearing children ages 6-12 who want to learn sign language. Level One July 8-12 and Level Two July 15-19. Contact **Coco Barrett** in Sign Language Services, 416-229-9651, ext. 147. The centre is located at 2395 Bayview Ave.

FAST-TRACK LEARNING

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FOR SENIORS

Cranbrooke Friendship Club presents Klezmer Music: A Blending of Traditions, with musician **Eric Stein**, Monday, June 17, 12:30 p.m. Buffet luncheon. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). June 13, lecture by **Chasida David**; June 20, video movie; June 27, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Stage West Dinner Theatre to see *Joseph*, June 13; Casino Niagara June 20; Sunday dance with live band, June 23; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., June 15, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27; Casino Rama June 26, July 3, 17, 31; Cookstown Factory, June 27; Catskills July 22-28. Dance lessons with **Irving Naftolin** Thursdays 10 a.m. June 13 and 20. 416- 395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Healthfest 2002: A Salute to Healthy Living, Thursday, June 13, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Keynote speaker **Dr. Larry Nusbaum**, ext. 126.

Intergenerational Dance with Grade 8 students of Bialik Hebrew Day School and members of the Betel Centre. Dance to favourites of the past and present. Monday, June 17, 1-2:30 p.m. Featuring interactive disc jockey entertainment with Extreme Entertainment.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Group features the video, *Sleep and Mood Disorders*, and discussion, Tuesday, June 18, 1:15-2:15 p.m. ext. 126.

Summer Learning Series for Seniors, Communication, with **Rheta Rosen**, of Ryerson's Continuing Education Program. June 26, Identifying and Expressing Feelings (at Ryerson); July 3, Effective Listening and Responding (at Ryerson); July 10, Dealing with Conflict (at Bernard Betel); July 17, Assertive Communication (at Bernard Betel). Register. 416-785-8570.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. June 18, sing-along; June 25, picnic in the park. **Anna** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Seniors Club: Thursday, June 13, 2 p.m. **Blima Rhodes** on The Sandwich Generation; Thursday, June 20, 2 p.m., Celebration Tea, A Day to Celebrate and Praise All Women, share a story about a woman of valour you wish to honour.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Koffler Concert Band: Join the Koffler Adult Band in a fun-filled, informal atmosphere. The only requirement is minimal previous experience on any instrument, a desire to play and a love of music. Wednesdays 8-9:30 p.m. Conductor **Resa Kochberg.** Register for fall now! ext. 228.

Koffler Renanim Children's Chorus, a Jewish children's choir under the direction of **Debra Aronson**. Youngsters, ages 8-14, who love to sing will gain a solid foundation in singing technique and sight singing while learning musical rudiments and developing listening skills. Sundays 4-6 p.m. Call now for fall registration. ext. 228.

Through to June 30: Regarding Landscape, organized by curator Gregory Salzman, on view at the Koffler Gallery, the Art Gallery of York University and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. ext. 380.

Sundays, a shuttle bus travels between the 3 galleries. ext. 268.

Summer 2002 visual art classes at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Drawing, painting, ceramics and stone sculpture classes begin July 2. Register, ext. 269.

ABOUT PEOPLE

LITERACY AWARD WINNER

The CJN's Atlantic correspondent **Joel Jacobson**, a columnist with the *Chronicle-Herald, Mail-Star* and *Sunday Herald* in Halifax, has been named the 2002 winner of the Peter Gzowski Literacy Award of Merit by ABC Canada Literacy Foundation. The award has been presented to a journalist since 1993 to recognize the talent, effort and commitment required to achieve quality reporting on issues related to literacy.

The award includes a donation of $1,000 to be given in Jacobson's name to the Dartmouth Literacy Network, a volunteer, non-profit literacy organization that provides one-on-one tutoring to adults. In the last 12 months, he wrote several Bright Spot (good news) columns in the newspapers on literacy issues.

AMBULANCE DEDICATED: Sam and Lola Faivish recently dedicated an ambulance to Magen David Adom in memory of their daughter Yona Rabinowicz. Pictured, from left, are Yona's children, Joanna, Jesse, Danielle and Kari.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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Michelle & Ilene's Singles Bash 20-40. Thurs., June 20th, 9 pm Unicorn Pub, 175 Eglinton Ave. E. For more info. call Ilene @ 416-449-2074 or by e-mail: eyelene30@hotmail.com

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On Campus

Web-zine caters to students

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Imagine owning an online magazine where you are free to write about what you want, when you want and how you want, with a staff of 40 people working for you. Sound like a lifelong dream? For Marilyn Gayle Bromberg, this is one dream that has already come true.

Marilyn Bromberg

Bromberg, 20, is the founder and CEO of www.onthewallnow.com, a weekly web-zine that caters to the university and college crowd. First launched in May 2001, the magazine has had all kinds of off-the-wall content, including articles discussing the truth behind names and why bald men are attractive, articles that criticize the Super Bowl, religious debates and many other wacky, entertaining and thought-provoking articles.

"We provide intelligent, relevant and cheese-free reading," Bromberg says. "They are things you're thinking but now reading. Normally, we can connect with any visitor in some aspect."

The goal of the Web site, while seeking to inform and entertain, is also to provide young people with an outlet to explore their creativity and give them an opportunity to gain valuable experience.

"Other organizations are not as accommodating to students as we are. We have a different standard and are accepting and welcoming to everyone," she says of her Web site, which she created after attending the Achieving Professional Excellence Conference in Toronto – an annual student conference that caters to business students.

"We're trying to form a new kind of media that is not afraid for doing taboo subjects or to stick up for the underdog," she says.

The third year Schulich School of Business undergraduate is no media industry virgin. She has had articles published in *The Toronto Star*, *The York Region Liberal*, as well as the *Excalibur*, York University's campus newspaper, and was the editor of the life section for the Shulich School of Business' paper, *The Insider*.

"Now I can write a lot more than can get published in another publication," she says about one of the major benefits of onthe wallnow.com.

Bromberg, who graduated from Associated Hebrew Day Schools and spent time at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), is a self-proclaimed fashion buff who loves dancing, rollerblading and playing squash.

She also volunteers with the Reena Foundation and is the assistant director of Youth Fighting Tobacco ads and is currently developing a television show with Matrix Produxions that's set to air in September. Without revealing many details, she says the show will be about universities and have a current affairs/investigative format.

When asked about how she juggles all her activities, she says, "It is all about time management and delegation. I can't do it all myself. But I have great people behind me and really capable editors."

Yet, she says, "I am an extremely independent person."

With one eye focused on her current projects, this gifted young media mogul is setting her sights on the future. She plans to graduate from Schulich and then enter law school.

"I am not going to lie to you and say I am not ambitious," she says with a laugh.

"I want to write a novel, maybe win a Pulitzer."

Bromberg has a message for other young people beginning their careers.

"Just because [someone is] young doesn't mean that they don't have anything to offer the workforce," she says.

Onthewallnow.com is always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Bromberg at mgbromberg@onthewallnow.com.

SENIOR COMPLETES STUDIES: Dolly Sherman, 92, receives a diploma for graduating from an adult education program organized by the institution's executive director Barbra Gold for residents of Maimonides Hospital Geriatric Centre and its foster homes. Sherman was one of 22 residents who completed three months of study in Jewish literature, wellness and developmental psychology.

Coast to Coast

Invest more in immigrants, Grow Winnipeg chair says

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Bob Silver, the new co-owner of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and founder of a provincial program to attract immigrants, has been chosen to lead community efforts to increase Winnipeg's Jewish population.

Bob Silver

The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal established the Grow Winnipeg committee in April to address the issue of the city's declining Jewish population, which now stands at about 14,000 as compared to about 19,000 at its peak 40 years ago. The initiative was one of several recommendations made in a study released last October.

The committee's goal is to increase the Jewish population here to 18,000 by the end of the decade, says Silver.

"[The Jewish] population is lower than it used to be and, if we don't do something, it is going to continue to decline," he says. "Our birthrate is not keeping up with emigration. If we keep on going down this path, we will eventually no longer be able to support the amenities that we have come to count on."

Silver, who is also the president of Western Glove Works, one of Canada's major jeans manufacturers, brought immigrants into the province through a joint federal/provincial plan called the Manitoban Nominee Program, which he helped start four years ago while president of the Manitoba Fashion Institute.

"Initially, Manitoba was allowed to bring in 100 sewing machine operators for our garment industry," Silver says. "Now, under the program, Manitoba can bring in 1,000 immigrant families a year. We believe if we get there and talk properly with Ottawa, the federal government will let us increase that number."

Silver, a canvasser for the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA for the last five years, agreed to chair his first committee because, he says, its mandate resonated with what he is trying to accomplish in the garment industry.

The demographic problems facing Winnipeg's Jewish community are a microcosm of the problem that the province of Manitoba has as a whole in attracting and retaining people, he says.

The eight-member committee has three sub-committees, which deal with immigration, retention and renewal, respectively. Silver says of the three, immigration is the easiest issue to deal with because the provincial government is very supportive and there are large numbers of Argentinian Jewish families who want to come here. Winnipeg has also seen a steady stream of Russian Jewish immigrants, he says.

"The biggest problem in dealing with immigration is settlement," Silver says. "We still need to develop the infrastructure to ensure that there are jobs for the immigrants and that we are a welcoming community. We are not as structured as we should be yet. I have told the community leadership that we as a community have to be prepared to invest a lot more money and effort for education and recreation for immigrant children."

As to retention, Silver notes that the exodus of young people from the province has slowed both in the general and Jewish community in recent years, but they are still leaving. Efforts to encourage young people to remain have been on an ad hoc basis, he says.

"I don't think that we as a community do enough to sell young people on the benefits of staying here or returning after they have left. We are often our own worst critics and enemies. Some people seem almost embarrassed to be Manitobans."

He notes that most young people leave Winnipeg to pursue better financial opportunities elsewhere or because they are seeking a better quality of life. Young Jews who have either grown up Orthodox or have become Orthodox move because of their concerns about Jewish education and kashrut. (Winnipeg's Vaad Ha'ir is working to raise the standard of kashrut in the city.)

> *'Need to sell young people on benefits of staying here'*

"Toronto is able to offer people a large Orthodox community in which they can feel comfortable," he says. "Winnipeg doesn't have that critical mass."

The media has a role to play in promoting a sense of pride in community, Silver says.

He and longtime business partner Ron Stern (a former Winnipegger who now lives in Vancouver) bought the *Free Press*, Winnipeg's leading daily paper, and the *Brandon Sun* from the Thomson family last December.

"It has been a lot of fun owning a newspaper," Silver says, "although it has brought me more attention than I bargained for."

As they gain more experience, he says, he and Stern intend to adopt a more hands-on approach to the paper than the previous owners while at the same time trying not to interfere too much with the paper's management.

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Coast to Coast

CBC and Israel, part 2

Israel is an open society – the media can go there, do what they please, report as they please.
– Bernard Lewis, CBC Radio, *Ideas*, June 3, 2002.

To listen to Neil Macdonald talking about freedom of the press in Israel, one would not have recognized the country described by Bernard Lewis. During a question period at a CBC Foreign Correspondents Forum held recently in Ottawa, Macdonald was asked whether his broadcasts must be approved in advance by Israel, and how this might affect his reports.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Macdonald's response: "I and every other member of the foreign press corps in Israel sign a form submitting to the official censor, and they exercise it at their discretion, and often there's no rhyme or reason to it. The Israelis have a whole range of instruments, like most governments do, to tamp down on reporting they don't want or to suppress facts they don't want to see put out in the open. But they are by no means unique in the region."

Macdonald was very misleading. He clearly implied that his reports are generally subject to the whim of the official Israeli censor to prevent unpalatable "facts" from being broadcast to the outside world. That is simply not so. Nor does Israel operate like its neighbours, as Macdonald implied, who clamp down on reporters as a matter of official policy. Macdonald wrongly suggested a difference of degree, not of kind.

Journalists have virtually unrestricted freedom to report as they wish from Israel, in stark contrast to the surrounding Arab states and the Palestinian Authority. This freedom makes Israel home to one of the largest bodies of foreign correspondents in the world. Too often, however, instead of redounding to its credit, such journalistic autonomy is used as a convenient tool for excessively one-sided reporting. In short, Israel becomes a victim of its own openness as the sole democracy in a sea of autocracies and dictatorships.

The facts that Macdonald should have explained are the following: while foreign correspondents are required to sign a censorship form, this procedure applies only to militarily-sensitive matters and not to general reporting. Governed by the rule of law, Israel cannot officially repress reporting.

According to the Government Press Office which handles the censorship forms, no foreign correspondent, including Macdonald, has had any material censored during the past year.

One veteran Israeli correspondent put it this way: "It's true everyone signs the form, and then everyone ignores it, as all journalists in this country well know."

So what *is* subject to censorship? During the 1991 Gulf War, journalists were required not to reveal where Iraqi Scuds had landed as this was militarily-sensitive information.

During Operation Solomon in May 1991 to rescue Ethiopian Jews, the media were asked not to report the airlift until it was over to avoid jeopardizing its success.

Reporters are also asked not to report personal details of casualties before families are informed.

Apart from rare instances like these, the press in Israel is completely free – a remarkable fact for a country that has never known peace.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Hamilton holds Walk for Israel

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — About 250 joggers, bikers and pedestrians of all ages turned out for Hamilton's annual 7-kilometre walk on June 2, which this year raised $20,000 towards the community's fourth ambulance to be sent to Israel.

This is a separate project from the Emergency Fund for Israel to which the community is also contributing. More than half of the approximately $80,000 needed for the Magen David Adom ambulance has already been raised by a fund-raising team led by Hilda Rosen. Rosen was thrilled when the St. Catharine's Jewish community offered to join fund-raising efforts.

Hilda Rosen (seated) is joined by Lorne Gaffe (left) and Andrea Molot, organizers of Hamilton's recent Walk for Israel, which raised about $20,000 towards an ambulance for the Magen David Adom in Israel. [Julia Kollek photos]

Joggers led the way at Hamilton's recent Walk for Israel.

Several organizations worked together on the Sunday morning walk, to provide premises, staff and volunteers, and Hamilton's UJA has pledged to add additional funds if necessary.

Where the generations meet

It all happens at the Bernard Betel Centre

Jean Diamond with Grade 13 students involved in the inter-generational program.

Monica Kastelic, a Grade 13 Newtonbrook student, sat across the table from Jean Diamond, an active senior citizen and member of the Bernard Betel Centre.

That day, they were of similar mind and interests, both eager participants in an all day inter-generational workshop entitled "Relationships."

Jean shared stories about the past and her own views about life, but what surprised and encouraged Monica most was Jean's sincere interest listening without judgment to the teenage girl's dream.

Jean conveyed the strong message that one must not hesitate to pursue dreams. Her own had been shut down during the Holocaust.

The day was part of an ongoing program bringing together seniors and youth from elementary to university levels, from public and Jewish schools.

The students interviewed the seniors to learn about their lifestyles and backgrounds. They later reported they'd learned important lessons about life.

Monica saw Jean's face glow as she shared her late husband's quote: "It is better to look out a window than into a mirror. In the mirror you only see yourself, while out of a window you see people in need, and help others help themselves."

Jean had endured many hardships; the most significant was the loss of her loving husband of 47 years. "Being alone is most difficult," acknowledged Jean. "It is logic that helps me overcome negative emotions."

Jean told how she cherishes the special relationship she has with her devoted children and grandchildren. "Not only do I feel that they believe in me, I love it when my granddaughter refers to me as her mentor."

Monica was greatly impressed with Jean's energy, inner strength and desire to be active and independent.

The Bernard Betel Centre's workshop focused on the similarities as well as the differences between the generations.

The young students learned that many of the same issues affect older people as well as younger ones, though in different ways -- peer pressure, mate selection, and community involvement.

And Monica learned from her new friend Jean how crucial it is to a senior's well-being to have a place to go to meet people for activities, friendship, continued learning, and for sharing experiences and acquired wisdom with others.

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Happy fifth birthday Tommy. You have come a long way and we are very proud of you. Love Mom and Dad.

Mazel tov to Carolyn Seetner & Dennis Kalish who were recently married in Toronto.

To Joe & Jill Mayer: Happy first wedding anniversary and many more. Love Moms, Luba and Joan.

Mazel tov to Julie Zucker who had her bat mitzvah recently in Toronto.

Mazel tov to Sam & Sonia Shiewitz, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 8. From your children, Sheldon, Ellen, Josh, Michelle, Sara and Zachary.

Mazel tov to Bubbie & Zaidie (Leonard & Gloria Wiseberg) on your 45th wedding anniversary. Love Joey.

Mazel tov to David Gasch on collecting more than $2,000 for the UJA Walkathon. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Shari, Adam, Bubbie, Zaidie, Saba and Savta.

Sylvia & Zev Krinsky and Florie & David Axler of Edmonton are delighted to announce the engagement of their children Marilee Krinsky & Dr. Seymour Axler.

Mazel tov to Vanessa Bower on graduating from Arlington Middle School. Love Mom, Dad and Josh.

Happy first birthday Jordyn Bailey Forman, daughter of Fara and Michael. Proud grandparents are Alan & Elaine Rubinoff and Dori & Wendy Forman.

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Israel unimpressed by Palestinian reforms

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Authority (PA) has unveiled some promised reforms, but terror attacks against Israelis continue unabated.

Three Israelis were killed and nine others wounded in Palestinian shooting attacks on two West Bank communities over the weekend.

In the Gaza Strip, an attack was thwarted by Israeli troops who spotted two armed Palestinians swimming toward shore.

With this as a backdrop, Israeli officials were not impressed Sunday when the PA announced some changes.

With PA Chairman Yasser Arafat under internal and international pressure to implement reforms, Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo announced Sunday that the cabinet would be reduced from 31 to 21 ministers.

Rabbo also announced the appointment of an interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, to oversee Palestinian security services. Arafat had kept the title for himself since the PA was created in 1994.

Responding to the announcement, Dore Gold, a senior adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said: "If we see fundamental change in the behavior of the Palestinian security forces in which they intercept the attacks against Israel and not collaborate with them, we'll know that something big has occurred."

Sharon, who is meeting this week with U.S. President George W. Bush at the White House, has said repeatedly there can be no meaningful Palestinian reforms as long as Arafat remains in power.

Sharon gave an indication of what he plans to tell Bush in an op-ed piece that appeared in Sunday's *New York Times*, where he reiterated his position that Palestinian violence must stop before there can be negotiations.

"Israel has made painful concessions for peace before and will demonstrate diplomatic flexibility to make peace again, but it requires first and foremost a reliable partner for peace," Sharon wrote.

Blaming the failure of previous talks with the Palestinians on the wide gaps between the sides, Sharon advocated a long-term interim agreement and ruled out a return to the pre-1967 borders.

"The only serious option for a successful negotiated settlement is one based on a long-term interim agreement that sets aside for the future issues that cannot be bridged at present," he wrote.

"For this reason, Israel will not return to the vulnerable 1967 armistice lines, re-divide Jerusalem or concede its right to defensible borders under [United Nations] Resolution 242.

"Movement from a long-term interim agreement to a permanent settlement can only be guided by changes in the reality of Israeli-Palestinian relations on the ground and not by a rigid timetable."

Israeli commentators speculated that Sharon would find a receptive audience in Bush, who reiterated over the weekend that Arafat has failed the Palestinian people.

Bush also refused to set a timetable for the creation of a Palestinian state.

After meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who had sought such a timetable, Bush said the United States is "not ready to lay down a specific calendar" for the creation of a Palestinian state, but added that the two sides have to resume negotiations "quickly, so we can seize the moment."

Bush also said that before a timetable could be set, the Palestinians need to build "the institutions necessary for the emergence of a Palestinian state."

For his part, Mubarak said he does not "think that violence will come to an end unless the people feel that there is hope for peace and there is something to show that peace is coming."

Bush said last Friday he would speak about the next steps toward Middle East peace after the separate meetings with Mubarak and Sharon. Meanwhile, the deadly Palestinian terror attacks continued, with three Israelis shot and nine wounded in shooting attacks in the West Bank communities of Karmei Tzur and Yitzhar.

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Israel reportedly set to free jailed Hezbollah man

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The father of an IDF soldier missing for 18 months said Monday that Israel was about to release a Hezbollah militant jailed since 1987, in a bid to work toward a possible exchange of prisoners with the pro-Iranian organization.

"Today or tomorrow, Israel will return to the Lebanese a Hezbollah prisoner of war whose health is apparently compromised, in order to create the right climate for ending the affair of our sons and of [kidnapped former IDF colonel] Elhanan Tannenbaum," Haim Avraham told Israel Radio on Monday.

Avraham's son Benny was kidnapped by Hezbollah guerrillas in October 2000, while patrolling the border along Lebanon with two other IDF soldiers – Adi Avitan and Omar Souad. Israeli authorities subsequently informed the families that forensic experts had reached the conclusion that the three were no longer alive.

"Authorized officials of the defence establishment have been in contact with us and told us that Israel was about to make its third gesture toward Lebanon," Avraham said. "The first time, Israel released a number of Lebanese prisoners in November 2000. Afterward, last year, Israel returned the body of the Lebanese pilot who reached Israel and was shot down over [the coastal village of] Michmoret."

Avraham said he expected Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to raise the issue during his current talks with senior American officials in Washington.

Beirut's *As-Safira* newspaper, viewed as close to the Hezbollah organization, reported Monday that Israel was about to free Mohamad al-Barzawi, captured during a Hezbollah attack on an Israeli position in the Chouf mountains in 1987.

"Freeing the prisoner al-Barzawi is considered the first actual signal toward renewal of negotiations between Hezbollah and the Israelis surrounding the exchange of prisoners between the two sides," the paper wrote in a front-page story.

It said the reported release was brokered by a German mediator who had held talks in Israel and Lebanon.

Al-Barzawi is said to be suffering from serious health problems. The paper said a Hezbollah representative had told his family of the imminent release Saturday, and that welcoming celebrations were planned in the family town of Baalbek.

He has been kept in administrative detention since his capture during a Hezbollah operation on Dec. 4, 1987, during which two of the group's guerrillas were killed.

Asked about the reported deal, IDF spokesperson Ron Kitrey said he had no knowledge of it, but added that he "wanted to hope, for the sake of the members of the families of the missing and captured, that this is… perhaps a positive sign."

Israel convinces Europeans Arafat is financing terror

By YAIR ETTINGER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The European Commission has accepted Israel's claims that the Palestinian Authority is supporting terrorist attacks, but is rejecting Israel's demands that it suspend financial aid to the PA, saying Israel has failed to prove that European Union funds are being used to finance terror.

The documents seized from PA offices in recent months, some of which were included in the document compiled by minister without portfolio Dan Naveh following Operation Defensive Shield, were presented last week to an EC delegation in Israel and representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at a meeting with Israeli army intelligence officers.

Naveh claims the documents prove European financial aid has been used to finance terrorism and incitement, and has also found its way into the pockets of senior PA officials.

But the head of the EC's delegation to Israel, Giancarlo Chevallard, said that Israel had not provided evidence that European financial aid is being used to finance terrorist attacks.

Meanwhile, a report published last week by the German weekly *Die Zeit* titled *Arafat Bombs, Europe Pays* claimed the PA is using European aid to finance terrorist attacks.

The European parliament's budgetary committee last week delayed the transfer of 18.7 million euros in financial aid to the PA until the EC reports how the money is to be distributed.

EC external relations commissioner Chris Patten and the EC's budget commissioner, Michaele Schreyer, are scheduled to address the committee on the matter on June 19.

The EU is the PA's largest donor, providing about one-tenth of the PA's annual budget. EU aid to the PA totals around 10 million euros a month, which is meant to finance salaries for teachers, health officials and PA police.

German media found guilty of anti-Israel bias

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — A vengeful God. An eye for an eye. Israelis as Nazis.

Such themes are common in German reporting about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, according to a new study by the Berlin office of the American Jewish Committee. The themes are dangerous, the study suggests, because they perpetuate stereotypes that promote anti-Semitism.

The study, *Mideast Reporting on the Second Intifada in German Print Media*, written by Siegfried Jager of the Duisburg Institute for Linguistics and Social Research, concludes that "there is often distortion in the image of Israel, a lack of context and an aggressive tone" in Germany's Middle East reportage, said Deidre Berger, director of the AJCommittee's Berlin office.

The study could provide the basis for a "dialogue on the subject in Germany," she said, adding she hopes members of the media will "take this further."

Even before the study's release, one major German paper was seeking to hire a German-speaking journalist living in Israel to balance its coverage.

"I told the editors that we need to hear the views of people living in Israel," said a staff writer who asked to remain anonymous. "The editor said he would like that, but he did not know anyone there who could do it."

Finding good journalists is only part of the solution. Getting rid of stereotypes is another, more difficult task, observers say.

Take, for example, a recent edition of the news magazine *Der Spiegel*. On April 8, shortly after a suicide bomber killed 29 Israelis at a Passover seder, the magazine wrote that the Passover holiday "recalls the Exodus and at the same time the killing of the first-born Egyptian sons, destroyed by an angry Jehovah so that His People could leave – the first Passover massacre."

And in the Frankfurter *Rundschau* of Dec. 3, 2001, Israelis are described in terms clearly linked to the Nazi genocide: Israel is pursuing "liquidation politics" against the Palestinians, the paper reported.

Observers say the outlook for change is not hopeful.

Working under deadline pressure and without a firm foundation in history, they say, journalists will likely continue to reach for the nearest descriptive tools – the simplest metaphors, the oldest stereotypes, images that resonate with religious authority, and in Germany, comparisons with Nazi Germany that have the ultimate function of relativizing German guilt.

It is easy for German reporters to fall into that trap, said Richard Chaim Schneider, a Jewish journalist based in Munich and Israel. "In order to describe certain phenomena in Israel, they very often use expressions in German which come from Nazi terminology," he said.

For example, in German, the expression "all Israel" becomes "gross Israel," which "automatically has a Nazi interpretation, because the term 'gross Deutschland' is associated with the Nazi policy of deportation, conquest and genocide," he said.

"When the Israelis take Palestinians to camps, not to prisons, these are described in German as 'concentration camps,'" Schneider added. "When you use the word" in Germany today, it creates images "of Auschwitz and Dachau and Treblinka."

The AJCommittee study, undertaken by the Duisburg Institute for Linguistics and Social Research, examined German reporting on four incidents:

- the visit by then-opposition leader Ariel Sharon to the Temple Mount on Sept. 28, 2000;
- the widely reported death of a 12-year-old boy, Mohammad al-Darrah, who died in his father's arms when they were caught in the middle of an Israeli-Palestinian gun battle in the Gaza Strip on Sept. 30, 2000;
- the lynching of two Israeli reservists by a Palestinian mob in Ramallah on Oct. 12, 2000; and
- the June 1, 2001, suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv disco.

The study found instances of "racist anti-Semitism," abuse of the Holocaust, anti-Semitic fantasies of blood libels and Jews as child-murderers, and Zionist conspiracy theories.

The study also found anti-Islamic stereotypes.

Jager, the report's author, said at a news conference last Friday where the study was released, that images of "uneducated" and "uncontrollable masses" of Palestinians fed dangerous stereotypes regarding Muslims living in Germany.

One hazard of conducting such studies is that anti-Semitism can be difficult to pin down, said Christina Spaeti, a Swiss scholar at the University of Fribourg who is evaluating views of Israel in the Swiss left-wing press.

Many examples cited in the AJCommittee report are "very strong, pertinent and true," said Spaeti, who had read a short version of the report.

But other examples, she added, are subject to debate.

For example, she believes not all experts on anti-Semitism would agree that calling Jewish settlers "fearful of attacks" was tapping into stereotypes of Jewish cowardliness.

"I think it is very important not to dismiss their argument" that this should be included, Spaeti said. "We do have to be aware that such terms as 'fearful' might resonate in some anti-Semite's head. But then anything might, I fear."

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June 3

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved the construction of a security fence along 140 kilometres of unmarked border between Israel and the West Bank. It will be built at one of Israel's narrowest points.

June 4

• A drill simulating the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center was held in downtown Tel Aviv. Hundreds of emergency workers were involved.

June 5

• Seventeen Israelis were killed and scores more wounded in a car-bomb attack against an Egged bus near the town of Megiddo. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

• Israel complained to Al-Jazeera after the Qatar-based satellite news station said Israeli extremists were responsible for the bombing attack near Megiddo.

June 6

• The army attacked Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound in an operation that lasted about 6 hours. Tanks and bulldozers destroyed three buildings. One shell hit Arafat's bedroom. Officials denied, however, that the army was trying to harm Arafat.

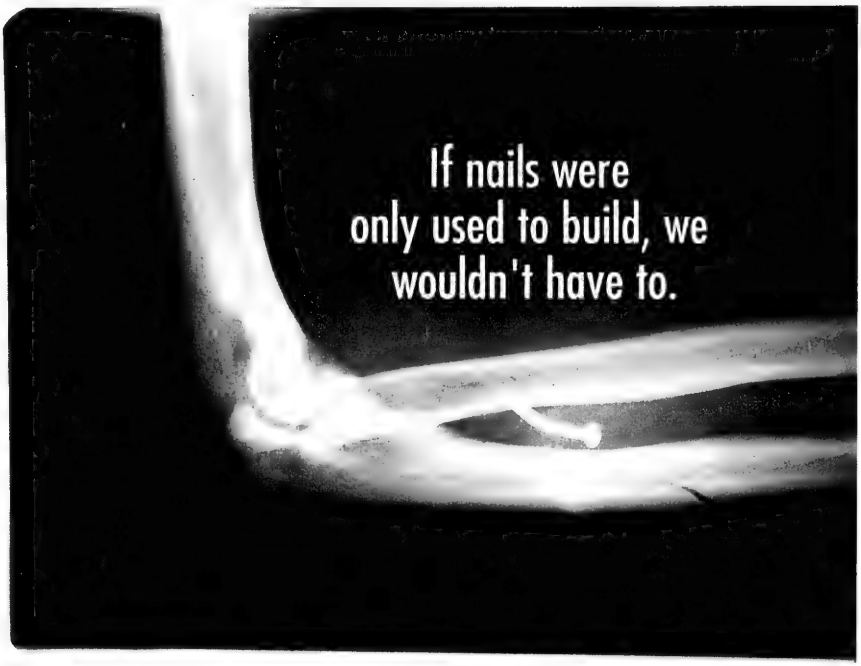
• The Knesset defeated a bill that would have given agents of the Shin Bet the right to use physical pressure during interrogations. "I don't think the State of Israel needs a law that says it is allowed to torture people," Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit said.

June 7

• Unemployment in Israel hit a record high of 10.6 per cent. in the first quarter of the year, representing 270,000 people.

• Despite protests by hundreds of people, police said the first gay pride parade in Jerusalem went off without incident. Police said 4,000 people took part in the parade.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz



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A file photo of Yasser Arafat and Hosni Mubarak taken last year when relations between the two men were better. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Mubarak's Palestinian vision

By ZVI BAR'EL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Analysis

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statement last week about Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's abilities and future crossed a line that has never before been crossed.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, Mubarak said that as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was in the hands of Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, it was difficult to see any solution without active involvement by the United States. Mubarak added that it was possible Arafat would name himself symbolic president about a year after a Palestinian state was declared.

Mubarak is not known for mincing words, and he's been even blunter in the past about other Arab leaders – including Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, and the president of Sudan. But such a clear statement about Arafat, in public, has yet to be heard from him.

Arafat managed to anger Mubarak recently on two main issues – the continuing procrastination on reforms to the PA's security mechanisms and Arafat's proposal to bring Hamas and Islamic Jihad into a new government that Arafat plans to appoint.

Mubarak understood from his intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, who visited Arafat last week and proposed a detailed Egyptian plan for reforms, that at this stage, Arafat either doesn't intend to, or doesn't want to, adopt the Egyptian proposal in its entirety. According to an Egyptian source, "the impression is that Arafat is ready for cosmetic changes and to make them a condition for a change in Israeli policy."

The second issue, even more serious in Mubarak's eyes, is that just as Egypt and Saudi Arabia have been making efforts to persuade the American administration to distinguish between the Palestinian Authority and terror groups – thus enabling a new distinction between legitimate resistance to the occupation and illegitimate terror attacks – Arafat has pulled the rug out from under them by trying to conduct a political romance with these groups. It is a romance, by the way, that has failed, because both Hamas and Islamic Jihad have announced that they will not join Arafat's cabinet.

With his statements, Mubarak has set new parameters for the political discourse that will be acceptable in the Arab world.

And these parameters jibe with what a White House spokesperson said last week when he hinted that Washington intends to conduct intensive contacts with Palestinians who are not named Arafat.

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New fund memoralizes victim of genetic disease

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO – Melissa Ger faced many obstacles in her short life. She was born with 22q deletion syndrome, also known as velo-cardial facial syndrome (22qDS/VCFS), a genetic condition that affects multiple organ systems at all their developmental stages.

Melissa had epilepsy, scoliosis, poor muscle tone, speech and language difficulties and learning problems, to name but a few of the medical challenges she experienced on a daily basis.

But she did not give in to her problems, says her mother, Linda Ger Walters. "She was an incredibly tenacious person. She was an inspiration to so many people."

Ger Walters recounted how her daughter was determined to become a bat mitzvah. "It took her a year to learn her portion. She was nervous. But she got up there and she carried her own. It was another test in her life."

Melissa died suddenly in March 2001, just after her 18th birthday, from complications from a minor medical procedure. In her memory, Ger Walters is launching the Lissy Fund to support families and further research related to 22qDS/VCFS.

Its first fund-raiser will be a silent auction at 7:30 p.m on June 17 at Acceso's, 398 Eglinton Ave. W.

"For us, this is launching the initiative to create some meaning for Melissa's life. It was her vision that more people would understand her condition," says Ger Walters.

"This is a way to respect and honour her. It's taking something sad and tragic and making something positive. This is the epitome of who Melissa was."

According to the U.S. National Institute of Health, VCFS is the most common syndrome associated with a cleft palate. It was not recognized until 1978, when Dr. Robert Shprintzen of the Center for Craniofacial Disorders at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York City described 12 children with the disorder, which is also known as Shprintzen syndrome, DiGeorge syndrome, craniofacial syndrome or conotruncal anomaly unusual face syndrome.

The Lissy Fund will be administered by the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC), where Melissa was first diagnosed. In fact, she was the first person to be diagnosed with the syndrome at HSC, says Ger Walters.

"VCFS is under-diagnosed, under-researched and not well understood," she says.

Yet, it is now the most common genetic syndrome diagnosed at HSC, affecting approximately one in 2,000 to 4,000 people, she explains.

"It is more common than Huntington's disease and multiple sclerosis."

Ger Walters notes that the symptoms of 22qDS/VCFS can vary from person to person. Some of the more prevalent ones include kidney, cardiac and endocrine problems, learning difficulties, nasal speech and a variety of problems affecting the palate.

Melissa Ger

She stresses that Melissa's condition was not well understood because there has been little research into the disease.

"We recognize that this is a condition that affects many [medical] subspecialties," Ger Walters says, adding that there is a "need for more co-ordination and a more comprehensive clinic to follow people throughout their lives."

HSC and other University of Toronto teaching hospitals are committed to setting up a comprehensive multi-disciplinary clinic for people with 22qDS/VCFS, Ger Walters says. "It was inspired by Melissa."

She says her daughter saw great value in connecting with people and other families affected by 22q. "We were in the process of putting together a national network of families. Melissa, wanted to be part of this network and she had her contribution planned out."

Ger Walters spoke of her daughter's ability to reach out to other people. "She was the most giving person… She would always think about other people."

Through her involvement in Temple Sinai, Melissa became a counsellor at Camp George, a job she cherished. "She took it very seriously. It was important to her that she do whatever it took to make sure that the kids had a good time."

Melissa also had her high school co-op placement at Temple Sinai's nursery school and she was a teaching assistant for its Sunday school kindergarten.

"She was as much a benefit to our synagogue as the synagogue was to her," says Rabbi Michael Dolgin, spiritual leader of Temple Sinai.

For more information about the Lissy Fund and its first event, please contact Luci Solish at 905-764-6689.

YCC camp opens for Russian-Jewish kids

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — By the end of August, when summer camp season winds down, the black flies and "bug" juice at the Harry Bronfman Y Country Camp (YCC) usually become just a memory.

But this year the YCC's gates are staying open. For the first time in its history, the camp in the Laurentian community of St. Huberdeau is extending its season one more week – Aug. 20 to 26 – to accommodate up to 50 Jewish youngsters from the former Soviet Union (FSU) who now reside in Montreal.

Under the name Camp Shalom Aleichem, the YCC site will be used to give the youths aged 11-14 a chance – for a nominal $50 fee – to experience the fun of camping, to learn about Israel and their Jewish heritage and to integrate into the Jewish community.

"We see it as a stepping stone," said Matt Derkson, who will be Shalom Aleichem's director. "In the years to come, we hope they'll look back at it as a great experience."

More information is also available by contacting Derkson at 737-6551, ext. 530.

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Emma Richler wins fiction prize at Jewish Book Awards

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Emma Richler's first novel *Sister Crazy* won the fiction prize last week at the 14th annual Jewish Book Awards in Toronto, so it seemed highly appropriate for CBC radio host Eleanor Wachtel to recall a comic line from Emma's father, the late Mordecai Richler, before reading a passage from her book.

Saying how much she liked prizes and their presentation, Wachtel recalled that Mordecai had once joked that "there was a prize for the most wholesome book published within 200 miles of Edmonton."

Virginia Woolf once made a similar quip about winning a prize for "tallest women writer of 1927," Wachtel continued, joking that Woolf had won the honour "by a neck."

In truth, however, literary prizes are not nearly so plentiful as these jibes would make it seem. That's why many of the nine prize winners expressed a special gratitude to the 11-member committee behind the awards, which have drawn near-capacity audiences to the Leah Posluns Theatre in recent years.

"I think the awards are a real boost – they help us to keep going," said Toronto writer Cary Fagan, who won the children's literature award for *The Market Wedding* (Tundra). "I'm personally gratified to the people on the committee who work hard to help make this happen."

Accepting the award for Emma Richler was her brother, Noah Richler, books editor and columnist for the *National Post*.

"Emma has been kept in England," he explained, "not by the Jubilee and not by [World Cup] football, but because she's writing her next novel."

Responding to comments that *Sister Crazy* was largely autobiographical and gives a glimpse into the Richler family, Noah recalled that his father had discounted its autobiographical side. "It's a novel," Mordecai had told Noah. "But don't worry, you come out looking pretty good."

Richler was also briefly recalled as Montreal writer William Weintraub received the biography/memoir prize for *Getting Started* (McClelland and Stewart), in which he recounts his encounters and communications with Richler, Mavis Gallant and Brian Moore in the 1950s.

Another Montreal author, Prof. Morton Weinfeld, won the prize for scholarship on a Jewish Theme for *Like Everyone Else... But Different* (McClelland and Stewart), his study of Canada's Jewish community.

Janine Stingel received the Canadian history prize for *Social Discredit* (McGill-Queen's), which, as the Alberta native explained, "tells the history of the anti-Semitism that the Social Credit party participated in with vigour and vigilance in the '30s and '40s."

Stingel, who has a fundamentalist Christian background, told *The CJN* that she was a teenager in the nearby town of Alix when then Eckville, Alta. mayor Jim Keegstra was convicted of promoting hatred against Jews in 1985. The episode left a deep impression on her, and she felt compelled to ask: "What is it about Alberta's political culture that breeds this kind of mindset?"

Asked to supply a simple answer, Stingel said, "It's a product of very narrow, parochial thinking – provincial in the true sense of the word." (For a more detailed answer, read her book.)

Posing with Eleanor Wachtel (third from left), this year's guest reader at the 14th Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards, are Prof. Adam Fuerstenberg, , Miriam Webb and Frances Mandell. [Gloria Fuerstenberg photo]

Toronto native Eric Lawee said that he spent about a decade writing *Isaac Abarbanel's Stance Toward Tradition* (SUNY Press), which won the prize in biblical scholarship.

"It was originally a doctoral dissertation written at Harvard University under Isador Twersky, who was my mentor there," said Lawee, who is now connected with York University's Centre for Jewish Studies.

A towering historical figure, Abarbanel was as deeply involved in Jewish learning and philosophy as he was in financial, diplomatic and geopolitical affairs, Lawee explained. He was the leader of Spanish Jewry at the time of the expulsion, but failed both to anticipate the expulsion edict or to have it revoked.

The last three winners were Rabbi Erwin Schild for his Holocaust memoir, *The Very Narrow Bridge* (Adath Israel/Malcolm Lester); Simcha Simchovich, translator of a collection of Mordecai Gebirtig's poetry, *The Song That Never Died* (Mosaic), which took the Yiddish prize; and Joseph Sherman, who received the poetry prize for *American Standard* (Oberon).

The awards ceremony was presided over by committee member Adam Fuerstenberg, with fellow member Frances Mandell offering closing remarks. Mandell revealed that some philanthropists have begun efforts to establish an endowment fund to ensure the awards remain a permanent fixture in the community's cultural calendar.

"We would have started it this year, but with the situation in Israel, we thought it would be quite improper," she said.

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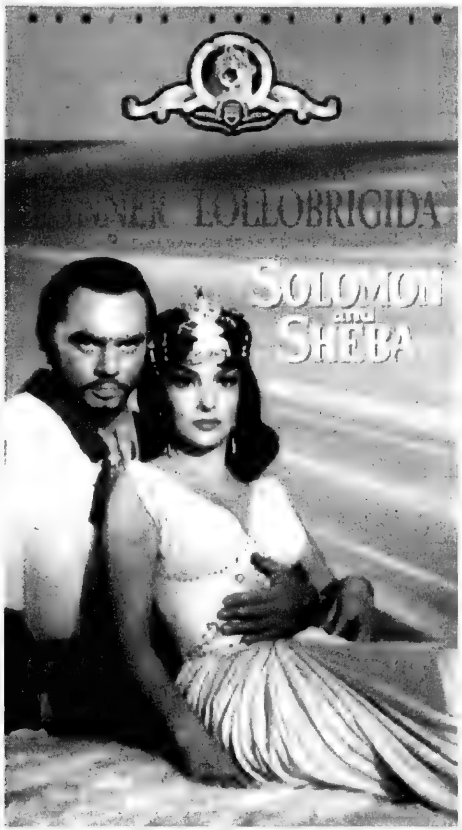
Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO COLLECTOR'S MOVIE POSTERS ON DISPLAY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

During a recent family trip to Israel, Toronto lawyer **Jerry Faivish** spotted a rare movie poster belonging to the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive. While inquiring whether it was for sale, Faivish told archive director **Marilyn Koolik** of his own collection of about 5,000 Jewish-oriented posters from around the world, acquired over the past 15 years. Before the conversation was over, Faivish had happily agreed to lend the archives about 40 movie posters for exhibition.



This poster is one of over 50 on display at Hebrew U.

The posters are featured in People of the Screen, an exhibition of over 50 movie posters with Jewish themes that went on display last week in the Little Gallery of the Hebrew University's Mount Scopus campus in Jerusalem.

People of the Screen comprises 80 years of film posters, ranging from Hollywood blockbusters like *Solomon and Sheba* (1959) with **Yul Brynner** and **Gina Lollobrigida**, to the obscure 1935 French comedy, *Moise et Salomon Parfumeurs*.

Faivish, who regards posters as "symbols of Jewish history", says his hobby began in Israel after he noticed how frequently the posters kept changing on a Tel Aviv poster pole. "I realized that I was looking at layer upon layer of history and I wanted to preserve it," he says.

The exhibit, which also includes stills, frame enlargements and printed matter, is free to visitors and continues until the end of the year.

***

Yiddishland Cafe: Yiddish poet **Itsik Manger's** *The Megilla* in Yiddish and English, with music by **Dov Seltzer** under the direction of **Nina Shapilsky**, is being presented at the Yiddishland Cafe's 35th evening in celebration of Manger's 100th anniversary. The cast includes narrators **Alon Nashman** and **Chaya Thalenberg** and singers **Miriam Eskin**, **Michael Mandel** and **Denise Williams**, accompanied by keyboard and violin. Workman's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $12. Sunday June 23, 7:30 p.m. Reservations, 416-787-2081.

• **Reading at Israel's: Sharon Green** reads from her new book, *Not a Simple Story: Love and Politics in a Modern Hebrew Novel*, a scholarly study of the work of Israeli writer **S.Y. Agnon**. Refreshments; no admission charge.

Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Thurs. June 20, 7:30 p.m. 416-256-2858 ext. 22

***

Names in the News

• The legendary folk group **The Travellers**, whose 1955 rendition of *This Land Is Your Land* became a runaway hit across Canada, receives the Toronto Musicians Association lifetime achievement award on June 14. The Toronto-based band, which was reconstituted by original member **Jerry Gray**, is due to receive similar awards at the upcoming Canadian Labour Congress and two union conferences. The band is slated to appear on *Canada AM* on June 13.

• Ever heard of the Jewish Television Network? By its own description, the California-based company is the only producer and distributor of Jewish television programming in North America, and is carried by over 70 PBS affiliates in the United States. Last week, its Web site (www.jewz.com) featured a profile of 25-year-old Montreal actor **Emmanuelle Chriqui**, who has appeared frequently on television and in films such as Steven Spielberg's *A.I.* The Web site features an interesting 3½-minute audio interview with Chriqui.

* * *

At the Galleries: Biblical Quotations and Beyond, an exhibition of calligraphy and water colours by **Karny Rivlin Vorona**. Gallery 592, 592 Markham St. June 13 to 30. Meet the artist, June 13, 6 to 8 p.m. 416-497-9555.

***

Arts in Brief

• *Snappy Tales* is a cabaret production of four short satirical musicals by **Vincent de Tourdonnet**. Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. $25 - $18. Until June 23. 416-504-9971.

• Theatre Kingston presents *The Turn of the Screw*, based on the novel by **Henry James**. Tarragon Extra Space. Adults $20. June 13 to 29; preview June 12. 416-531-1827.

• *Over The River and Through The Woods*, by **Joe Dipietro**, directed by **Jordan Merkur**. $24 - $19. Red Barn Theatre, Jackson's Point, June 18 thru July 6. 905-722-3249.

• July 30th is the deadline in the Poetry Institute of Canada's 9th annual Canadian poetry contest, which offers $5,000 in prizes. Send one original poem of 24 lines or less to P.O. Box 5577, Victoria BC V8R 6S4 or email poetryinstitute@shaw.ca. No entry fee.

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Vladeck: Inside the mind of a killer

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

During a tense moment in the one-man show *Vladeck*, erratic flashes of light frame a young killer as he recounts punching and kicking a helpless boy. Computerized tribal rhythms pound in the background as he says: "And I kicked and kicked and kicked. I didn't stop. Someone had to pull me off him."

Vladeck, playing at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre until June 16, explores the brutal truths of violent behaviour from the point of view of a young perpetrator.

The play addresses the issues of peer pressure and bullying as well as brother-on-brother violence and teen suicide. Without resorting to sentimentality, Jodi Miller's script prods the mind of a troubled 16-year-old videotaping his confession of a park mugging turned ugly.

Since the victim Gerald is Jewish, and Vladeck (Marcello Cabezas) and his cronies wanted cigarettes from the defiant victim, a Toronto viewer may associate the play with the Matti Baranovski killing three years ago in G. Ross Lord Park. While the producer is adamant that Vladeck is entirely fictional and says it was written several years ago, there are some uncanny similarities: a sobbing mother on the *Toronto Sun's* front page, an identical cause of death, the school's reaction.

Miller was also a supply teacher who frequently substituted at Northview Secondary School – the high school Baranovski went to.

Despite those similarities, however, the play stands on its own, with its effective use of a variety of media and a brilliant performance from the Dora-deserving Cabezas.

Using the speaking style of a typical teenager, Vladeck recounts the murder three times during the performance. As he videotapes his confession, which airs on a TV screen beside him. Not only does the camcorder become Vladeck's most attentive friend, but the truth of his guilt is only be suitably validated through a high-tech suicide note.

The fast-forward frenzy of the TV's images is irritating, but the scenes where Vladeck crouches an inch away from the lens illustrate the importance of the split screen. The close-up of his face reveals dripping beads of sweat that fall on the stage. As he tries to rub off non-existent blood from his boots, hysterically scrubbing the clean shoes, you can almost hear Macbeth yelling, "Out, damned spot! out, I say!" The messy truth of murder haunts the youth, and Cabezas inflects his words with strangled curses and frustrated screams.

Marcello Cabezas as Vladeck videotapes his confession.

He tries to think happy thoughts as he awaits his fatal day. "Hmm, mashed potatoes and gravy. Oh yeah, burgers and fries. And my bubbie's soup. Oh, man."

Stuck in his basement purgatory, and teased by kitchen smells, Vladeck's mind keeps returning to images of the beaten Gerald.

While Adam Pettle sprinkled his play about youth violence, *Misha*, with memories of the victim, Miller focuses on a killer's internal struggle to highlight the impact of the crime.

The African music that plays in the background amidst the savagery of the mob brings *Lord of the Flies* to mind, but the music clips enter and exit too mechanically. Often, it sounds like an abrupt push of "play" and "stop."

Sara Phillips' direction moves Cabezas around the tiny carpeted set with emotionally charged energy, breaking the monotony of an actor talking in a chair.

The issue of youth violence has stimulated discussion recently about its social impact. As this play points out, the faces of evil don't vanish overnight. The bullies need help, and they need to talk.

To paraphrase one of Vladeck's lines, the troubled teen needs to tell the truth – so help him God.

For tickets, call Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St. Toronto. 416-975-8555.

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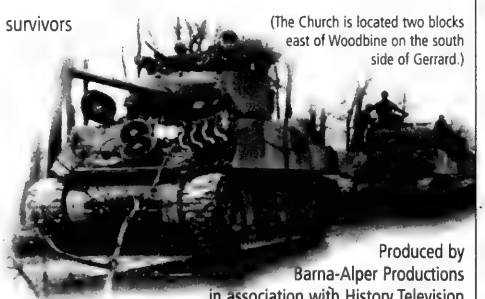

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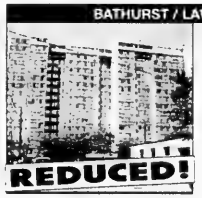

ACT NOW! Bright & spacious corner unit. 3 bdrms., 2 baths, modern eat-in kitchen, ensuite laundry, N.E. exposure, shows very well! **REDUCED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE TO $289,900.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / WILSON

Enclave of 8 new homes. Approx. 2,000 sq. ft., 3 - 4 bdrms., 4 baths, fin. bsmt. Take advantage of pre-construction prices starting at only $379,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

FOREST WOOD

Rare opportunity! Spacious 4 bdrm. executive home on 50.6 x 216 ft. ravine lot. Ideal for renovation and/or addition. Prestigious location on quiet street. Offered at $1,280,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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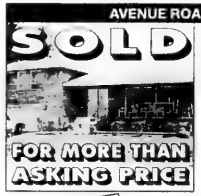
AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE



Bright & spacious 3 + 1 bdrm., 4 bath. side-split on 55 ft. lot. Family room with wall unit, family size kitchen, w/o to porch from master bdrm., custom upgrades galore. Gorgeous landscaping, prestigious location close to park. Only $619,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

RENTALS

RENTED

5 bdrm. 2½ storey at $2,500; exec. home on ravine lot, $4,500; 2 bdrm. condo, only $1,300. For details call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

THORNHILL DREAM HOME — TRULY ONE OF A KIND!

Magnificent 4 + 1 bdrm. luxury home on beautifully landscaped lot backing onto York Hill Park. Marble floors, dream kitchen with Corian counters, professionally decorated in exquisite taste, double garage. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN

Rare opportunity! E. side of Bathurst, spacious 4 + 1 bdrm. bung. on gorgeous 45.5 x 136.5 ft. lot, prestigious location. Huge living room/dining room combo, ideal for entertaining, family size kit. Sep. entrance to in-law suite. **ACT NOW.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

WAKE UP TO YOUR DREAM ON THE ALEXANDRA WOOD RAVINE

First offering, two years new. 5+2 bedroom magnificent new home on 60' x 250' lot nestled among the huge trees and finest residences of beautiful Alexandra Wood. This gracious home has a fabulous layout, generous room sizes, high ceilings, gorgeous mouldings and finishings throughout and is excellent for entertaining and family living. Available in late November for **$2,699,000.** Contact...

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3000 BATHURST
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ROYAL PROMENADE CONDO - $219,900
Victoria model - 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Jacuzzi, balcony, neutral décor, desirable building and location. Steps to TTC & shopping. Priced to sell. Call Natalie Kopman* Ext. #315

ARMOUR HEIGHTS * LAST CHANCE!
45x125 South lot. Reno'd top to bottom 2 stry, 3+1 bdrms, 2 baths, sep in-law suite. $399,900. A must see! Carole Lazer* Ext. #348

FOREST HILL VILLAGE $689,000
Briar Hill/Chaplin walk to shul. Inviting 4 bdrms, mn flr fam rm flows from modern kit + den & 2 pce, double garage & nanny quarters. A lot of house for the $. Jeffrey Joseph** Ext. #519

EGLINTON - MT. PLEASANT - NEW
Being built 3 bdrm, 2 stry, mn floor family rm, 4 baths, 2 fireplaces, skylights, high ceilings, fin'd. bsmnt. w/walk-out garage. Steps to everything exclusive with David Navy* Ext. #530

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
$569,900. Wonderful renovated 4 bdrm, 2 stry overlooking park in desirable Denlow estates. Sparkling white kitchen, huge fam rm, central air. Great buy. Don't miss! Elaine Chelin* Ext. #269

GREAT FAMILY HOME!!!
3 bedroom + 2 baths, CAC, updated bath, full-sized basement with apt. potential. Beautifully landscaped 50.17 x 131.33 lot. Don't miss this one! Heidi Nelson* Ext. #531

JUST LISTED
Exquisite family home, cathedral ceilings, circular foyer, 3 skylights, fin'd basement w/6' hot tub, outdoor pool. Walking distance to the best schools & shul. Best value in the area. Only $689,000. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

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Bathurst/Clark – Completely renovated family home, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, finished basement with kitchen, lovely corner, maple kitchen, great value, asking $425,000.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Excellent starter home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 50' x 120' lot, great potential for doctor/dentist office, asking $269,900.

Bathurst/Wilson – Fabulous custom home on Brooke Ave, approx. 3200 sq. ft., 4 bdrms, 5 baths, finished basement, gourmet kitchen, great finishings throughout, a real gem, asking $990,000.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Newly renovated 2-storey, stone & stucco exterior, 4 bdrms, 3 baths, fin bsmt, 50 x 135 lot, asking $715,000.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Custom Home to be built in fall, plans are ready, buy now and save money!! Asking $749,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Steeles – Exclusive, Primrose III, 2 bedrooms, approx. 1,300 sq. ft., main floor bright and spacious, asking $249,900.

Bathurst/Clark – Conservatory, 2 bdrm, approx. 1,200 sq. ft., split bedrooms, large solarium, asking $302,900.

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

AVENUE/ST. CLAIR GEORGIAN $1,395,000
Kellner built, total reno. Fab fin. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 kitchens. Grand Living/Dining/Master. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTING BATH/WILSON $939,000
Beautiful 4+1 bedroom, 4 baths residence on 44x115' lot. Hardwood floors throughout. Must be seen! Irma Weisz* 416-488-2875

29 VIEWMOUNT AVENUE! 5+2 BDRM, 5 BATH!
$895K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Bldr's own! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! Fab 56x140'! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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Four 2 bdrm apts, b/i dishwashers, garages. Quiet street, close to TTC. Renee Seligman* 416-226-1987

217 VIEWMOUNT AVE "ON THE PARK"!
$745,900! Bathurst/Glencairn! Spac'us 4+2 bdrm, 6 bath! Nanny ste! Walk to subway! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

56 BLUE FOREST DRIVE! 4+1 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$649K! Bathurst N/Sheppard! Rare 60x200' ravine lot! Try your offer! Motivated! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 3280 YONGE ST! $579,900!
At Fairlawn! Seldom available storefront + 2 upper apts! B/I garage! Fab exposure! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

16 CHATER COURT! NOW $549,900!
Bathurst/Glencairn! Cul-de-sac! 4+1 bdrm, 3 bath S/S! 81x153'! Vendor says sell now! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

AVENUE RD/N. OF EGLINTON $429,000
Charming 2 bedroom bungalow. Plans available for 2,200 square feet home. Faithe Eversky** 416-488-2875

CHAPLIN/ N. EGLINTON JUST $429,000
Charming bungalow. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Plans available for 2,200 square feet home. Faithe Eversky** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 1A HEATHDALE ROAD! $419K!
Bathurst N/St. Clair! Fab 3 stry, 3 bdrm, 4 bath semi w/grge! Gor-g'us garden! Walk to subway 10+ S. Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

20 INEZ COURT! 55X146'! $395K!
Yonge N/Finch! Cul-de-sac! 3+1 bdrm, 2 bath S/S! Reno kit! Much new dev't in area! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

EAST OF BATHURST 50 X 115', 3 BDRM BUNGALOW
Close to all amenities. Great opportunity for handyman. Rose Simon* 416-226-1987

ST CLAIR-OAKWOOD – OUTSTANDING INCOME PROP.
$259,900. Triplex on quiet street. Large yard. Saul Merrick* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

38 FOREST HEIGHTS BLVD! $2,599K!
Bayview S/401! Exec 5+1 bdrm, 7 bath! 4 car grge! Top quality finishes! Impeccable condition. S. Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

187 ELMWOOD AVENUE! 2+ 1 BDRM BUNGALOW!
$399K! Bayview/Sheppard! Rare 146 x 44' corner! Live in/add on/build new! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CENTRAL RICHMOND HILL 4 BEDROOM
Very attractive home, ceramic floor, upgraded. 40 x 110 feet lot. Call Georgina Koltai* 416-226-1987

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LOWER VILLAGE – ONE BEDROOM + DEN
Excellent location, luxury bldg, 24 hr concierge, valet parking. Large unit!! Mark Cowan* 416-226-1987

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York Mills. Immaculate 1271 sq. ft. corner suite. 2 bdrm + den, 2 baths. Bess Tong* 416-226-1987

LUXURY ONE BEDROOM CONDO $259,000
Large unit on Yonge near Rosedale subway. High ceilings, laundry ensuite. Call Mark Cowan* 416-226-1987

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Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

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WILMINGTON OVERBROOK
Large 3 bdrm. bung., L-shaped liv. & din. rm., updated kitchen, appliances, fin. bsmnt., garage, large lot, Steps to everything!!
BATHURST SHEPPARD
3 bdrm, 3 baths, good size living & dining room, finished basement, garage, Great buy!
BATHURST STEELES CONDO
2 bedroom, living & dining combined, solarium, laundry in suite, appliances, Don't miss!
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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

CONDOS BELOW MARKET VALUE!!

8 COVINGTON RD.
Bathurst/Lawrence – 2 year new!! Grand lobby, gorgeous 2 bdrms, lavish ensuite, Sabbath elevator. From $274,900.
100 ANTIBES DR.
Bathurst/Drewry – Rare 3 bdrm corner ste. w/unobstructed view, oak kit w/granite counter-tops, pkg for 3 cars!! Sabbath elevator. Only $234,900.
7 TOWNSGATE DR.
Bathurst/Steeles – Luxury 2 bedroom, 1350 sq. ft. Was a model suite. Huge family room - solarium. Only $278,900.
155 MARLEE AVE.
Glencairn subway/Ridelle - Large 2 bedroom overlooking park, new windows, magnificent indoor pool, Sabbath elevator, large balcony. Only $189,900

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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Bath./Centre, lux. spac., 2 bdrm., nr. all amen., avail. July 1st, $1875/mo. 416-896-7153.

Bath./Neptune, 2 bdrm., 2 bths., lndry. ensuite, shabbat elev., 10 min. walk to Yorkdale or synagogue, TTC at door. $1300. 416-782-5685.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT

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45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Skymark - 65, 85 or 89. Want to buy. 2 bdrm, 2 bth, +. Private No agents. 905-881-8011

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Toronto shared apt., female student, York University, Bathurst & Steeles, Aug. 1 $650, hydro included. Tel: 1-877-855-1818 evenings, Kay

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Bathurst/Wilson. Bsmt. 1 bed. sep. entr., central a/c, $550 Single occup. **416-638-1840**

Bath./Lawr., 1 bdrm. bsmt. apt bright, recently reno'd, close to all. $695/mo., no pets, n/smkr., 416-782-4013, 416-785-9864

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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Bath./Centre, room in brand new townhouse, with priv wshrm. & prkng. Asking $550/mo. or reduced rent for set hrs. of babysitting, primarily in the daytime for a 3 mo. & 3 yr. old. Immed. Refs. req'd. **416-518-8373.**

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100' on Lake Simcoe (Woodland Dr.) 10 mins. from downtown Orillia. 3 bed., gar. boathouse, marine rail, concrete waterfront, small boat hoist, well maintnd. $359,000 priv. sale. 705-326-9995.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Muskoka - Walkers Point. Beautiful 5 bdrm. exec. summer home on lake. Private bay. Spec. view from extra lge. deck & dock. July. 416-444-4091.

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Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area. Lux. 4 bdrm., sandy beach, tennis. Seas/Mo. 416-226-0009., 416-749-6600.

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125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Deerfield Bch, furn garden apt., grnd. flr., 4 appls., new brdlm Call 9-3, 1-705-652-0207.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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Private Jewish elementary school seeks dynamic General Studies Teacher for primary/junior division for Sept. 2002. Fax resume to Principal: 905-771-1807.

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265 PEOPLE SEARCH

If anyone knows the whereabouts of Ted Jerusalski, please contact Michael Florence at 416-487-5705 or 416-401-7350

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

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Jewish gentleman, 62, 5'11", honest, down-to-earth who cherishes true value, would like to meet a sincere lady for long term relationship. Write to P.O. Box 38, Station "T", Toronto, Ont. M6B 3Z9.

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The family is deeply saddened to announce the passing of our beloved uncle **Rabbi Doctor Zvi Azaria Helfgot** after a long life of unfaltering devotion to the Torah and the people of Israel. Dr. Helfgot served as a Chief Rabbi of Hanover and Kohl in British zone of Allied occupation of Germany. Also as a former Rabbi of Savyon Israel. Survived by his beloved wife Malka Azaria, his dedication is a source of inspiration for all of us.

CAPLAN, John – on May 26, 2002, late of 55 Penwick Cres.
STARKMAN, Aron – on May 26, 2002, late of 251 Wilmington Ave.
BORDAN, Harry Aaron – on May 29, 2002, late of 8 The Donway.
SHIFMAN, Elizaveta – on May 29, 2002, late of 5 Chelmsford Ave.
FRIMERMAN, Harry – on May 30, 2002.
STEIN, Harold – on May 31, 2002.
BARTH, Sarah – on June 1, 2002, late of 460 Patricia Ave.
KIRK, Alexander – on June 2, 2002, late of 7420 Bathurst St.
RECHT, Mary – on June 2, 2002, late of 187 Combe Ave.

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330 OBITUARIES

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SCHAFER, Thomas – on May 16, 2002, late of 70 Delisle Ave., #905.
BUDD, Joyce – on May 16, 2002, late of 1166 Bay St., #602.
KOPYTOWSKI, Hyman – on May 16, 2002, late of 1037 Lillian St.
GUZIKER, Bernice – on May 16, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St., #410.
MAGDER, Jack – on May 19, 2002, late of 2 Neptune Dr., #811.
STEINER, Essie – on May 16, 2002, late of 4350 Bathurst St., #502.
FELDSTEIN, Lily – on May 18, 2002, late of 3800 Yonge St., #511.
PAGE, Albert – on May 21, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave., #502.
WALTON, Al – on May 19, 2002, 255 Bamburgh Circle, #406.
KANOVSKY, Samuel – on May 22, 2002, late of 3175 Tarn Place.
FEINTUCH, Louis – on May 24, 2002, late of 64 Waterloo Ave.
WAINBERG, Michael – on May 22, 2002, late of 16 Howland Ave.
CONNORT, Ronald – on May 24, 2002, late of 15 Rockford Rd., #1209.
SHUBINSKY, Fanny – on May 27, 2002, late of 650 Eglinton Ave. W., #504.
DALTON, George – on May 27, 2002, late of 100 Upper Madison Ave., #2602.
MINTZ, Mary – on May 28, 2002, late of 4455 Bathurst St., #516.
ATKIN, Ruth – on May 29, 2002, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W., #1101.
TOMAN-SHOOT, Susan – on May 29, 2002, late of 150 Neptune Dr., #1205.
MANN, Bernice Judith – on May 24, 2002, late of 24 Hanover, Suite 1107.
KAPLAN, Zelda – on May 30, 2002, late of 731 Avenue Rd., Lower Duplex.

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BONDY, Zillah – on May 18, 2002, 555 Sheppard Ave. W., #706.
SUGAR, Samuel – on May 23, 2002, late of 351 Christie St.
SPITZBURG, Arthur – on May 24, 2002, late of 2075 Bayview Ave.

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335 UNVEILINGS

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Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Beth Shalom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

330 OBITUARIES

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GORDON HOROWITZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JOSEF LAZAR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Maramoresher Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN KRIESER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SALLY BERNHOLTZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th at 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
(Bathurst, North of Finch)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTHER (*Etka*) HERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, at 12:15 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAMUEL (*Sam*) STENZLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAUL WENNER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 16th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
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Coast to Coast

Film fest held in Vancouver

By LAUREN KRAMER
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Two films, including one made locally, stood out at the 14th annual Vancouver Jewish Film Festival, held from May 9 to 26.

The documentary *Match Made in Seven*, directed by Ilan Saragosti, examines the problem of being Jewish, young and single in Vancouver. The film follows several individuals as they participate in "speed dating," which consists of seven minutes spent in intense conversation with other young singles, with rather depressing results.

One eligible bachelor, Yevgeni, catches the eye of many young women and infuses his time with each of them with personality, easy conversation and laughter. Alas, though a few want to date him, he is largely uninterested. He calls only one to go out, but afterward describes her as "blah." By the movie's end, he is dating a non-Jewish woman and preparing himself for possible intermarriage and its many implications.

Then there is Lewis, a young man with only one thing on his mind: cars.

"Any woman who marries Lewis will have to understand that cars are his first love," his mother says in an interview.

Though Lewis does indeed chatter incessantly about cars throughout his conversations with prospective partners, he is the sole single in the group to have a girlfriend by the movie's end. (Local rumour has it that he is currently engaged to be married.)

The second film that stood out at the festival was *Trembling Before G-d*, an American documentary by director Sandi Dubowski that looks at homosexuality in the Orthodox community.

In his film, the softly spoken, 30-something New Yorker introduces us to several Orthodox gays and lesbians and the turmoil created by the conflict between their sexuality and their religious beliefs. He gives us a glimpse of their lives and the difficulties they must endure if they come out and confront the reactions of family, rabbis and the community.

We meet "Malka" and "Leah," high school sweethearts who hid their relationship behind a facade of platonic friendship for years in an effort to avoid the wrath of their families. Once they reveal they are lesbians, the parents of one woman lose all interest in her, giving her a weekly courtesy call each week before Shabbat on the instruction of their rabbi. The perfunctory five-minute call consists mainly of exchanged niceties, but causes the daughter untold grief, even as she and her partner bake their challah and prepare for the Sabbath.

For more information on the film, visit www.tremblingbefore-g-d.com on the World Wide Web.

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Essay contest calls for submissions

The *Jewish Sports Connection*, a periodical promoting the discussion of sport and Jewish life, is holding an essay contest by Jewish student athletes on the topic: "How has Judaism enriched my life in sport? How has sport enriched my life as a Jew?"

Three essays, selected by a panel of judges, will be awarded Israel Bonds in the sum of $500, $360 and $180 (US), respectively.

Contest guidelines and essay submission forms may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the *Jewish Sports Connection*, P.O. Box 66461 St. Petersburg, FL 33736, or by e-mailing a request to JewishSports@yahoo.com.

The contest is open to Jewish high school and college students with significant involvement in organized team or individual sports. Entries must be postmarked by Aug. 15.

The *Jewish Sports Connection* is published by Rabbi Mitchell Smith, a member of the sport psychology registry of the United States Olympic Committee.

Tournament promotes Jewish unity

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Joseph Edery's dream was for everyone to get along, and nothing would have made him prouder than what his sister Joyce has done to honour his memory.

The 17-year-old Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) student was instrumental in organizing the recent second annual three-on-three Joseph Edery Memorial Basketball Tournament at Toronto's Bathurst Jewish Centre as a way to remember her late brother who was killed at 17 in a traffic accident two years ago.

While Joseph Edery did not play the game, the event's theme, "Jewish unity," was one of his goals in life and the family felt the sport would bring Jews together in a unique way to convey that message.

"I know that if he was alive today, this is something he [would've] wanted to do," said Joyce Edery. "We thought about basketball because you have to work together and be united to achieve your goal.

"It touches my heart to see that we're still portraying such an important message of his. I get to see with my own eyes the impact he had on so many people – and still does."

The youth-run tournament, held this year on Mother's Day, attracted more than 100 players in the 14-23 age group. Edery hopes to also have a girls division next year if numbers warrant.

"I think for my mom that was the best Mother's Day present ever," said Edery, who noted it wasn't specifically planned to be held on that occasion. "Even though her son's not with her, an event like this was the most a mother could ever ask for."

Kathy Edery was extremely proud of her daughter's efforts and content to see today's Jewish youth exhibit such remarkable teamwork.

"It made me feel good to see all the young people participate," she said of the community's future leaders."We have good people in the youth today."

Yehuda Gelberger, along with teammates Gabriel Leventhal and Ben Burk were victorious, winning all five of their single-elimination games. They each received autographed basketballs, signed by Toronto Raptors forward Antonio Davis.

"I think (the tournament) had the perfect combination," said Gelberger, a friend of Edery's, who plays centre for the CHAT Tigers basketball team. "It's a competition and everybody always tries to win. I think it was amazing seeing everybody come out and get along. There was no worries about fights, even verbal fights."

Joyce Edery says her brother meant the world to her and this tournament allows his message and his memory to live on.

Tournament participants paid a $10 entry fee and a portion of the proceeds went to Kids for Kids, an Israeli organization that helps victims of terror. Donations to the fund can still be made by calling 416-993-8469.

Judo champion Manitoba Jewish Athlete of the Year

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

Judo champion Olia Berger was recently awarded the Idy and Max Nusgart Memorial Award as Manitoba's Jewish Athlete of the Year.

Berger, 21, daughter of Olympic Bronze judo medallist Mark Berger, was presented with the award at the 30th annual Y Sports Dinner.

She is a member of the Canadian national team and won several gold medals in Canadian competitions last year.

Other award candidates were 13-year-olds David Glass for squash and baseball, Greg Lipschitz for diving, Shane Marmel for curling, and all-round high school athlete Carly Wolfson.

More than 900 people attended the dinner, organized by Ken Kronson.

The guest speaker was sports attourny Leigh Steinberg.

Funds raised at the dinner go towards supporting programming at the Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre.

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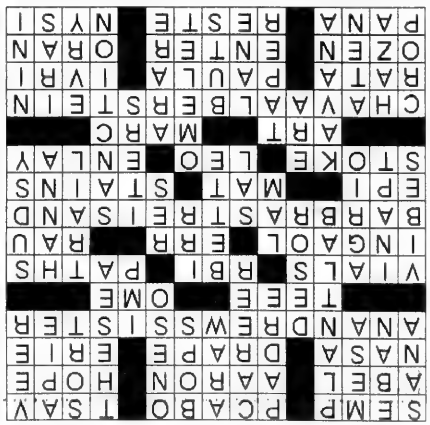

FICTION AND POETRY

• ***The Edge of Europe***, by Angela Bianchini, University of Nebraska Press, $26.95, SC.

The theme of exile is explored in this interesting novel about a young, Italian Jewish woman fleeing Nazi Europe.

• ***Losers and Keepers in Argentina***, by Nina Barragan, University of New Mexico Press, $32.95, SC.

This interesting work of fiction is based on the experiences of Russian Jewish immigrants who began a small agricultural community in Argentina in the late 1800s that lasted until the latter part of the 20th century. Difficult to put down, it provides wonderful insight into the Jewish, Latin-American culture.

(The author will read from the novel at Israel's Eglinton location on Thursday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.)

• ***The Names Leave the Stones***, by Steven Michael Berzensky, Coteau Books, $16.95, SC.

"... a masterful poet. He accomplishes the rare feat of mixing the personal and the political, the divine and the everyday." (Robert Hilles)

NON-FICTION

• ***My Life as a Radical Jewish Woman***, by Puah Rakovsky, Indiana University Press, $46.95, HC.

Fascinating memoirs from the late 19th through the early 20th century, by a remarkable woman, a Zionist, feminist leader born to a traditional, east European family.

• ***Nothing Makes You Free***, edited by Melvin Jules Bukiet, W.W. Norton & Company, $39.99, HC.

These powerful writings, fiction and memoirs, by accomplished writers who are descendants of Holocaust survivors, demonstrate how deeply such evil affects not only the victims of that time, but generations to come. A great addition to Holocaust literature.

• ***Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment: Deciphering Scripture and Midrash in The Guide of the Perplexed***, by James Arthur Diamond, State University of New York Press, $35.95, HC.

"Diamond shows very well how Maimonides is just too important to be left to antiquarian interest alone." (David Novak, University of Toronto)

• ***Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East***, by Michael B. Oren, Oxford University Press, $34.95, HC.

Recommended Reading

The most extensive work to date on the Six Day War and an attack on post-Zionism, this fascinating book is a must-read for anyone interested in Israel and international politics in general. Written by a Princeton-educated senior fellow of Jerusalem's Shalem Centre, it describes the events leading up to the war, a day-by-day account of the fighting, and the aftermath, which continues to this day. Includes broad documentation of multilingual resources.

YOUTH

Ages 11 and up

Mara's Stories: Glimmers in the Darkness, by Gary Schmidt, Henry Holt and Company, $23.95, HC.

The narrator, Mara, tells her stories nightly in the concentration camp barracks, stories of tragedy mixed with hope. Renowned sources include religious scholar Martin Buber, survivor and writer Elie Wiesel, and folklorists Steve Zeitlin and Yaffa Eliach.

Ages 8-11

Oh No, Noah! by Johanna Hurwitz, SeaStar Books, $21.95, HC.

An adorable story about the new kid on the block and the challenge of fitting in and making new friends.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I have always spent my summers away at overnight camp. I look forward to it every year and I always have a great time. But this year I am having second thoughts about going. I recently started dating a guy at my school and things between us are going really well. I am worried that if I am away all summer his feelings for me will change, or he will find a new girlfriend. It's almost making me want to stay home. What do you think I should do?

Confused

Dear Confused,

It's very important that you live you own life and consider your own needs. If camp is something that has always been a part of your life, you should not change that because of a guy.

There are a few different ways of approaching the situation. Your first option is to put your relationship on hold for the summer. This way you are both free to see other people and you will not have to worry constantly about what he is doing at home. You will be able to focus on making friends and enjoying the activities camp has to offer.

Your other option is to stay loyal to one another despite the distance between you. This is not easy, and it requires you to be very honest with each other. You need to understand that he may spend time with other girls while you are gone but that this has nothing to do with his feelings for you. Long distance relationships are very difficult, but they can also be very rewarding. If you can survive being apart for long periods of time, you will also be able to conquer other problems later on in your relationship.

Only you know which is the right decision. Discuss the situation with your boyfriend and see how he feels before coming to any conclusions. Remember that a summer is not that long. If you are meant to be together, a few months apart will not change anything.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

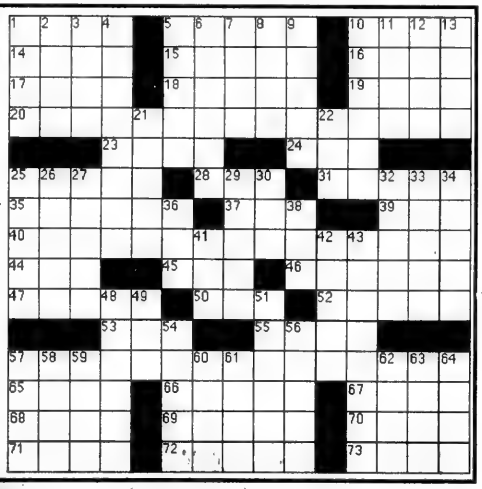
The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

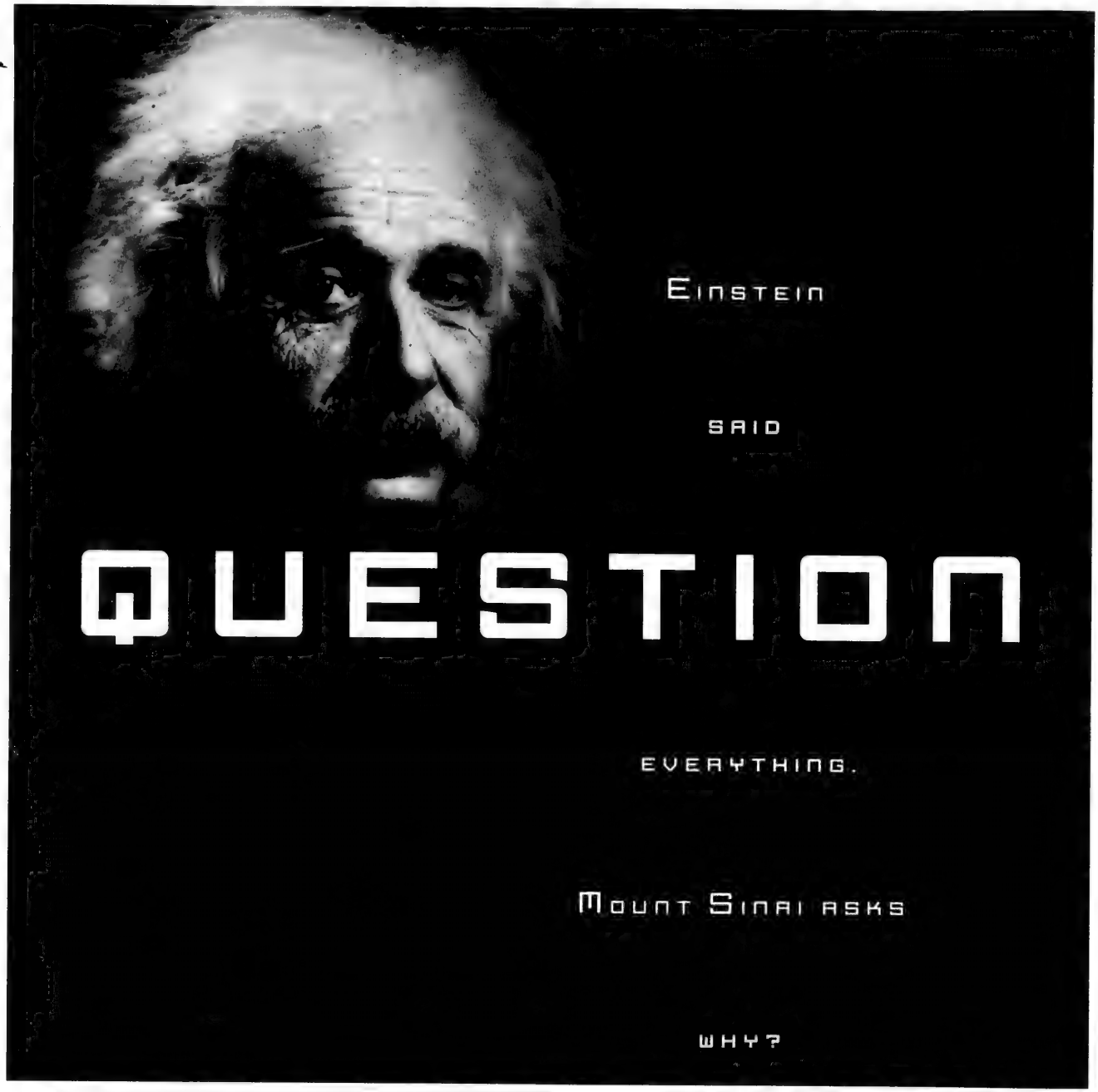
(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

Stars, in Deborah's Style
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Latin always, for short
5. Skier Street, shortened
10. Tortoise, in Tel Aviv
14. Unfortunate brother
15. Moses' brother
16. Tikvah, in Tennesee or Texas
17. Space agency
18. Heavy curtain
19. Canal
20. One of a Jewish star trio
23. ____ heee!
24. Cockney's abode
25. These might contain potions
28. Batter's hope
31. Routes
35. Where Wilde spent some time
37. Pope wrote "to ___ is human".
39. Claudio Ar___
40. Yentl's star and director
44. Prefix for above or outside
45. Wrestler's milieu
46. Lady MacBeth's concerns
47. Do this to help a fire
50. Lion, taxonomically
52. Apply decoration into a surface
53. Duchamp's and Chagall's work
55. Anthony, as in Shakespeare
57. Israeli stars
64. Pro ___
65. Star Abdul
66. A Hebrew, in Hebrew
67. An ear, in Hebrew
68. Exit's opposite
69. Algerian port
70. G'veret, in Gdansk
71. Be at ease, in Nice
72. Big Apple bor., transposed

Down
1. Yemen's capital
2. Israel's Abba
3. Table mountain
4. Botanical research facility
5. San Diego ballplayer
6. Life's work
7. "I got ___ deal!"
8. Hits, slangily
9. "I hit ___ far, it went over the fence".
10. " ... and the sailor home from ____".
11. Type
12. " ... blackbirds baked in ____".
13. Move hazardously off course
21. _____dre (confusion, in Cannes)
22. Creature of mischief
25. Lionel Hampton's instrument
26. Not suitable
27. Prefix denoting primitive, savage
29. Star Midler
30. Opp. of logical
32. Fall behind
33. Brave star Senesch
34. Foamy
36. On the ___
38. Legal matters
41. Mineo
42. Brain channels
43. International coercive measure
48. Intention, in Israel
49. Time period
51. Egg entree
54. Long candle
56. ____ bird
57. You can do this to a photo
58. Foresaw, in Afula
59. Pronoun you would use in addressing our stars in Tsefat
60. Singer Frankie
61. Ifs' companions
62. Each and all, poetically
63. A Gershwin brother and namesakes
64. Star Noa's family name





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EL AL

CLC criticizes Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It was a bad week for supporters of Israel in the Canadian labour movement.

A few days after the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Ontario introduced an emergency resolution slamming Israel, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) convention passed a resolution last week in Vancouver calling on Israel to withdraw from Palestinian areas, while the organization's executive committee and council adopted a policy statement comparing Israel to South Africa under apartheid.

The union statements were quickly condemned by Canadian Jewish Congress, Jewish labour representatives and other supporters of Israel.

Congress called them "simplistic and replete with inaccuracies and just plain errors."

Lil Nobel, president of CUPE local 2063, which represents office workers at Jewish community agencies in Toronto, said she believes the resolution misrepresents the facts and in effect supports Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. Nobel had been sharply critical of CUPE Ontario's earlier emergency resolution, but was unable to attend the CLC meeting to raise objections to the resolution that was passed.

[file photo]

Bob Rae: statement 'completely wrongheaded'

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae was highly critical of the CLC's policy statement. "When someone says Israel is acting like South Africa or is an apartheid state, there's no civil discussion you can have. It indicates a level of ignorance and animosity toward the state which to me is over the line," said Rae, speaking to the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada last week.

Rae, Ontario's only NDP premier, told *The CJN*'s Frances Kraft that the statement is "completely wrong-headed, and I think it ignores any fair or balanced assessment of the history. It's sort of reaching for simplistic solutions. I think it represents a huge step backward for the CLC and everybody else."

Perhaps the most scathing critique of the CLC, a national body that represents 2.5 million unionized workers, came from former CLC president Dennis McDermott, who accused the organization of "coming down on Israel like a ton of bricks, and by association, Jewish people everywhere."

Continued on page 22

This Week

National

ROM exhibition includes Italian Judaica. ***Page 3***

Feld Carr honoured for work with Syrian Jews. ***Page 6***

Jewish poverty a pressing issue at JF&CS meeting. ***Page 16***

Tribute to Israel

See our special section on Israel. ***Pages B1 to B20***

Arts & Travel

Israel Museum director brings art to Toronto. ***Page 32***

Ancient Jewish culture preserved in the caves of Qumran. ***Page 35***

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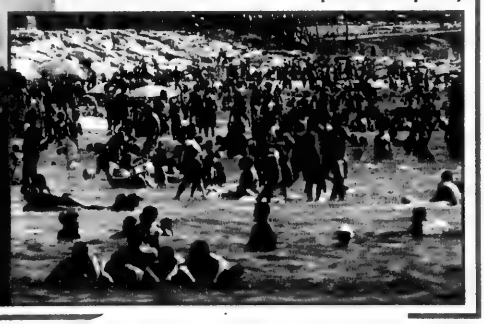

Customers relax in the Moment Cafe in Jerusalem after its reopening last week. The cafe was totally rebuilt three months after a Palestinian suicide bomber destroyed it, killing 11 people and wounding more than 50. Also last week, even as more bombers attempted to wreak havoc in Israel, swimmers and sunbathers flocked to the beach in Tel Aviv. *[RNS/Reuters photos]*

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Chukat-Balak
Candlelighting: 8:44
Havdallah: 9:49

PA no basis for Palestinian state: Condoleezza Rice — see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Waxman Statue

TORONTO — A bronze statue of the late actor Al Waxman, created by Canadian sculptor Ruth Abernethy, will be installed June 23 in Bellevue Square Park in the heart of Kensington Market. It will celebrate Waxman's life and his efforts to make Canadians of all backgrounds feel part of the country. Waxman, who grew up in Kensington Market, starred in the 1970s CBC TV show *King of Kensington*. He died unexpectedly in January 2001 at 65 from complications resulting from heart surgery.

ISRAEL

Team Probes Arad

JERUSALEM — Israel has appointed a "brainstorming team" to investigate the case of missing airman Ron Arad, who was captured by the Amal militia after bailing out during a mission over Lebanon in October 1986. Amal handed Arad to Hezbollah, which apparently gave him to Iran. His whereabouts have not been known for years, and it is not clear if he is still alive. The new team, headed by former Tel Aviv District Court President Eliahu Winograd, will examine all available information and have access to material from both military intelligence and, in an unusual step, the Mossad.

Israel's 'Nobel'

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv University has awarded the first annual Dan David Prizes, Israel's equivalent to the Nobel Prize. The recipients were the Warburg Institute Library in London, for its historical research; W. Daniel Hillis, for his contribution to computer technology and artificial intelligence, and Sydney Brenner, John Sulston and Robert Waterston for their discoveries in biogenetics and contributions to the mapping of the human genome.

Guarding Settlements

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army is considering replacing soldiers at Jewish settlements with private security guards, according to a military official. A pilot project will be tried in the Gush Etzion block of settlements south of Jerusalem, Maj.-Gen. Yiftah Ron-Tal said. Some military officials have complained that guarding the settlements takes soldiers away from other missions.

Shoah Sketch in Space

JERUSALEM — An Israeli astronaut plans to bring a Holocaust-era drawing to space. Col. Ilan Ramon contacted Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial requesting an item to take with him when he blasts off July 19 aboard a NASA space shuttle. Yad Vashem chose the drawing *Moon Landscape* created by Peter Ginz, a 14-year-old Jewish boy, during his incarceration in the Terezin transit camp. Ginz was later killed in Auschwitz. Ramon's mother survived Auschwitz, but his other family members died in Nazi camps.

WORLD

UN Manoeuvre

UNITED NATIONS — Syria, now president of the United Nations Security Council, was forced to circulate a letter last week accusing itself of supporting terror. The letter was sent by Israel's ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Lancry, to the president of the Security Council, Syrian ambassador Mikhail Wehbe. Lancry asked Wehbe to circulate the letter as a Security Council document. As head of the council, Syria had no choice. The letter said Israel "is appalled that a member of the Security Council continues to lend its support to organizations committed to the deliberate murder of civilians." One Israeli diplomat called the episode a small victory in diplomatic protocol.

Slave Trade

WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department has taken Israel off its list of countries that traffic in women. The State Department's annual report on the so-called white slave trade, published June 4, notes that Israel has been making significant efforts to stop international prostitution rings.

Revocation Case

WASHINGTON — U.S Justice Department authorities have initiated proceedings to revoke the citizenship of a Millbury, Mass. man who allegedly participated in the Nazi destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto. The complaint alleges that Vladas Zajanckauskas served as a guard and a guard trainer at the Trawniki camp, and that he participated in the Warsaw Ghetto liquidation in the spring of 1943. The complaint alleges that Zajanckauskas, 87, concealed his Nazi service when he immigrated to the United States in 1950.

Jewish Patrols are Warned

NEW YORK — New York's police commissioner has issued a warning after an obscure Jewish group said it would begin armed patrols in Jewish sections of Brooklyn.

The police department "will not tolerate anyone brandishing weapons under the guise of protecting others," Ray Kelly said last week. "Anyone attempting to patrol the streets armed with weapons will be arrested."

Kelly issued the warning after the little-known Jewish Defense Group said it plans to start patrolling Jewish neighbourhoods armed with shotguns, baseball bats and lead pipes. The group said it was acting after a suspected terrorist jailed in Iraq said in a television interview that those who carried out the 1993 World Trade Center bombing originally wanted to target Jewish areas in Brooklyn.

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ROM exhibition includes Italian Judaica

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A Royal Ontario Museum exhibit highlighting masterpieces from the Vatican and a host of Italian museums features a section on Judaica.

Images of Salvation, which runs until Aug. 11 in the Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall, showcases Hebrew bibles, a Passover Haggadah and a Torah, all hundreds of years old.

It is curated by an Italian and a Canadian, Giovanni Morello and Corey Keeble.

Morello is director of the Vatican Library and chair of the Vatican Museum's scientific committee.

Keeble is curator of decorative arts at the Royal Ontario's Museum's Department of Western Art and Culture.

Two years ago, he established its first permanent collection of European Judaica, the Dr. Fred Weinberg and Joy Cherry Weinberg Judaica Collection

"You can't have an exhibit like this without Judaica," said Keeble, referring to Images of Salvation, presented with the support of Hydro One.

"The people who put this together placed tremendous emphasis on honouring the contributions of Jewish scriptures, the foundation stone of the whole exhibit," he added. "They were profoundly respectful of the traditions of Jewish scriptures."

Images of Salvation, he noted, should speak to all people, regardless of religion and place of origin. "We're all brothers and sisters."

The exhibit, which coincides with World Youth Day and Pope John Paul's visit to Toronto, scheduled for July, consists of over 100 artifacts, from paintings and manuscripts to sculptures and liturgical objects.

Some are on display for the first time outside Italy.

Artistic masterpieces range from Michelangelo's early drawings for the Sistine Chapel and paintings by masters like Luca Giordano, Guido Reni and Giovani Francesco Barbieri.

There are also statues by Bernini and tapestries by the school of Raphael and Rubens.

The Judaica consists of the following:

• Passover Haggadah, 13th century, Venice, from the Parma Biblioteca Palatina.

15th century Bible from Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana.

• Bible, 16th century, Catalan or southern France, from the Modena Biblioteca Estense.

• Torah, early 15th century with 17th-18th century wood case, Middle East, from the Citta del Vaticano, Musei Vaticani and Museo Missionario Etnologico.

• Bible, 13th century, Bologne, from the Castello del Buonconsiglio. Monumenti e collezioni provinciali.

• Pentateuch, 13th century, Florence, from the Parma Biblioteca Palatina.

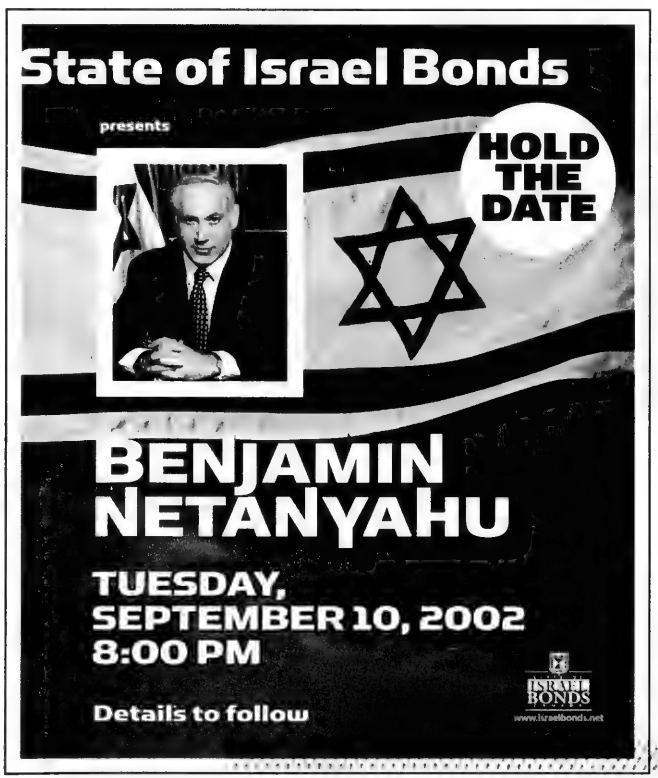
• Bible, 15th century, Florence, from the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Firenze.

• Bible, 11th century, Bologne, from the Biblioteca Universitaria di Bologne.

Apart from Judaica per se, Images of Salvation displays paintings inspired by the Hebrew Bible, from Filippo Palizzi's *After the Flood* (1863) to Pier Francesco Mazzucchelli's *The Flight of Jacob with the Angel* (1610).

There are also engravings of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah by Enea Vico (1523-1567) and Nicola Beatricetto (1515-1565), respectively.

"Judaica," said Keeble, "is acknowledged in terms of the totality of the exhibit."



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My Fair Lady

The Stratford Festival of Canada is celebrating its 50th year. One of the magnificent mainstay columns in the soaring, many-chambered structure of Canadian cultural and literary life, the festival returns each spring to re-anchor the pillar of exhilarating, fine theatre into the thawing Canadian soul.

Last week, for a pleasurably transfixing afternoon, I was able to rest against that pillar and take in the festival's production of *My Fair Lady*.

It was a marvellous show.

From the opening scene when the curtain lifted on the Covent Garden street market outside the opera house in turn-of-the-20th-century London, it crackled with energy, pace and enthusiasm.

This is the second time that the award-winning play has been performed at Stratford and the ensemble is to be congratulated for an engaging afternoon of grand entertainment.

The play first appeared on Broadway in 1956, a collaboration between the musically creative team of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. It ran for 2,717 performances in New York and 2,281 performances in London.

A film version of the play appeared in 1964 and won eight Oscars, including one for Best Picture.

Most people over the age of 30 are probably familiar with the story of *My Fair Lady*. For young readers, though, a very brief synopsis is in order.

The story revolves around the efforts of a phonetics expert, Prof. Henry Higgins, and his colleague, Colonel Pickering, also an expert in languages, to educate a young, raffish flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, in the ways of proper, refined English speech and personal comportment.

A bright young woman, Eliza learns quickly and well. But once she passes the test, both she and her professor mentor must confront new choices about themselves. Neither can return to the way things were before.

Although a romantic musical comedy, there is still enough bite left from *Pygmalion*, the social satire written by George Bernard Shaw upon which the musical is based, to stir the conscience.

Ever the social iconoclast, Shaw pokes a great deal of fun at the distinctly British system of class differentiation that existed some hundred years ago.

From the early moments in the play, when we meet the hawkers and peddlers on the street and the stentorian professor surreptitiously observing their interactions, the playwright contrasts the different moralities of the "undeserving poor" and the "middle class" as playfully, though poignantly, articulated by Eliza's father.

The contrast is further sharpened in the scene of the Ascot Races when we see the studiously developed, emotionless, detached ennui of the upper classes and the refreshing, guileless, spontaneous responses of the still "unfinished" Eliza.

But while poking fun at the pieties, hypocricies and false nostrums of class distinction, the play really is about personal transformations.

Both lead characters undergo profound change. Eliza changes externally. She elevates her language and appearance. Prof. Higgins changes internally. He elevates his conscience and capacity for caring.

The creative tension throughout the play is whether the two will meet at the midpoint of the path they have both traversed.

The cast of this production is outstanding.

Colm Feore, who plays Higgins, is masterful, commanding the stage with his movements, expressions, singing and speech. He makes the audience feel for him despite his condescending professorial manner at the moment he realizes he may have lost Eliza. Helplessly, with his irritating, supercilious veneer fallen away, he calls for his mother. Feore is perfect.

Skilled and polished, Cynthia Dale moves effortlessly from the insecure, howling Eliza of Covent Garden to the breathtakingly graceful and captivating Eliza of the Embassy Ball.

The interplay between Feore and Dale is the dramatic core of the play. It is seamless and smooth, whether evoking laughter in the pre-*Rain in Spain* scene in the professor's study or evoking pathos and pity when, totally neglected by the pedantic, unfeeling Higgins, Eliza decides to leave the professor's tutelage.

The key "supporting" roles are also played very strongly. Barry MacGregor is a straight-as-an-arrow Pickering, ethical, conscience-bound, though borderline-obtuse.

James Blendick is a loveable Alfred P. Doolittle. Though perhaps not rakish or roguish enough for the philandering, conscience-challenged father of Eliza, his singing is velvet and his twinkling mischievous grin a treat.

It is through his character, primarily, that the playwright brings home the social satire and hardscrabble wisdom of the street.

The choreography, singing and staging transport the audience to a time and place far removed from our own. The sheer visual splendour and colour of the Ascot and Embassy scenes, in particular, are electric.

Joyce Campion as the professor's wise, no-nonsense mother and Susan Gilmour as Mrs. Pierce, the woman who runs the professor's household are rock-solid.

Early in the play Higgins speaks of the "human being with a soul... and a divine gift of speech." That is precisely what the audience gets to see and hear at this production of *My Fair Lady*.

—*MBD*

SeeJN

MONEY RAISED FOR BAYCREST:

Grade 5 students from Ventura Park Public School in Thornhill recently raised over $11,000 for Alzheimer's research at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. The class operated a store for three days in their gymnasium, selling donated items including hockey sticks, books and CDs to the public. Baycrest Terrace resident Rebbeca Hoch, who shopped at the store, is seen with (from left) Marlee, Catalina, Allison and Pia.

Sharon's Palestinian policy termed unrealistic

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ariel Sharon's Palestinian policy is flawed and unrealistic, says a prominent Israeli analyst.

Yossi Alpher, former director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, claimed that Sharon's approach is basically unviable because it is rejected by the Palestinians, the Arab world and the United States.

Sharon, he explained in a talk last week at the Kollel sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now, is prepared to accept a Palestinian state in about 42 per cent of the West Bank and about 80 per cent of the Gaza Strip, but only under certain conditions.

These are: a complete cessation of the current violence sparked by the intifadah, the removal of Yasser Arafat from the presidency of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the wholesale reform of the PA.

In addition, Sharon wants to retain all the Jewish settlements in the territories, even isolated ones, in the belief that they will help Israel maintain physical control of the West Bank and Gaza.

Alpher, a former senior officer in the Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency, suggested that the Palestinians, the Arab states and the United States will not embrace the idea of a small, territorially disconnected Palestinian entity to defuse the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"This is a non-starter and doesn't stand a chance," said Alpher, an advisor to Prime Minister Ehud Barak during the Camp David summit in July 2000.

At that summit, Israel reportedly offered Arafat much of the West Bank and all of Gaza in exchange for an end-of-conflict agreement. Arafat rejected the overture.

Alpher compared Sharon's faith in military power to influence the structure and composition of the PA to Israel's "disastrous" and "manipulative" policy in Lebanon in the early 1980s.

By sheer force, Israel cajoled Lebanon into signing a peace treaty in 1983, but it quickly fell apart as a result of Syria's opposition.

"Sharon doesn't have a realistic peace strategy," said Alpher, summing up the prime minister's policy.

Nor does Arafat have a realistic policy, noted Alpher, a consultant to Americans for Peace Now and the Reform movement.

"Arafat is dragged from one strategic situation to another."

Some Israeli strategists, he observed, contend that Arafat never embraced a two-state solution and that his real goal is the transformation of Israel into a Palestinian state – the "Palestinianization" of Israel.

Current diplomatic efforts aimed at achieving an end to Israel's struggle with the Palestinians will probably fail because the two sides are still too far apart on fundamental issues, he said.

Alpher said that the Oslo peace procedure, currently championed by former cabinet minister Yossi Beilin, is considered unrealistic by most Israelis today.

Oslo fell into disrepute because many Israelis viewed Palestinian demands as extreme and because Arafat lost his credibility in and outside Israel.

Yet Israel and the Palestinians may resume bilateral negotiations on the basis of the Taba talks, which ended inconclusively in January 2001, Alpher predicted.

The majority of Israelis, traumatized by the current wave of suicide bombings, support a unilateral pullout from parts of the West Bank and Gaza, the dismantlement of isolated settlements and the construction of a fortified fence along the length of the West Bank.

Israel's frontier with the West Bank is porous and wide open, Alpher said.

"You can simply walk across the border. That's where we are. We've reached this position because the establishment of physical barriers is liable to have political connotations."

By contrast, not a single suicide bomber has come from Gaza, which is fenced off from Israel.

Due to public opinion, the Israeli government has begun construction of a fence along the West Bank.

But Alpher warned that the army will not be able to guard the fence properly if it is pinned down guarding isolated settlements.

He said Israel faces a demographic threat to its status as a Jewish, democratic state.

"Within 10 years, between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, there will be more Arabs than Jews."

When that happens, the notion of a two-state solution will become passé, and the Palestinians will press for a "one-man-one-vote" solution.

"We're heading for a South African situation," he said.

Some Israelis therefore insist that demography is more important than geography, said Alpher, a member of the Council for Peace and Security, which calls for a unilateral withdrawal.

Such Israelis are increasingly demanding unilateral separation from the Palestinians, he added.

He said that the peace process has radicalized Israeli Arabs, who may yet comprise one-third of Israel's population in the future, and that Iran is waging war against Israel through a Lebanese proxy, Hezbollah.

CORRECTION

The article, "Young journalist sees glimmers of peace in next generation" (*CJN*, June 6), refers to Michael Hoechsmann as a "pro-Palestinian assignment editor at Young People's Press." It was never *The CJN's* intention to put Hoechsmann in a negative light, and we apologize for this representation.

Also, the story stated that it was Hoechsmann who urged the 17-year-old to attend a Palestinian-hosted press conference in New York City. It was her assignment editor from *On the Record for Children* who asked her to attend. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Feld Carr honoured for work with Syrian Jews

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

For 4½ years, brothers Eli and Selim Swed were held in a Syrian jail cell 50 feet underground. They were tortured, beaten and at times were sick and denied medical treatment.

The Sweds were detained and jailed in 1987 after Syrian authorities discovered that, in separate trips, they had secretly travelled via Italy to visit their sisters in Israel after being allowed to travel elsewhere. They were formally charged with spying after four years behind bars.

Judy Feld Carr

Working behind the scenes, Torontonian Judy Feld Carr bribed officials to grant the brothers a shower and shave, sent money to feed and clothe Selim 's wife and seven children, and, finally, bought their freedom.

"They were so badly tortured, they could not have survived another day," Carr said in an interview.

The brothers now live in Israel with their families.

Over the course of almost three decades, Feld Carr rescued 3,228 Jews from Syrian oppression by bribing officials, fund-raising, and sending information using coded messages.

On June 5 in Toronto, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre For Holocaust Studies presented Feld Carr with the Wiesenthal Award for Tolerance, Justice and Human Rights at a gala evening in her honour.

"Her convictions, her commitment and her actions gave hope and then freedom to an entire community of people," said Ron Hoffman, co-chair of the event, in a speech presenting Feld Carr with the award.

This commitment to helping Syrian Jewry began in the early 1970s, when she and her late husband, Ronald Feld, learned that 12 young Jewish men had been killed running across a minefield trying to escape Syria and that others were trapped in the country or had been murdered.

The Felds began writing to members of Parliament, holding public meetings and writing letters to the editor.

When her husband died, the Beth Tzedec Congregation's board of governors established The Dr. Ronald Feld Fund and Feld Carr continued the couple's work. At age 33, with three young children to support, she began building the underground network that would become a lifeline for Syrian Jews.

It was dangerous work that Feld Carr admits took an emotional toll.

"I had a lot of fear. The fear was like you cannot believe," she said in an interview after the presentation. "I had two lives – one being the mother, the wife, buying groceries, cooking dinners, going to school meetings and I never talked about what I was doing."

Feld Carr, who has received numerous tributes to her heroism, including Brandeis University's Abram L. Sachar Medallion and the Order of Canada, says she was overwhelmed by the gala put on by the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"It was an evening that could not be forgotten," she said after the presentation.

It included a documentary film prepared by Israel-based TV journalist Martin Himel who interviewed some of the Syrian Jews saved by Feld Carr, as well as performances by cellist Ofra Harnoy, singer Michael Burgess and Liberty Silver of The StarsBand. The audience of close to 1,300 people gave Feld Carr two standing ovations.

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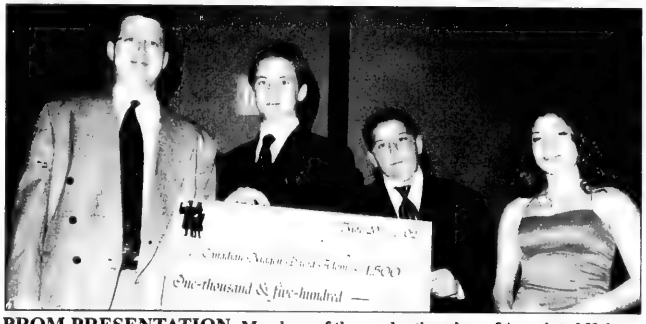

PROM PRESENTATION: Members of the graduating class of Associated Hebrew Schools' Danilack campus took time from their recent prom, organized by their parents, to present a $1,500 cheque to Canadian Magen David Adom. The students raised the money toward the purchase of an ambulance for Israel. Seen, from left, are CMDA vice-president Ben Kranc and students Charles Korn, Jeffrey Kirshen and Dani Greenwald. [Ron Csillag photo]

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Continents apart, but issues related

Images of the protests on the streets of Halifax against the meeting there of the G7 finance ministers filled our television screens last weekend. The demonstrations were nasty. The two sides squared off against each other: the protesters – many experienced and well-drilled in foisting anarchic mayhem upon the establishment, identities hidden, faces masked against the inevitable barrage of tear gas – and the police – mostly experienced and well-drilled in trying to defend the establishment against the anarchy and the mayhem, identities in full public view, but faces also masked against the barrage of whatever detritus would be hurled at them by the opposing side.

The inevitable happened. Protesters advanced, police dug in, things were thrown, police advanced, more things were thrown, police felt threatened, tear gas discharged. Mayhem ensued. It was all so formulaic, and by now, all so sadly familiar.

But astute viewers watching the proceedings will have noticed a new element in the protests. In the vanguard of the disagreeable defile were a number of marchers carrying the Palestinian flag.

The vilification of Israel that was the hallmark at the Durban anti-racism conference last September repeats again and again. The anti-globalization movement – not just the nihilists and anarchists among them who exploit the former's legitimate cover – thus, publicly endorse and adopt the campaign against Israel.

It is a campaign, however, that turns morals and morality on their head. It is also a campaign that the 34th Zionist Congress, which began a continent away in Jerusalem the day after the Halifax protests ended, must address.

As these words are being written, the congress will have just begun. Some 1,200 delegates from around the Jewish world have come together to earnestly debate the interrelated, searing issues of the day concerning Zionism, Israel and the Jewish people.

One of those issues, alas, is the alarming resurrection of anti-Semitism across the European continent.

What was thought by most of the post-Holocaust generation to have been consigned to the ignorant attitudes and bigoted behaviours of a blood-soaked, bygone age has arisen again, shockingly, from the dark, latent prejudices against the Jewish people. Israel's conflict with the Palestinian Authority and myriad related terrorist groupings is merely the excuse that lets the prejudices loose. It is deeply disappointing that many of the anti-globalizationists and their NGO supporters are now the agencies spreading the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic bacteria around the world.

Fighting for Israel and its cause will be at the top of the congress agenda. The justice of Israel's cause does not preclude, nor has it ever precluded, justice for the long-suffering Palestinians. But the way to achieve justice for both is neither the hate-filled violence of Palestinian terrorists, nor the ignorant, chaotic violence of Halifax protesters.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones
BUSH IS OFFERING TO TURN THE PLO
INTO A TEMPORARY STATE
BUT WHAT THE PLO WANTS IS TO TURN ISRAEL
INTO A TEMPORARY STATE.

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Israel, Jews and the left

Harold Pomerantz (Letters, *CJN*, June 6), like many of what I presume is the older generation of the Jewish community, is in favour of the current Israeli policy, military occupation of Palestine. I am not, and my position is well within the mainstream of Israeli society, as evidenced by the 100,000 strong who recently marched on Rabin Square.

When the "Jewish right," if we can call it that, paints all of its ideological rivals as anti-Semitic, it trivializes the real and dangerous anti-Semitism and other pernicous forms of prejudice, including Islamophobia. As well, since I do not begrudge Pomerantz for having his position and he begrudges me for having mine, he engages in what could be called a sort of anti-Semitism, since he is attacking a significant element of the Jewish community.

Nothing in my opinion piece provides "excuses for Arab terrorism." On the contrary, I explicitly condemn Arab terrorism, and particularly how Britain and the United States have used it as a proxy in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The unbelievably evil suicide bombings are a "blowback" from the West's refusal to help the progressive, liberal elements of the Arab world. Israel's reaction – the attack on the civilian structure of the Palestinian Authority, as well as the indiscriminate use of force – I fear will only put Israel in even more danger.

As Lipman points out, more and more progressive Jews support Israel, yet not its current government. Democracies, after all, require dissent. We call for a two-state solution, as well as a change in tactics vis-à-vis the Palestinian territories.

Jordy Cummings
Toronto

* * *

We should be realists

In your editorial of June 13 called "A Catastrophic Leader," you wrote, "The Palestinian people, the majority of whom, one hopes, simply want to live in peace, are trapped in a never-ending whorl of violence."

On the day I received my copy of *The CJN*, the *National Post*, quoting Reuters, published the results of the latest Palestinian opinion poll, the results of which throw a different light on the reactions of the Palestinian people to this "whorl of violence": "A majority of Palestinians believe the aim of their 20-month uprising should be to eliminate Israel and not merely to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip," the study concluded.

In spite of what we'd like to believe, reality contradicts us. Most of us Jews have always been realists and whenever we followed the lure of false messiahs we paid very dearly for our errors.

Deliberate delusions have never served us well. It is better to face grim facts than to pretend they do not exist.

Nathan Shuster
Toronto

* * *

YPP editor not Pro-Palestinian

While I commend your newspaper for publishing a profile on Naomi Lightman ("Young journalist sees glimmers of peace in next generation," *CJN*, June 6), I was shocked to see myself represented as "her pro-Palestinian assignment editor at Young People's Press (YPP)" who "insisted that she attend" a press conference hosted by Al-Haq in New York. I did not give Lightman this assignment, nor was I even present when she received it from an editor at *On the Record for Children*, a publication of the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

More importantly, however, I find it troubling that a willingness to listen to Palestinians presupposes a pro-Palestinian bias. Journalists are trained to seek balance and to listen to opinions that they may find personally difficult. Lightman wrote a courageous piece and I find it disturbing that your newspaper needs to find a villain accountable for her exposure to Palestinian views. That is patronizing to Lightman, who in no way is a patsy for propaganda, and it is discrediting to YPP.

I am afraid that your reporter is inventing goblins that do not exist. YPP is not "pro-Palestinian." In fact, YPP's publisher, Gary Gould and some of the company's board members are of the Jewish faith.

Michael Hoechsmann
Young People's Press
Toronto

* * *

Hennick Education Centre

On behalf of the Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre, we would like to thank you for your article on June 11 about our annual tribute brunch honouring Sandy Brown and Gerry Goldberg.

Unfortunately, you did not include the full name of our school. We want to express how pleased we are to be in the Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

Our tribute brunch was a great success, and on behalf of Jewish children with learning disabilities, we would like to thank all of our supporters in the community.

Marci Tenenbaum
Toronto

* * *

Finding the right single

Prompted by Darcie Richler's update ("Finding likeable people in the city," *CJN*, June 6), I thought your readers might be interested in a follow-up from me as well. I also received an unexpected response from several men to my letter to the editor ("Looking for dream men, too," *CJN*, Apr 5).

Unfortunately they didn't fit my definition, but I know that nice Jewish men are out there somewhere. In fact, a friend has recently introduced me to one of them! Since I am just as determined as Darcie to provide a solution to this problem, I have accepted the chairmanship of Adath Israel Congregation's Dynamic Singles committee. In addition to continuing our very successful Sunday brunches for the 35- plus crowd, we are in the preliminary stages of organizing events for younger Jewish singles as well. So look for our ads in *The CJN*. That special person may not be so hard to find after all.

Judith Weinroth
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The IDF's new imagemaker

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Members of the Israel Defence Forces general staff met recently for a seminar given by the Israel Democracy Institute on relations between the military and the media as part of the incoming chief of staff's strategy to improve the IDF's international image.

The major-general named as next chief of staff, Moshe Ya'alon, praised the media as the watchdog of democracy. He had no nostalgia for the days before the Yom Kippur War, he said, but reiterated the army's usual complaint about media bias.

"The senior level in the IDF is mature and understands the importance of the media, but within the system, there is a sense that the army is engaged in Graeco-Roman wrestling with rules, and the media are playing catch and hitting below the belt," Ya'alon said.

Ruth Yaron

Ya'alon has brought in a reserve player as IDF spokesperson so he doesn't need to rely on the Foreign Ministry and other civilian organizations to explain the army's actions to the world. Ruth Yaron, a diplomat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will begin in a month with the rank of brigadier-general – the first woman on the general staff. For six years, she served as media adviser at the embassy in Washington, and she has worked with the press and television in the United States.

Yaron takes up her position as IDF spokesperson at a time when the IDF is enjoying tremendous prestige among the Israeli public. The hostilities with the Palestinians have put the IDF at centre-stage after years of an almost continuously receding image following the blunder of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and the failures in the Lebanon War in 1982.

The media, which used to be obedient and enthusiastic, have become increasingly critical, and in the decade preceding the current intifadah, covered mostly accidents and fatal disasters in the army. These have been forgotten during the 21 months of hostilities.

These days, generals are popular interviewees and the influence of the army is clear in the setting of security policy. In the local market, the main mission of the military spokesperson is to keep the rating high.

With respect to the foreign media, a great effort is needed to fight bias. Modern warfare is conducted not only on the field, but also on CNN, where they are less excited by the IDF's achievements against "the terror infrastructure" than they are about the harm done to Palestinians.

The IDF, which left journalists outside when it entered the Jenin refugee camp during Operation Defensive Shield, afterward had to deal with accusations of a massacre and almost had to face an investigation by a UN commission.

"The nature of warfare has changed and we are making mistakes as a result of misunderstanding the changes," Maj.-Gen. Giora Eiland, head of Plans and Policy Directorate said in a recent lecture.

"The perception of the reality is more important than the reality itself," he said.

According to Eiland, the balance of warfare in the present conflict is determined by the international community, which dictates the game's boundaries for both sides. Mistakes that have been made by Israel, such as the demolition of the houses in Rafah at the beginning of this year, harmed its image and, in hindsight, accelerated the hostilities.

At the seminar, Mofaz said: "We erred in the world's eyes by declaring a closed military area," adding that commanders in the field were too "trigger-happy" in signing closure orders that kept the media away.

"The area has to be open; that's the historical mistake that the time has come to mend," Mofaz said.

Army personnel believe a suitable spokesperson in such a conflict would be either a civilian who understands the media or a field commander who radiates authority on security issues and can overcome the obstinacy of commanders in the field.

Yaron is more in the "civilian" mould, though in the past three years, she has served as chief instructor at the National Security College. Her mission will not be an easy one. She will be coming up against a male, conservative and suspicious command that has doubts about the professional authority of anyone who has not served in the Golani Brigade and has not invaded targets. She will also have to face off with commanders who do not want to see correspondents and cameras on the battlefield.

Those who know Yaron expect that she will not be a mere adornment at general staff meetings. They describe her as professional, ambitious, opinionated, diligent and devoted to her job and her superiors. Rather than making TV appearances, she will focus on making behind-the-scenes personal connections and briefings in order to influence and shape media coverage of the army.

It is unlikely to assume that she will become the "national explainer" and fight for air time. She will prefer to influence what the CNN Mideast correspondent says in his report.

Yaron, 45, was born in Algeria and immigrated to Israel with her parents when she was 4½ years old. Her parents had been members of the B'nei Akiva youth movement, and were among the few members of the Algerian Jewish community who went to Israel without passing through France first. At home – Yaron grew up in Be'er Sheva – they spoke French.

In February 1974, after the Yom Kippur War, Yaron was chosen to be a member of a youth delegation sent to the United States to promote Israel. It was on that trip that she decided to become a diplomat.

In the army, Yaron served as an officer in Nahal (combined settlement and military service program) and was demobilized with the rank of first lieutenant. Studies in political science and international relations led to the training course for the diplomatic corps at the Foreign Ministry, where she became acquainted with Avi Gil, who is currently the ministry's director general. The two have been good friends ever since.

> Demobilized with the rank of first lieutenant

When she completed the course, Yaron asked to serve in Africa, and was posted to the Ivory Coast. From there, she went to Canada, and returned to Israel to the American desk at headquarters in Jerusalem. At the end of 1989, the ministry was looking for a spokesperson for the embassy in Washington, and was considering whether to appoint a professional from outside or to make a professional appointment within the ministry. Foreign minister Moshe Arens and his deputy, Benjamin Netanyahu, recommended Yaron, who was the youngest of the candidates and had no media experience.

At the embassy in Washington, Yaron served with a succession of three ambassadors: Moshe Arad, Zalman Shuval and Itamar Rabinovich. The challenges varied according to the government that was ruling in Jerusalem at the time. At first there was the "government of paralysis" of Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir. Then came the Likud government that got into conflicts with the first administration of president George Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, over the question of "guarantees or Jewish settlements in the territories." In the summer of 1992, Yitzhak Rabin came to power, presaging a new era of peace agreements with the Palestinians and Jordan and peace talks with Syria.

The spokesperson at the embassy in Washington represents Israel in the capital of the most important country in the world. He or she must be in close touch with both the Israeli correspondents in the United States and the American media. Yaron learned very quickly that it is necessary to understand journalists' special needs and to tailor stories to them individually, as well as to return every phone call, to initiate and not just respond, and to arrange interviews and meetings with important visiting personalities from Israel. She developed personal ties with several columnists, including Tom Friedman from the *New York Times*.

"There are some persons whom trying to reach is a waste of time, but with Ruth we always knew that we shouldn't send through an item without speaking to her, even at the last minute," says an American reporter who covered relations with Israel at the time.

To succeed in the job, the army spokesperson needs up-to-the-minute information updates. Yaron attained the height of her influence at the embassy during Rabinovich's time. He made her his personal adviser and let her sit in on the secret talks he was conducting with the Syrians. Yaron often accompanied Rabinovich on his trips to Israel during secretary of state Warren Christopher's whistle-stop tours of the Middle East to deal with the American reporters, who paid her back with phone calls about what they heard in briefings in Damascus.

During that period, Yaron also nurtured ties with Arab reporters and became friendly with her fellow-spokesperson at the Jordanian Embassy, Marwan Muashar. The development of their respective careers illustrates what has happened to the peace process. Both of them returned from Washington to Israel – Muashar as his country's ambassador to Tel Aviv and Yaron as director of the Jordanian department at the Foreign Ministry – at the height of good relations between the two countries.

Today, Muashar is foreign minister of Jordan, travelling around the world to protest "the killing of Palestinians in the territories," and Yaron explains the operations of the IDF.

When she returned to Israel in 1995, Yaron brought home a souvenir picture from the ceremony of the signing of the Oslo accords on the White House lawn, with a dedication from former U.S. president Bill Clinton. A blank space was left for Rabin's autograph, but he never had the chance to sign. To this day, the picture hangs in her office, with the gap still in it.

In the fall of 1996, Yaron was injured in a serious traffic accident. After she recovered, she went to study at the National Security College. The commander of the military college at the time, Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Brik, suggested that Yaron stay on as an instructor. His successor, Maj.-Gen. Yaakov Amidror, promoted her to chief instructor, in charge of the syllabus at the National Security College. Several times she considered returning to the Foreign Ministry, but the heads of the ministry at the time preferred that she advance in the army.

At the military college, Yaron changed the program, expanded the curriculum in the area of international relations, took students on study trips abroad and developed new learning tracks, such as a doctoral program.

"Most of the instructors in the past came to rest at the college after years in the field, and mostly spent their time coordinating lectures and field trips," relates a female graduate of the college. "Ruthie took the job seriously, and tried to reshape the image of the instructor at the National Security College."

Today, Yaron, who heard about her candidacy for the position of IDF spokesperson by chance – she had not known Ya'alon previously – also serves as the public representative on the committee working to expand the health services covered by the national medical insurance program. She is married to a photographer, Avner, and has a daughter in the army and a son in high school.

Too old?

Writing for *The Canadian Jewish News* has one ongoing consequence: people call me and suggest topics that I should deal with. What follows is, in fact, based on someone's repeated suggestion.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This person was looking for a job, and while wandering the streets of downtown Toronto, he saw a sign in a window that said "Help Wanted." He went in and presented himself, hoping to fit the requirements of the position. The manager appeared, took one look at the applicant and said: "Sorry, but you are too old."

Unfortunately, this was just another in a series of occasions when my friend was turned away because of his age. This was not only injurious to his plans, it also violated the Ontario Human Rights Code, and – in his case – it represented a stupid response by the potential employer who, by not using him, lost out on a particularly capable person.

Having myself reached an age that would be considered "too old" for any application I might make for employment, I see the issue as an unfortunate aspect of our social misapprehension that considers certain people as incapable of rendering proper service or of bringing the right amount of energy to the job.

This reflects a common and unfortunate misconception that, in many instances, excludes persons who still have a lot to give and who, by being unable to find proper employment, become casualties of popular prejudice.

In addition to the injury that is dealt to the unsuccessful applicant, in many, if not most, instances, our society is also injured by not using every talent that is available.

At the bottom of all of this is a common prejudice against people who are considered "old," though the person who is considered too old by one may not be by someone else.

I know which category I belong to these days, which is one reason why I am not in the job market. But, were I to apply for a job, I would most likely be rejected as being "too old."

I think the time has come to mark this concept as being not only vague, but also as often being an example of poor judgment.

We usually declare that every person must be taken at his or her worth and capacity, but age seems to be an exception. Too bad, for it makes losers of us all when we apply this social prejudice, for in many, if not most, instances, it is applied poorly and sours our social atmosphere.

Unfortunately, there is usually no one around who will stand up for the person who has been judged "too old." The responsibility to do that belongs to all of us, for it is a social defect to exclude a class of people without looking at their individual capabilities. The individual suffers and so does society. Being old was once a desirable status. For most people, it is no longer.

Looking for a solution

Growing up in North America, I believed that for every problem there is a solution, even if not always an ideal one. But now, after 11 years of living in the Middle East, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is testing that belief like never before.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

I am not alone. In recent months, many Israelis have come to the conclusion that, for the time being at least, the situation with the Palestinians is hopeless. And, not surprisingly, their confidence in the rest of the Arab world has also hit rock bottom.

Is it possible, despite aspirations to the contrary, that the conflict with the Palestinians cannot be resolved? Could it be that the beliefs, grievances and attitudes on both sides are irreconcilable? Are we locked in one big messy Gordian knot forever? All this, of course, runs counter to what we want to believe and what the peace process was supposed to deliver.

Such thoughts of futility and forsaken dreams are downright depressing – and increasingly common among Israelis. Events of the last few months, to say nothing of the past two years, have convinced people these doubts are more realistic than the feel-good promises of peace agreed to in the Oslo accords of 1993.

Against a background of rampant Islamic fanaticism, the past 21 months of Palestinian atrocities have shaken Israel, darkening most people's view of the future. The terrorist campaign and the vile anti-Semitic incitement in the Palestinian media and schools have left most Israelis deeply disillusioned, dashing their high hopes of the 1990s.

Earlier this month, the *Jerusalem Post* published the results of two polls that underline some of the seemingly insurmountable obstacles to resolving the conflict. According to the surveys, both Israelis and Palestinians, albeit for different reasons, reject in massive numbers the recent peace proposals espoused by the United States and Saudi Arabia. In the poll of Israeli Jews, only 16 per cent support withdrawal to the 1967 borders in return for a peace deal with the Palestinians and Arab states. The Palestinian poll found that only 24 per cent support such a plan if it did not also include the right of return of Arab refugees to Israel. When that is included in the plan, support among Israeli Jews drops to four per cent. The *Post* considered the implications of the results important enough to place the findings on its front page.

The polls reflect – and also feed – the country's pessimistic mood. They beg the question whether we are condemned to at least another generation of tensions and hostilities with our Palestinian neighbours. People wonder if the status quo is the best they can expect for the foreseeable future.

As the bloodshed and hatred intensify, the Israeli-Palestinian feud is living up to its image as one of the world's most intractable conflicts. This is no small feat given the other contenders such as Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Korea, Cyprus and Chechnya.

No one really wants to believe that there is no solution. But for all the talk of security fences and separation, neither the Likud nor Labour leaders have come up with a credible way out of the current abyss. In the absence of better days, people take solace however they can. Recently, distant events provided Israelis some dubious consolation, reminding them that as bad as the reality is, it could be much worse.

This month, as India and Pakistan came to the brink of war in their long-simmering dispute over Kashmir, the world had to contemplate the once unthinkable – a nuclear battle on the Asian subcontinent that U.S. military analysts said could kill several million people. With almost perverse relief, Israelis watched India and Pakistan wrestle with the latest flare-up in their seemingly endless feud that has claimed 35,000 lives since 1990.

It is somehow vaguely reassuring to see others embroiled in a dispute perhaps even more volatile, more hate-filled, more drenched in blood and more irresolvable than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For a moment, our problems seemed to pale in comparison.

Such facile thinking, of course, gets us nowhere. We remain part of a major dispute in desperate need of a solution, however imperfect. I still want to believe it can be found, even if the reality seems to argue otherwise.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Walking amongst ghosts

By PAUL SOCKEN

Guest Voice

The majesty of eastern Europe! The unique buildings of Prague under renovation after 40 years of communism, the magnificent opulence of imperial Vienna, the breathtaking view of Budapest from the Citadel. And everywhere a graveyard for Jews.

Our Jewish heritage tour of Prague, Vienna and Budapest was deeply meaningful as it revealed to me two Europes, a dual reality, such as I could never have read about or imagined.

It is impossible to visit Prague Castle or the Golden Lane and not be in awe. Prague Castle is one of the great castles of Europe, and the Golden Lane is a street that dates back to the Middle Ages and which once had Franz Kafka as a resident. Yet, minutes away, Theresienstadt inspires a feeling of numbness and a deadening of the soul, as it was a transit camp for Jews destined for the ovens. Theresienstadt also had its own ovens for the 150 a day who died there because of the forced labour and the inhuman living conditions.

Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum is an architectural wonder and surely one of the great museums of the world. Schönbrunn Castle is perhaps greater than anything one can see in France. However, one is painfully aware that only a single synagogue in this city that once was home to over 200,000 Jews survived Kristallnacht. And now, if you attend it on Shabbat, it is protected by police with machine guns. Outside Vienna, in a town called Eisenstadt, there stands a hauntingly empty synagogue, memorial to a vanished community.

In Budapest, the parliament building is imposing in size and ornate in its decor. The historic city's Opera House is legendary and the majestic Danube an inspiring sight. There, a Jewish community does survive, with a population of 80,000 and 22 synagogues. But the visitor is all too aware that the Nazi machine worked with terrifying efficiency in Hungary and, in one short year, brutally destroyed 40 per cent of Hungarian Jewry.

Where can one find words to express the feelings? Conflicted? Divided? One is elated in the morning and in the depths of despair in the afternoon. An ordinary tourist at one site and then a witness to tragedy and unspeakable loss at another.

As children from local schools mingled with us in the Holocaust museum in Prague, I wanted to say, "Not all Jewish life is under glass in display cases or under ground represented by Holocaust memorials." Yet I felt like a relic in one of those Jewish museums. A remnant, out of place in that world.

Jews have always been accused of having dual loyalties, but it is the countries of eastern Europe that have parallel societies: one for the general population and another for Jews. We betrayed no one; they betrayed us. Our lost brothers and sisters once drank coffee at those sidewalk cafés and took boxes at the opera. Now, we have no real place there. We are only tourists passing through to the new Jewish reality elsewhere.

The truth strikes home in moments of shocking revelation. Do you know why the tombstones in the Jewish graveyards in those places are so close together, almost on top of one another? Jews lived in defined ghettos with no possibility of expansion. When there was no more place in the graveyard, they had to pile one layer of the dead on another and tombstones accumulated on top as gruesome testimony to the awful truth: in eastern Europe, there was no room, even for the Jewish dead.

We did participate in a small, heart-warming Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration in a square in Prague. Davening in Vienna was awe-inspiring and the community was welcoming. The Dohany synagogue of Budapest is truly spectacular and the cantor who gave us the history of the building was engaging and justifiably proud of his shul.

I have no regrets about our trip. It was an important one and I am truly satisfied to have gone. If more people went on such a personal journey in search of our lost Jewish past, there would be a redoubled commitment to the Jewish life we now enjoy in North America and Israel. Our existence here and in Israel may be threatened as never before, but it is all we have.

The remnants we found in eastern Europe simply cannot compare to the vibrancy, creative life, numbers and resources of Israel and North America. There is no going back. There is no other place. The past instructs us. The ghosts stand guard to remind us. Ghosts do not lie.

Paul Socken is a professor of French studies and chair of the dean's advisory committee at the University of Waterloo.

The Kirshner File

Allan Zeman - a business force in Hong Kong

Lan Kwai Fong is to Hong Kong what Soho is to London – a magnetic entertainment district. Lonely Planet's authoritative guidebook describes it as Hong Kong's "chief party neighbourhood." An L-shaped area brimming with restaurants, clubs and bars, Lan Kwai Fong is especially popular with tourists and western expatriats.

Sheldon Kirshner in Hong Kong

If there is one person who can take much of the credit for its development, it is Allan Zeman, an ex-Montrealer who has lived here for the past 32 years.

Prior to 1982, Lan Kwai Fong, in the heart of downtown Hong Kong, was a nondescript area of trading companies, warehouses and flower stalls, hardly the vibrant neigbourhood it morphed into thanks to Zeman's vision and enterprise.

Apart from being Lan Kwai Fong's chief promoter, Zeman, 53, is a developer. He owns a raft of buildings in Hong Kong – a former British colony that has been a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China since 1997 – and develops property in Vancouver, B.C.

Zeman also heads up a movie and television production company and a pleasure yacht agency. Although he has not set foot in Montreal for eight years, he sits on the board of Montreal's Algo Group, a publicly-traded fashion conglomerate.

Until a year and a half ago, he was chair of Colby International Group, one of the world's largest supply chain management companies. He sold Colby, which sources apparel in 59 countries, to his main competitor, Li & Fung Limited, for 2.2 billion Hong Kong dollars ($500 million Cdn).

Not bad for a working-class Jewish boy who never bothered with university.

At an interview in his spacious office in Lan Kwi Fong, Zeman came across as an eminently relaxed fellow. Wearing an open necked pale blue shirt, he smiled often and leaned back casually in his chair, as if he did not have a care in the world.

My first question to him was, "What are you doing in a place like Hong Kong?"

His instant reply, complete with a radiant smile, was: "Making money."

Born in Regensburg, Germany, the son of Polish Holocaust survivors, Zeman was raised in Montreal's Cote des Neiges district. His older sister, Rita Goodman, was born in what was the Soviet Union. His parents, Irving and Bella, arrived in Montreal in 1948.

A wholesale merchant, Irving died when Zeman was nine years old. After his untimely death, Bella worked in the Jewish General Hospital to make ends meet. She passed away in Miami Beach six years ago.

Zeman attended Bancroft School and graduated from Northmount High School. "They put me in the 'brain' class, but I was not a great student," he recalled. "I hated to study, but I was street smart. I didn't want to be a professional, a doctor or lawyer. I was a born businessman."

At 11, he began delivering *The Gazette* in Montreal. "I was making $25 a week plus tips." On weekends, he was a busboy at a steak house, pulling in $20. "I was earning $50 a week, while my friends got by on a $1 allowance." He beamed. "I liked the taste of money."

When he was 16, a classified ad led him to a job as a $50-a-week shipper at a garment manufacturer, Cosmo-Kismet Lingerie. Within a month, he had streamlined its shipping operation. "I was thinking out of the box," he said, a phrase that punctuates Zeman's conversation.

It soon dawned on him that there was more money to be made on the selling side of the rag trade. He landed a position as a showroom salesman at Algo Industries, Canada's premier dress manufacturer. He thrived there. "I did really well. I had the gift of the gab. I developed a good reputation."

Impressed by Zeman's spunk, Algo's president asked him to direct its Western Canada sales team. He was only 19, and already earning an annual income of $50,000. "I learned the ropes at an early age."

When he was 21, he informed his boss he intended to start his own business. Not willing to lose him, Algo made Zeman an offer he could not refuse: president of its import division and a partner to boot. "That brought me to Hong Kong," he said.

The year was 1970.

"It took me about a minute and a half to decide to leave Canada. Everybody looked at me like I had lost my marbles. I thought I'd come out for a few years and move back to Montreal."

In fact, he never looked back. He liked Hong Kong's vibrancy, internationalism and laissez-faire atmosphere. "It was a true business society, and there was an unrivalled energy here."

By exporting womens' sweaters to Canada, Zeman turned a $1 million profit for Algo in his first year in Asia. "I wound up with a lot of money for a young man. I made millions from my first days in Hong Kong. It's considerably more difficult today because Hong Kong is no longer a developing city. Today, if I was starting over again, I'd do it in China."

Lan Kwai Fong, Hong Kong's lively entertainment district.

China, he observed, will have the world's biggest economy in 15 or 20 years. "Trust me on that," he said.

In 1975, he and a British partner formed Colby to source and export apparel to Canada. Colby, which eventually had 36 offices around the globe, was one of the first such outfits to source apparel from the People's Republic of China and to open branches in South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines.

"I built up Colby to well over $1 billion in volume. Our main market was the United States," said Zeman, who speaks passable Cantonese.

During this period, he got married to his wife, Charmaine, who is from Calgary. They have two children, Jonathan, 25, and Marissa, 23.

[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Allan Zeman

Lan Kwai Fong jelled into an unstoppable idea 20 years ago, when Zeman realized that far too few western-style restaurants could be found outside hotels. He opened California, his first restaurant, which is still going strong, in a rented building. "Lan Kwai Fong reminded me of Crescent Street in Montreal. I decided it could become another Crescent Street."

Five years after launching California, he paid $40 (Hong Kong) million for what would be the first of 10 buildings in Lan Kwai Fong. By his estimate, it is worth $250 million today.

Zeman soon realized that if he rented space in his building to restaurants rather than companies, he could fetch three times the rent and thereby increase its value. "I slowly began buying up buildings in Lan Kwai Fong, and became the largest landlord in the area."

Of 90 restaurants and clubs in Lan Kwai Fong, 65 rent space from Zeman's Lan Kwai Fong Group. Zeman owns 27 of these outlets outright, from Indochine and Bamboo to Cafe des Artistes and Tokio Joe. There are no Jewish-style restaurants in his chain. "I'm a businessman," he said curtly. "There's no market for it."

In addition, Zeman is the proprietor of two office buildings elsewhere in Hong Kong, where rents can be astronomical, and of an entertainment complex of restaurants and clubs in Shanghai, China. A keen believer in China's future, Zeman is redeveloping Shanghai's legendary Nanjing Road.

Unlike some expats, Zeman never feared China's 1997 takeover of Hong Kong. He was confident that Communist China would live up to its promise of a "one nation, two systems" regime in capitalist Hong Kong.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Zeman, the subject of a recent CNN profile, has diversified his portfolio. He is chairman of Sweetpea Entertainment Inc., which, in December 2000, released the film *Dungeons & Dragons*. He is also chairman of Mesco Shipyard Limited, which makes yachts, and of DKA Ltd., a public relations company.

Recently, he convinced Hong Kong's government to build a Disneyland theme park on nearby Lantau Island, a project expected to be ready in several years.

With his business interests well in hand, Zeman can afford to devote half his time to public service. He is an advisor to the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Urban Renewal Authority. As well, he is a govenor of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

He has not immersed himself in local Jewish community affairs. "I'm proud to be Jewish, but religion is not a big part of my life," he explained. "If you're a good person, that's more important."

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Greater Toronto Area

IWN fights to empower women in Middle East

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The Middle East peace process must include an examination of how women should be treated in a peaceful country, says the chair of the Israel Women's Network (IWN).

"The status of women is an essential part of a democracy," said Rina Bar-Tal at a recent panel sponsored by New Israel Fund, an advocacy group for women's rights.

As someone who has never lived in a peaceful country, Bar-Tal said, "[I don't know] what peace is, or what it means.

"[I do know] that Israel is a complicated country with people from different cultures and different denominations. These aspects need to be added to the peace process. One must remember the cultural problems and differences."

Also on the panel was IWN executive director Ella Gera, who spoke about myths and realities regarding women in Israel.

She said that although women fought next to men in the War of Independence, shortly afterwards men took back control of the military.

Only since 2000, she said, have women been allowed into fighting units. Since legislation was passed that year, 81 per cent of all positions in the army have become open to women, and 0.9 per cent of all women in the army serve in combat units.

But women only serve two years, compared to three for men, "so there is less time for training and less time to network.

"The army is a big socializing force in Israel, and networking while in the army plays an important role in future careers," Gera said.

A myth abounds, she said, that because Golda Meir was prime minister, women enjoy political equality in Israel. "She did little to advance women's status in Israel and [her election to the post] symbolizes a rare occurrence, not a trend.

"The lack of women in public office and the strength of religious parties limit women's struggle for equality, and their ability to influence."

Gera said the current Knesset is the first since the creation of the State of Israel in which the number of women members is greater than in 1948.

"According to statistics from *Women in National Parliaments*, Israel is no. 53 worldwide in women's representation, compared to South Africa, which is no. 11; Cuba, which is no. 13; and China, which is no. 28."

Women still struggle for all forms of equality, Gera said. Although Israeli women are more highly educated than ever before – more than 50 per cent of university graduates are women – they are underpaid and under-represented in the workforce, she added.

"[Women] played an equal role in the kibbutz movement and in building the State of Israel, but they soon found themselves in traditional roles such as teachers, nurses or kitchen staff. They were not elected to committees that ran the affairs of the kibbutz."

Despite their education, Israeli women are still under-represented in management positions, she said and they are paid less than men. In universities, only eight per cent of professors are women.

Another myth, Gera said, is that Israel has no domestic violence and no poverty.

"Violence is prevalent, and the current situation has increased domestic violence, and violence in general. In 2001, 17 women were murdered, and throughout the country, there are 12 shelters serving 1,600 women annually."

About 14 per cent of all households in Israel fall under the poverty line, and about one quarter of all households run by single women fall under the poverty line.

Gera said the Israel Women's Network believes that empowerment and advocacy are the tools needed to achieve equality for women.

The organization tries to raise awareness in the Israeli and international media about women's issues in Israel, and it acts as a watchdog to ensure fair representation of women in Israeli media. As well, it is Israel's only centre committed to the publication and distribution of information about women.

TORONTO STUDENTS EXCEL IN SCIENCE: United Synagogue Day School hosted the 2002 International OlympiYeda, a science contest sponsored by the Israel National Museum of Science, Planning and Technology in Haifa for students in grades 8 and 9 in Canada, Australia, England, the United States and Israel. The contest's first two stages are completed via the Internet. Students progressing to stages three and four are invited to Haifa to finish the competition and to attend a summer science camp. This year, nine Toronto students were successful in stage two. Pictured, from left, are USDS students Chaz Firestone, Jonathan Goldfarb and Sam Chippin, (Eric Kaplovitch absent); Or Chaim students David Epstein, Hillel Nadler, Raphael Frydman-Kohl and Avi Libman; and CHAT student Raphael Rush.

Canada stokes UN conflict: journalist

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For more than 50 years, Canada has been complicit in helping stoke Palestinian refugees' aspirations to return to areas that are now part of Israel, creating a "festering problem" and igniting a passionate conflict with Israel, says Israeli researcher and journalist David Bedein.

Through its financial subsidies to refugee camps operated by UNRWA, a UN agency, Canada has helped inflame the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bedein said.

Bedein, who serves as bureau chief for Israel Resource News Agency in Jerusalem, was in Toronto recently where he outlined his views of the Mideast conflict and urged Canadian Jews to question their government's involvement in the UN camps.

David Bedein

UNRWA is funded by 38 countries, including Canada, which contributes $20 million (US) each year. The camps, including "the UNRWA camp in Jenin," are administered by the UN agency and serve as hotbeds of terrorism.

While UNRWA operates schools, medical clinics and distributes food supplements, "it is supposed to administer the camps from A to Z" and should prevent terrorist activities there. When he confronted UNRWA officials about the presence of terrorist cells, "he said, 'they have to sleep somewhere,'" Bedein related.

Bedein has researched the educational curriculum taught in the camps' schools and viewed the local maps presented to Palestinian children. They all instill a desire to return to Arab villages that are now part of Israel, he said.

Since Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Agreement in 1993, "they were told that in [the year] 2000 they will go back to their homes."

Bedein rejected suggestions that the current conflict is focused on Israeli settlements in Judea, Samaria or Gaza. In 1958, he said, Israeli diplomat Abba Eban wrote a seminal article arguing the UNRWA camps were a dagger in the heart of Israel. In 1964, U.S. Jews protested a mural at the Jordanian pavilion at the New York World's Fair which demanded the right of return. The PLO, which was founded in 1964, three years before Israel seized the territories, was based on the idea of the right of return, he said.

Bedein said his agency has interviewed four UNRWA commissioners and they each "acknowledged they support the right of return, as that's their mandate."

When he met with Canadian diplomatic officials in Ramallah, "they looked me straight in the punim (face) and when I asked about the right of return, they gave me a one-sentence answer: 'You can't expect them to forfeit their right of return.'"

Bedein noted the "right of return" is based on UN resolution 194, a General Assembly resolution that does not confer legal rights. Nevertheless, "you have an agency (UNRWA) that is based on that mandate. The issue is not legality, it's appropriateness. My view is that everyone should be questioning this issue.

"When the Canadian government is being asked for money, in light of everything that's happened to date, when Israel discovers that the terror network operating versus Israel is from UNRWA refugee camps, I ask a very simple question: Isn't it logical for donor nations to ask UNRWA to disarm the camps?"

Bedein said one of the reasons for his visit to Toronto, as well as to several U.S. destinations, was to raise funds for a film on the UN camps, which he hopes to market to major television networks.

ZAREINU MOVEATHON: **Runners for Zareinu included Rabbi Moshe Shulman, right, of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. The fifth annual moveathon was held July 9 and culminated in a picnic and festival at Earl Bales Park. Funds raised will help Zareinu Educational Centre, a school for children with developmental and physical disabilities.**

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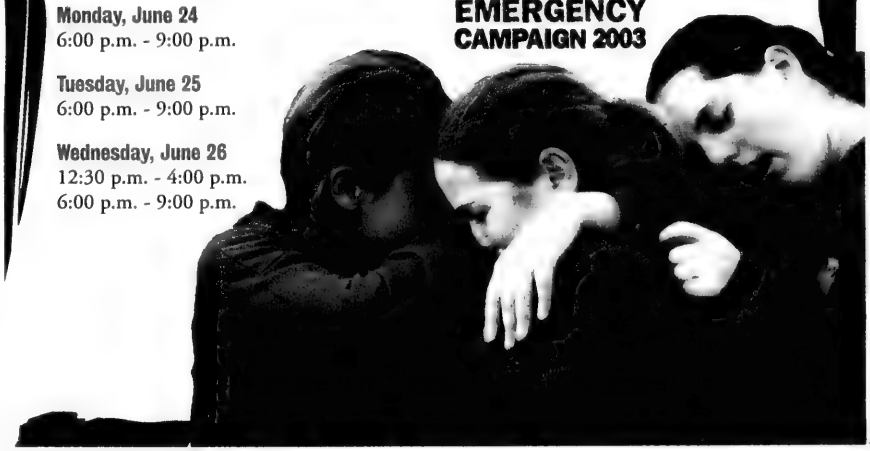

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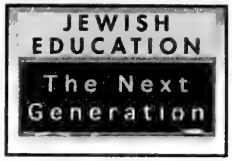
WE WISH OUR GRADUATING CLASS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION

Jewish Life

Car pool education

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Rabbi Meir says: "Do not look at the vessel, but what is in it" (Pirkei Avot, 5:27). This simple but true teaching would be well applied to how we think of our own children and those of others, and to the recognition of the potential within each one. What is especially disturbing in many instances is the slotting and instant judging of Jewish children depending on which day school they attend, or if they go to a Jewish school at all.



On one level, this is understandable. Parents make judgments about suitable friends for their younger children often based on perceptions of similar religious and cultural sensibilities. But these categorizations can lead to overly restrictive discernments about what kind of child is in front of me; often the reality is the reverse of common opinion. For example, there is no necessary equation that can be made between a child's level of friendliness, ethical behaviour, maturity level, psychological soundness, capacity for love, moral goodness and inherent spiritual abilities, and, on the other hand, their level of religious observance or Torah knowledge. Sometimes, quite the opposite is the case.

All the educational benefits of learning Torah remain largely theoretical until they have been properly processed and internalized by the child's whole personality. Indeed, the Talmud is replete with examples of great Torah scholars slipping up in their treatment of others, their voluminous command of Jewish texts notwithstanding.

Although Jewish education has made great strides in the last number of years in exposing kids to the rich heritage of Jewish sources and practices, I sometimes wonder if we haven't missed the forest for the trees. What are we trying to produce at the end of the day – children who have amassed large swaths of Jewish information, or future adults who will inspire others with their beautiful display of Jewish ethical sensitivity and compassion for other people?

In various car-pool episodes over the years, I have witnessed multiple examples of children coming home from their Torah studies for the day and manifesting all sorts of rudeness and discourteous conduct. It leads to a lot of head-scratching and postfacto chagrin, at least for me. What was the point of three hours of Talmud and Chumash today? Is it all just a game, or do we want our children to really feel the moral life in their bones?

Inevitably, much of this behaviour must be traced to parental example, an influence that no amount of textual learning can undo. If we wish our hard earned tuition dollars to really pay dividends in the form of children who embody the qualities of goodness and spiritual power that we pray for them to acquire, then it is incumbent on all parents to see our own ethical stance as a profound instance of informal Jewish education.

In the Talmudic discussion regarding which is the higher calling – study or the life of action – study is privileged for the ironic reason that it leads to action. Put another way, how we drive during car pool, or even how we park, may ultimately register more with our kids than that day's regimen of Torah verses.

Priests and rabbis meet to strengthen bonds

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The goal of the recent third annual meeting of priests and rabbis was to make each religion real in the eyes of the other, said Rev. Damian MacPherson, one of the organizers.

"There is a great need for us to be together and to support one another. Our task is to strengthen our bonds," said Rev. MacPherson, director of Ecumenism and Interfaith Affairs, for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto.

The theme of the half-day meeting, held at St. Gabriel's Parish, was bar/bat mitzvah and the sacrament of confirmation.

In discussing the coming-of-age ceremonies, all participants stressed the need for parental involvement and co-operation between home, school and the religious institution.

Too many people view the bar/bat mitzvah as an end of religious schooling, said Rabbi Michal Shekel, associate rabbi at Temple Har Zion. "They tend to focus on freedom from study. We try to show them that it is the beginning of their studies.

"[This is where] parental attitude becomes very important," she said.

The goal of the bar/bat mitzvah, said Rabbi Shekel, is to produce an individual who wants to become part of a vibrant community. "When we lose students after their bar/bat mitzvah, we produce adults that have an adolescent sense of religion."

More important than the affect a bar/bar mitzvah can have on a child, she said, is the potential affect it can have on parents. "They can observe how their child is changing and growing, and this can strengthen their own commitment to the community. The experience can go beyond the child, and onto the family as well."

Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, said the bar/bat mitzvah gives youth an educational goal. "The bar mitzvah is one way to educate the child. We have a different picture of Judaism because of the bar/bat mitzvah. It is a way of communicating to the child to carry forward.

> *'Great need to support one another'*

"Parents are an important part of the intergenerational transfer, because the bar mitzvah is also important to their own parents," he said.

John Zurakowski, from the Catholic Office of Religious Education, said it is also a challenge for the Catholic Church to keep youth committed to the religious community after confirmation, which takes place around age 13.

"Confirmation is a great time for the whole family to look at its faith and view the ceremony as larger than a one-day celebration," he said.

Stuart Schoenfeld, a professor of sociology at York University who has done a sociological study on bar/bat mitzvahs, said that after the ceremony, it's up to the child to choose his or her level of Jewish commitment.

"For some children it might mean increased Jewishness, while others [might] count the hours spent in the Jewish sector.

"[The bar/bat mitzvah] is a rite of passage into an uncertain future. The parents and child are together at the event, but then they separate," said Schoenfeld.

The candle-lighting ceremony that is part of many bar/bat mitzvah parties, which generally starts with family members and moves on to peers, depicts the pattern of movement a youth takes, he said. "The child is entering a stage of life in which they depend less on their parents. This is acknowledging that transition."

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum of Beth Tzedec Congregation said this growth process may bring with it an element of betrayal.

"A bar/bat mitzvah is a bittersweet event. We celebrate the event, but we have fears about where the child will go from there.We want the child to carry on Jewishly, but we have no control.

"[A parent's] Judaism may change because a new generation will take over and change things. It could be a betrayal," he said.

Jewish Life

A modern rendering of Jesus

***Testament*, by Nino Ricci, Doubleday Canada, 2002, $35.95**

Books
Bernard Baskin

A multitude of books have been written about Jesus, about every aspect of his life and ministry. Yet we know very little about him as a historic personality. The four accounts of his life in the Christian Scriptures are tendentious and contradictory. The often quoted reference from Josephus is probably a Christian interpolation, and the comments about him in the Talmud are fragmentary and polemical.

In his autobiography, *Challenging Years*, Rabbi Stephen Wise wrote: "Jesus was a Jew, Hebrew of Hebrews. Whatever I believe with respect to the imputed miracle of his birth, his mother, Mary, was a Jewish woman. He was reared and taught as a Jew. He worshipped in the synagogue. He spoke no language save Hebrew. He did not teach or wish to teach a new religion."

The widely respected Orthodox rabbi, David De Sola Pool, who served as spiritual leader of the oldest synagogue in New York City (Shearith Israel), once stated: "As a Jew Jesus lived a fully Jewish life and observed the ritual prescriptions of the Torah... the religion which he preached and practised was almost without exception Pharisaic Judaism. The classical Pharisaic understanding of the Scriptures and moral teaching had a profound influence on the Sermon on the Mount."

Yet, the major teachings of Jesus – no matter how Jewish their origin and outlook – have been difficult for most Jews to separate from a church that through history has made his name a club against Judaism and the cross a symbol of terror and destruction.

Nino Ricci is a talented Toronto author whose best-selling *Lives of the Saints* (1990) won the Governor General's Award for fiction. Now, in *Testament*, he has undertaken the formidable task of telling the life story of Jesus in a new way for modern readers.

The Jesus of this book is not divine. He is the bastard child of Mary, who had been raped by a Roman officer. His miracles are explained in a non-supernatural manner, and Ricci draws on Christian apocryphal texts as well as modern biblical scholarship for his multi-dimensional portrait.

The structure of the novel closely mirrors that of the Gospels. There are four accounts of Jesus's life: by his mother Mary, by Judas, by Mary Magdalene and by a gentile peasant called Simon of Gergesa, modelled after the figure of John.

These interlocking accounts are filled with absorbing detail and attempt, with some success, to view Jesus through the eyes of his contemporaries. Unhappily, the voices of those who tell their stories are not sufficiently differentiated. They sound pretty much alike. Only Mary offers a unique depiction of her complex relationship with her son, which involves her own mixed emotions, growing fears and constant vulnerability.

Ricci takes his place with such previous authors as Sholem Asch, Joseph Klausner, Robert Graves, Norman Mailer, Anthony Burgess and many others who have tried to make the brief ministry of Jesus and his teachings alive and relevant for our age.

The subject matter of this well-researched novel is, of course, suffused with emotion and controversy. It has been both praised and denounced. All and all, *Testament* is a considerable achievement – provocative, intelligent and well-written.

How to help Israel – Part 3

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, we conclude with our series on what you can do to help Israel by using the resources of the World Wide Web.

1) Say a prayer

Michael Freund, a former deputy director of communications and policy planning in Israel's Prime Minister's Office, says, "The usual array of pro-Israel activities – contacting one's elected representatives, combating media bias or even writing a check – just doesn't seem to cut it anymore... Israel should launch an international campaign, Operation Shield of David, which would bring together Jews [and others] to pray on the country's behalf. The Book of Psalms [Tehillim], written by King David, has always been one of the most potent weapons in Israel's spiritual arsenal. It is time to dust off this powerful tool, and to let its words of comfort and succor resonate across the globe" **[http://www.torah.org/features/spirfocus/bestdefense.html]**.

The Orthodox Union **[http://www.ou.org/israel/5762/whatyoucando.htm]** recommends reciting Tehillm daily, especially chapters 20, 83, 142 and 121 ("I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: from whence shall my help come?"). You can find Tehillim online in English and Hebrew at Breslav.com, if you have Hebrew fonts installed **[http://www.breslov.com/bible/Psalms.htm]**. You can also encourage your synagogue or temple to recite the prayer for the well-being of Israel's soldiers **[http://www.ou.org/yerushalayim/prayers2.htm]**.

And even if you cannot make it to Israel, you can still place a note in the Western Wall. The Aish HaTorah Web site allows you to type in a message that will be printed out in Jerusalem and placed in the wall. There is no charge for this confidential service **[http://www.aish.com/wallcam/Place_a_Note_in_the_Wall.asp]**.

2) Buy Israeli products

Israel exports high quality foods and other products that you can purchase locally or over the web. You'll find a very large directory at the Orthodox Union Web site **[http://www.ou.org/programs/5762/buyisrael.htm]**.

3) Invest in Israel

If you are considering investing in Israel, take a look at the Ministry of Industry and Trade's English language Web site **[http://www.moit.gov.il/tamas_en.asp]**. This large site has information about business development in Israel, the country's economy, research and development, the Israel Export Institute and many ministry publications.

And don't forget about the investment that is almost as old as the State of Israel: Israel Bonds. In May of 1951, prime minister David Ben-Gurion launched the first Israel Bond sales drive in the United States. Israel Bonds have been instrumental in the growth of the country ever since **[http://www.israelbonds.com/]**.

4) Make Aliyah

Between 1948 and 2000, 2.8 million Jews immigrated to Israel, including over 100,000 North Americans **[http://www.wzo.org.il/en/resources/view.asp?id=434]**. There is a great deal of information on the web that will help you with your decision. You'll find links to all the important sites at Jacob Richman's Aliyah Pages **[http://www.jr.co.il/aliyah/]**.

Of course, the decision to move to Israel involves much more than facts and figures. Sol Jakubowicz and his family moved to Israel from Toronto four years ago... and haven't looked back **[http://www.aish.com/jewishissues/israeldiary/Still_Crazy_Why_We_Made_Aliyah.asp]**:

"It is time for every Jew to stand up and be counted. To make the statement that regardless of where we live right now, Eretz Israel is our destiny, and that we will be intimately, personally involved in her rebuilding. To show the world that we still care. To show the world that we do really believe in what we are praying for. To show the world that we really believe our dreams will come true."

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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The Graduation Ceremony will take place on Monday June 24, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto

Jewish poverty a pressing issue at JF & CS meeting

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Unlike the other volunteers who spoke at Jewish Family & Child Service's annual general meeting, "Chaplain Mike" says his volunteerism makes him feel terrible.

"I come home depressed and heartbroken," he said last week at the Wagman Centre.

Mike, who goes only by his first name when visiting Jewish prison inmates and patients in mental health institutions, was one of three JF&CS volunteers who spoke as part of the meeting at the Wagman Centre.

Alberto Quiroz talked about the rewards of being a Big Brother, and Alison Cohen noted the joy and satisfaction she derives tutoring adolescents at the J.D. Diamond Adolescent Centre.

But when it comes to volunteering with prison inmates, "people ask 'Why do you want to help this scum?' " said Mike, a tall man with a solid build and bluff manner.

"When I visit the murderers, wife beaters, drug traffickers, breakers and enterers, I see them on one side, and you and I on the other, separated only by circumstance. There's a very fuzzy line that any of us are capable of crossing given the circumstances."

Mike believes it's important to give some indication the Jewish world has not forgotten these Jews. It's incumbent on everyone to try to make the world a better place, he said.

During the meeting, which was dedicated to honouring the agency's volunteers, JF&CS executive director Gordon Wolfe said people often volunteer because they are searching for meaning or as a way of connecting with themselves, other people and their community.

"Why don't more people volunteer?" he asked. "We get excited that one third of all Canadians volunteer. Although that's impressive, where the hell are the other 67 percent?"

Among the issues JF&CS deals with on a daily basis are poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, and diminishing opportunities for those who are disadvantaged, said agency president Cecile Zaifman.

Much of the past year has been spent on strategic planning for the agency's next three to five years, she said. The new plan is based on three priorities: reaffirming a focus on prevention and wellness; continuously improving and building capacity to enhance efficiency and effectiveness; and enhancing funding sources.

Another impending change is Wolfe's retirement, planned for June 2003, Zaifman announced.

The agency, which is more than 130 years old, receives most of its funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, United Way and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Its annual $12 million budget has almost doubled in the last decade, but years of flat or decreasing revenues have taken their toll as costs have risen, Zaifman said.

"Our resources are being taxed like never before," said Wolfe, who noted also that the agency has no deficits.

Jewish poverty is a particularly pressing issue. "We must not ignore it, even if it's largely hidden from our view," said Wolfe.

The situation has become worse over the past decade, and in Toronto in general, single parents were hardest hit, even though more of them were working and employment earnings were higher, he noted. Child poverty in the city grew by an additional 14,310 children and youth during the economic recovery years of the late 1990s, he added.

The median income of single parent families living in poverty in 1999 in Toronto was $10,100, less than the annual rent of an appropriate-sized apartment, he offered as an example.

In the last six months alone, said Wolfe, the number of JF&CS clients receiving financial assistance increased from 35 percent to 46 percent of total cases. "By definition, these people are living at the poverty level."

BBYO PRESIDENTS: **BBYO Greater Toronto Area Council recently elected new Godol and N'Siah (Presidents). Seen here are Dina Finkelshtein and Josh Pelkovitz. BBYO offers programs for Jewish teens in grade 7 through OAC. It provides an outlet for high school students who require community service hours for graduation. For more information, call 416-398-2004.**

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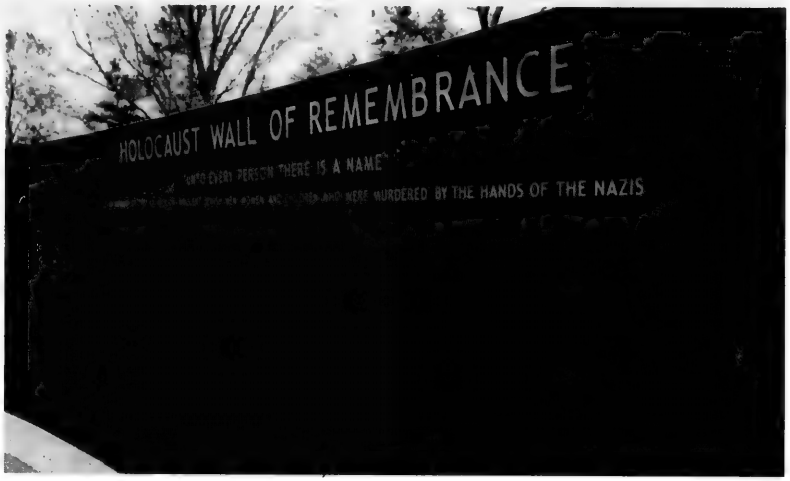

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem invites the community to attend the official Dedication of the Holocaust Wall of Remembrance on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at 11:00 am at Earl Bales Park, Toronto

(Bathurst Street south of Sheppard Avenue)

Canadian Society for
YAD VASHEM
The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority

זכור

For further information about the Holocaust Wall of Remembrance or to engrave names on the wall, please contact: Canadian Society for Yad Vashem at 416-785-1333 or 1-888-494-7999.

Terror has to be destroyed, says Israeli rabbi

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

"Do we want to go back to the desert, to the jungle of exile?" asked Rabbi Eliezer Waldman at the Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue in Thornhill. "We have no choice. We have to fight, we have to be strong, we have to build [and] we have to be pioneers."

Rabbi Waldman, the founder of the Techiya Party and the founder and rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Nir in Kiryat Arba, where he lives, was in town speaking about the situation in the suburb of Hebron, which is just minutes from the Cave of Machpela (Tomb of the Patriarchs) and home to 6,000 Jews.

Rabbi Waldman began his speech by referring to the time the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt, saying he hoped they wouldn't become slaves again. He then condemned what he called "enemies of the Jewish people" by claiming that "there is no room for a Palestinian state, it would be a terrorist state... terror has to be destroyed and will be destroyed.

"Knowing the desire [and] the intention of our enemies... Being aware of the awakening of anti-Semitism [and] Jewish hatred... The world isn't ready to accept the reality of Jewish independence, of the Jews having their own independent state and their independent army," he told the audience of about 100 people.

"[There are] lies, twisting of facts of history, not only by our enemies who are trying to destroy us, but [by] those in the UN," he said, condemning the United Nations. "The only thing they [UN] are united against is the Jewish people."

Rabbi Waldman added, "Why, when Jews are killed or in danger nobody cares?"

Why, "when Jews defend themselves, there are investigative committees formed?" he asked, referring to the fact-finding mission originally organized, then cancelled, by the United Nations to investigate IDF actions in Jenin.

The rabbi suggested American foreign policy was hypocritical and offered strong words for U.S. President George W. Bush.

"[Mr. Bush] is demanding from us flexibility, compromise and negotiations. Whereas Mr. Bush wants to fight terror and declares no negotiations and no compromise," he said.

"No one has a right to rebuke us, no one has a right to say a word about how we defend ourselves," Rabbi Waldman said. "But they [United States] will tell us, when [we] can defend yourselves. How [we] can defend ourselves. Where [we] can settle, where [were] not allowed to settle, [they] will decide what are illegal settlements."

"[There are] no such things as illegal Jewish settlements in Israel," he said passionately.

Rabbi Waldman also spoke of liberating "the heart of Israel" during the Six Day War, and claimed that "any nation that interferes with us [Israel] will fall apart."

Rabbi Waldman said Israel has two major enemies – the evident external enemies, such as the Arab world, and the internal enemies like "his brothers on the left," whom he said are weak because they feel they have no choice but to compromise and make peace.

"We will continue to go on and inherit the land," he said. "We will continue to travel the roads, we will continue to build and settle in Israel.

"We will continue to bear children, we will continue to establish yeshivot, we will continue to educate, have faith, because we will not anymore run away," he said, asking in his final sentence for "you [the audience] to be with us."

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TREE OF PEACE: A group of grade 5 students at Bialik Hebrew Day School, along with parent volunteers, designed a Tree of Peace, symbolizing their hope for peace in Israel. The work of art was awarded first prize in a contest sponsored by the UJA Federation Walk for Israel. Seen here with their creation are (from left, seated) Jaclyn Ludmer, Gillian Blustein, Alix Gropper, Tamar Silverbrook, Max Silverbrook, Hanna Levy, Alana Fine, Marlie Smith and Alexis Konkol. Seen standing (from left) is Zoe Cohen, Karen Arane, Emma Finkelstein and Sarah Pillersdorf.

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They will be honoured by
Keren Hayesod and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon,
in Israel, at the anti-terrorist training base "Mitkan Adam".
June 20, 2002.
May they and their families continue their noble work serving the Jewish people, throughout Toronto, Israel and the world, in good health for many years to come.

Fisher's voice heals victims of violence in Israel

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Toronto singer Ritasue Charlstein Fisher, known in Israel simply as Rita, travelled to the country recently to perform for victims of the intifadah.

The singer and storyteller, who has performed for wounded Israeli soldiers for more than 20 years, says she went there to try to bring some joy through her music to injured civilians and soldiers.

"I was driven to connect to victims of terror attacks at a time when Israel feels abandoned," she said.

"I needed to reach out and touch these people. God has given me the gift of voice and I felt a need to use that gift to heal people in terrible pain."

Observing Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel, she said, "was celebrating joy and experiencing grief."

Almost immediately after her plane landed, she heard of the April 12 Machane Yehuda suicide bombing.

"As I drove to Jerusalem, on one hand, I was sickened by the devastation, and on the other, I knew this was the right time to be in Israel."

For the next 10 days, Fisher travelled to hospitals and military camps across the country singing, talking and bringing comfort to victims. She was frequently accompanied by disabled soldiers to whom she had previously sung and who now wish to help others who have been wounded.

Fisher spoke of her visit to a woman who was injured in the Passover bomb blast at the Natanya Park Hotel and of her visit to the wounded son of a Christian minister whose parents had moved to Israel 30 years ago and whose 15 children had all served in the Israel Defence Forces.

Fisher also sang for an 18-year-old boy who was studying at a yeshiva in Atzmona in Gaza before going into the army. As he sat studying, two Palestinian gunmen came in and started shooting. Eight boys were killed and he and a number of others were seriously injured.

On her visit to see another victim in Ranaana's Beit Levenstein Hospital, Fisher was accompanied by Adam Greenfeld, whom she had entertained in the hospital 10 years before while he was recovering from a serious injury.

"Adam is a symbol of courage for although he cannot walk, he embraces life with every fibre of his being," she said. "And now he is helping others overcome their grief."

They were going to visit Sharon Mammon, who was still lying in a coma in the Ranaana hospital four months after nails entered his heart and his brain in last December's Ben Yehuda Street suicide bombing.

Fisher sang to Mammon for half an hour, and then took his hand and said, "Show me a sign that you know I sang for you." To the surprise of his mother and others in the room, Mammon blinked an eye and smiled. It was his first response to any stimulus since his injury.

"That was the miracle and I now knew why I was sent to Israel," Fisher said. "The nurses said I unblocked him. And when I returned the next day again, he gave me a smile and attempted to kiss me."

Since her return to Toronto, Fisher has spoken each week to Mammon's mother, who puts the phone to Mammon's ear as Fisher speaks to him. His mother has told Fisher that Mammon is beginning to move his hand and say a few words.

"You brought him out of his darkness," she said.

Greenfeld has also thanked Fisher for her help. In a letter he wrote to her in Hebrew, he described how he felt the first time she came to his bedside to sing in Tel Hashomer Hospital just after his injury.

". . . "For the first time since my injury, I cried from the bottom of my heart. From that moment, I knew that my soul had connected to yours, and today we are dear friends, in spite of an ocean between us."

Fisher intends to go back to Israel again one day to heal others.

"I look forward to returning to Israel to continue my labour of love and also to share my stories and songs with the Jewish community here in Toronto and beyond," she said.

Singer and storyteller Ritasue Fisher performed at the Israeli army base for reservists in Har Gilo. The soldiers serve in Beit Jala and Kalkilya.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

DEDICATION OF THE HOLOCAUST WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
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Earl Bales Park
at the Holocaust Wall
See Page 17
Information:
416-785-1333

DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines:Monday, June 24, is deadline for July 4 issue, and as there will be no issue July 18, the Tuesday, July 2, deadline will include items that would normally appear in the July 11 and July 18 issues. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Friday, June 21

SHABBAT DINNER

Aish 30 Chinese-style Shabbat dinner at 949 Clark Ave., Thornhill. Services 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. 905-764-1818.

Sunday, June 23

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Canadian Magen David Adom presents a Musical Tribute to Israel, in memory of Yochai Porat, featuring singer **Mickey Lewin** plus a draw and silent auction., 7 p.m., The Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. All proceeds for an ambulance in Israel. Information, 416-489-8135.

YIDDISHLAND CAFÉ

In celebration of Yiddish poet **Itsik Manger's** 100th birthday, the Workmen's Circle presents a Yiddishland Café evening with Itsik Manger's *The Megilla* in Yiddish and English. Music by **Dov Seltzer,** musical director is **Nina Shapilsky**. Cast includes narrators **Alon Nashman** and **Chaya Thalenberg** and singers **Miriam Eskin, Michael Mandel, Denise Williams**, accompanied by keyboard and violin. 7:30 p.m. at Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Reserve 416-787-2081.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel in conjunction with the Intersynagogue Singles, presents **Menachem Bensadoun** and **Paul Mathews** in a program of chassidic, French and Mideastern music, at brunch for singles 35+, at 11:30 a.m. **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer.** Come listen, come tell. All welcome. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave., 7:30 p.m. 416-699-8914.

Monday, June 24

JEWISH SONG AND SPIRIT

The Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad 14th annual dinner and draw, A Celebration of Jewish Song and Spirit, at the Sheraton Centre, Grand Ballroom, 123 Queen St. W. Honouring **Sherwood Schwartz,** owner of the Toronto Argonauts and featuring **Dudu Fisher**, star of *Les Miserables*. Cocktails at 5:15 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. and program 7:30 p.m. plus a silent auction. For tickets and information, 416-663-1972.

Wednesday, June 26

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Demonstrate your solidarity with Israel. Participate directly in helping Israel by volunteering to serve on an IDF supply maintenance base for a minimum of 2 weeks. Find out about the Sar-El program at the information session at 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. RSVP Canadian Volunteers for Israel 416-781-6089.

JEWISH GENEALOGY

The 22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is coming to Toronto Aug. 4-9. There's a pre-conference presentation at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meeting 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

At Temple Sinai 4- 8 p.m. Community welcome (17 years to 61). 416-487-4161.

HUMOUR GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group monthly meeting. All ages,

Continued on page 21

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&
Thursday, June 27, 2002 at 7 p.m.
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252 Bloor St., 8th Floor, Room #8220
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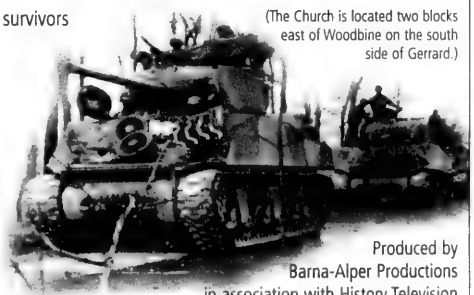
directed by Fern Levitt

The documentary tells the true story of the 761st Battalion, a segregated black unit in the U.S. Army that liberated a number of concentration camps during WWII

Place: **Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church,** 2029 Gerrard St. East
Date & Time: **Thursday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.**
Admission: **Free**

- One of the Jewish survivors and his black liberators are expected to attend the screening
- Black and Jewish choirs also will sing at the premiere

(The Church is located two blocks east of Woodbine on the south side of Gerrard.)



March of the Living

Produced by Barna-Alper Productions in association with History Television

Continued from page 20

non-profit, fun, prizes. Contact **Irv Helpert** 416-661-2541 to register.

Thursday, June 27

THE LIZZIES OLDTIMERS

The Lizzies Oldtimers Association annual reunion dinner honouring **Dr. Joe Greenberg**. Guest speaker **George Chuvalo**. Hospitality 4:30-6:30 p.m. dinner 7 p.m. sharp at the North York Memorial Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Tickets and information, **Norm Cornack** 416-749-6735 or **Harvey Bronstine** 905-886-6580.

JEWISH WOMEN IN SONG

Naomi Bell presents her musical program, Jewish Women in Song, 2 p.m. at Forest Hill Retirement Residence, 645 Castlefield Ave. Public is welcome. No charge. Call **Susan** at 416-795-1511 to reserve a seat.

And What Else Is New

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

This is the 12th year that the Orillia Country Shul is conducting morning Shabbat services, 10:30 a.m. during July and August in its country home in Atherley (east of Orillia). Leaders running services will include: July 6, **Rabbi Shmul Veffer**; July 13, **Elliott Malamet**; July 20, **Lionel Sharpe**; July 27, **Rabbi Debra Landsberg** and **Cantor Anna Trubachnik**; Aug. 3, **Stuart Hytman**; Aug. 10, **Rabbi Aaron Hoch**; Aug. 17, **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**; Aug. 24, **David Avitan**; Aug. 31, **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**.

For information or directions from Toronto, 705-327-7069.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz.** Sunday morning minyan, 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford Road Public School) **David** 416-256-1600.

KABBALAH LECTURE

Free Kabbalah lecture at the Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. 416-631-9395.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting, Thursday, June 27, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Guest speaker pharmacist **Jack Pincus**. Topic: RX for Safety. **Goldie** 416-635-2860.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). June 20, video movie; June 27, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Sunday dance with live band, June 23; Casino Rama, June 26, July 3, 17, 31; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m., June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27.; Cookstown Factory June 27; Bingo every Tuesday at 2 p.m. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-221-2115.

Let's Have Fun With Yiddish, share jokes, stories, watch videos, hear speakers, Thursday, June 20, 1 p.m.

Osteoporosis Interest Group, Everyday Living With Osteoporosis, Tuesday, June 25, 1:15-2:15 p.m. ext. 126.

Summer Learning Series for Seniors on Communication with **Rheta Rosen,** sociologist. Topic: Identifying and Expressing Feelings. Wednesday, June 26, 10 a.m. to noon at Ryerson University.

Casino Rama, Thursday, July 4, departing 8:30 a.m. sharp. Free lunch coupon. Tickets on sale at ticket sales desk.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. June 25, picnic in the park. **Anna**, ext. 110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Summer Strawberry Festival, Friday, June 21, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Refreshments and entertainment provided. **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275.

Lunch and Learn Tuesday, June 25, at the Gathering Place. Topic: Communicating With Your Adult Children. Reserve in person at the service desk. For information, **Mara**, ext. 2275.

Wellness Lecture, 55 Alive Driver Refresher Course for Seniors-Overview Only, Wednesday, June 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Presenter is **Teddy Kellen**, instructor for the Canada Safety Council. For information, ext. 2267

Bereavement Group, meeting the needs of spouses aged 55 and older living in the community. Offers understanding about issues of loneliness, pain and healing. For information regarding meeting dates and times, contact **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

For computer courses and computer lab information, call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Through to June 30: Regarding Landscape, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman**, on view at Koffler Gallery, the Art Gallery of York University and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. ext. 380.

Sundays, a shuttle bus travels between the 3 galleries, ext. 268.

Register now for Summer 2002 visual art classes at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Classes begin July 2. Information/registration, ext. 269.

Thursday, July 11: New show at the Koffler Gallery. **W. Mark Sutherland's** Scratch. It is a comprehensive solo show involving sculptural works, sonic poems, bookworks, videos and audiovisual installations. Artist talk July 11 at 6 p.m. Opening reception July 11, 6-8 p.m. at the Koffler Gallery. Show runs to Sept. 27.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Seniors Club: Thursday, June 20, 2 p.m. Celebration Tea, A Day to Celebrate and Praise All Women; Thursday, June 27, 2 p.m., golden oldie, *Notorious* starring **Cary Grant** and **Ingrid Bergman**, directed by **Alfred Hitchcock**.

ATERET KAVOD AWARDS: The Canadian Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism recently honoured six outstanding community leaders with Ateret Kavod Awards in a ceremony at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. From left are Ruth and Morris Adams, Adath Israel, Toronto; Beryl and Noam Chernick, Or Shalom, London; and Marilyn and Bob Cohen, Beth Tikvah, Toronto. [Mollie Rothman photo]

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRESIDENT: At the recent spring conference of the Canadian Seaway Branch of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ), held at Adath Israel Synagogue, Bertha Gold was installed as president by Cantor Marshall Loomer of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation. Pictured above are, from left, Cory Schneider, international consultant, WLCJ; new president Bertha Gold (centre), and immediate past president Rivy Blass. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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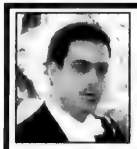

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Next: "Summer Bash" Friday, July 12th
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Greater Toronto Area

Labour group criticizes Israel

Continued from page 1

In an open letter to the Canadian labour movement, McDermott said: "A sick, bigoted mentality is seeping into Canadian labour. I cannot understand how freedom-loving Canadians would be drawn to admire the terrorist demagogue, Yasser Arafat. It is completely beyond my comprehension to see intelligent, progressive, Canadian trade unionists expressing affinity with a proven corrupt, immoral, autocratic leader, totally lacking integrity."

McDermott suggested anti-Semitism may be rearing its head in the labour movement. "Given a convenient pretext, it can suddenly erupt spewing its malicious pent-up venom in all directions."

CLC president Kenneth Georgetti rejected suggestions the CLC is anti-Semitic. Responding to a recent column in the *Globe and Mail*, Georgetti noted the CLC has condemned attacks on synagogues and hateful graffiti on Jewish institutions in Toronto and Ottawa.

But critics of the CLC argue the resolution and policy statement are simple-minded and ignorant of Middle East history.

> *'Statement simple-minded and ignorant of Middle East history'*

Among the areas that came in for criticism:

• the policy statement's contention that "Israel has been declared by the UN as an illegal occupying power" and that Israel occupation came as a result of "military conquest and it has been repeatedly condemned by the UN."

• the comparison of Israel to apartheid South Africa.

• the suggestion that the Israeli army wantonly enters Palestinian areas, destroys homes and orchards "and justifies it with 'hunting down terrorists.' "

• the drawing of a "moral equivalence" and the CLC's equal condemnation of Palestinian terrorist attacks and Israel's military responses to them.

Congress representative Simon Rosenblum monitored the CLC convention. He met with union leaders in an effort to persuade them to amend the documents' harshest language. Following passage of the CLC resolution, he said the union statements drew "incredibly simple-minded parallels" between Israel and South Africa.

"If they deliberate on foreign policy, they ought to take the responsibility of knowing what they talk about," he said. "Whenever they put pen to paper, they get it wrong in a factual sense, they get it wrong in a moral sense."

Lawyer Shalom Schachter, a union member for 21 years, attended the triennial CLC convention. A delegate of the National Union of Public and General Employees, Schachter said his trip to Vancouver was arranged hastily after he learned the CLC would be considering CUPE Ontario's earlier resolution.

Schachter met with union leaders as well as rank-and-file members, and found a receptive ear among some delegates. However, "coming into it at the last minute, it's hard to change the momentum. Had we started earlier in the [resolution drafting] cycle, we would've gotten the interested member and leaders an alternative."

Schachter said that in the horse-trading that goes on at conventions – you vote for my resolution and I'll vote for yours – little could be done to change the outcome. However, he did claim one success. The resolution adopted by the convention's 3,000 delegates did not include the statement on apartheid. That was passed only by the executive committee and council, a much smaller body.

He suggested supporters of Israel must make greater efforts to attend conventions and take part in the drafting of resolutions and the subsequent lobbying for them.

The Palestinian community was well represented and organized at the convention, he said. In addition, a representative of the Palestinian trade union movement attended the convention but there was no counterpart from Israeli labour.

At one point in its history, Schachter said, Canadian labour was sympathetic to Israel, partly because of close ties between it and the Histadrut, Israel's labour federation. In addition, some unions, such as garment workers, had a strong Jewish presence.

But the Histadrut was not represented at this year's convention and most Jewish workers are now employed in white-collar jobs and are less active in labour movement politics, Schachter said.

The CLC, meanwhile, was effectively lobbied by pro-Palestinian delegates and seems to have accepted the media's depiction of a David-and-Goliath struggle, he said.

In addition, many in labour have adopted a "knee-jerk anti-American reaction. There is a legitimate reason for this reaction, as the United States is generally an anti-union society that makes it hard to organize and it take actions abroad that make it harder to unionize." For some, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend and since the U.S. [has an] alliance with Israel, then Israel gets tarred as well," Schachter said.

Congress president Keith Landy was particularly angry at the CLC's use of the apartheid analogy.

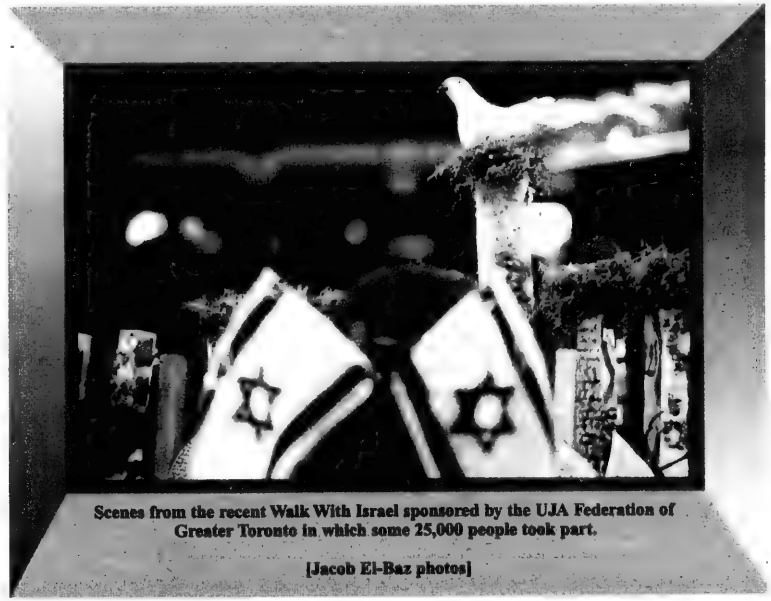
"The apartheid images they're conjuring up are right out of the Durban anti-Semitic resolutions, that were adopted subsequently by the UN in its anti-Israel resolutions," he said.

Rosenblum said that while the resolution has no immediate practical effect, "it speaks in the name of Canadian labour, which is a major part of Canadian society."

"As we fight the battle for public opinion on this, it is not a good sign. It does not help in our advocacy with the government. None of this is good, but the sky is not falling."

Tribute to Israel

The Canadian Jewish news
Section B



Scenes from the recent Walk With Israel sponsored by the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in which some 25,000 people took part.

[Jacob El-Baz photos]

Reflections on Israel's constitutional revolution

By ADAM DODEK

Ten years ago, the Knesset passed a number of laws that ushered in a constitutional revolution in Israel. Here in Canada, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of our own constitutional revolution. The Canadian and Israeli constitutional experiences are strongly intertwined, a phenomenon that becomes all the more difficult to fathom given the current state of upheaval in Israel that is so foreign to our everyday experience in this country.

Aharon Barak, chief justice of Israel's Supreme Court

In Canada, we have always had a formal constitution; not so in Israel. The Israeli constitutional void was not by design, however. The UN Partition Resolution of November 1947, which called for the creation of a Jewish and an Arab state, mandated that they each adopt democratic constitutions. This was, after all, the beginning of the post-Holocaust flourishing of international law and constitutional bills of rights. After the Holocaust, the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights whose purpose is spelled out in its title: all persons, regardless of under what government they live, are entitled to certain basic rights. In addition, in 1948, the adoption of a constitution was seen simply as one of the trappings of statehood, like a flag or an anthem. Enacting a constitution was simply one item on the "to do list" for newly independent states after World War II.

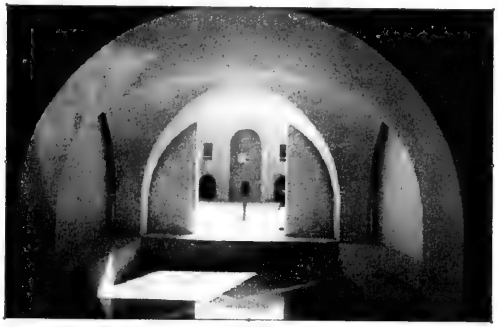
Thus, the Jewish community in Palestine responded to the Partition Resolution by beginning to prepare a constitution. The Jewish Agency commissioned an expert, Leo Kohn, to prepare a draft. Other organizations did the same.

When the State of Israel was born on May 14, 1948, Israel's Declaration of Independence promised that a constituent assembly would be elected with the task of enacting a constitution no later than Oct. 1, 1948. After the War of Independence broke out, this deadline came and went with no constituent assembly and no constitution. The provisional government of the new state did strike a constitutional committee that debated the substance of a future constitution. But when a constituent assembly was finally elected in January 1949, it did not adopt a constitution but rather converted itself into the First Knesset and decided that Israel's constitution would be built chapter upon chapter in a collection of Basic Laws.

Israel failed to adopt a constitution in its early years for two reasons. First, the religious-secular divide was a serious obstacle to the adoption of a constitution, both then and now. Second, the state's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, became Israel's anti-Trudeau, a staunch opponent to the constitutional enterprise, which he viewed as hampering the government's free hand in state-building.

By 1992, the year Canadians were celebrating the Charter's 10th anniversary, Israel had adopted nine Basic Laws. These Basic Laws resembled Canada's old BNA Act in that they focused on government – specifically, on the institutions and machinery of government. Israel had no "People's Package" – no Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Like Canada, though, Israel's judges had developed a very extensive "judicial bill of rights" even without any specific laws or constitutional provisions on subjects such as freedom of speech, freedom of association and equality.

This changed in 1992. In March of that year, in the waning days of an Israeli parliament focused on June elections, the Knesset passed the first two Basic Laws on individual rights – the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom and the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation. These Basic Laws were modelled on the Canadian charter – not in their substance, but in their form. Indeed, two years later, after the Supreme Court of Israel ruled that the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation did not allow the government to prohibit the import of non-kosher meat, the Knesset again looked to Canada. This time it plucked the notwithstanding clause from the Canadian charter and inserted it into the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, and then invoked it to enable the continued restriction on importing *treif*.



Values of truth, mercy and compassion are incorporated in the new Supreme Court building in Jerusalem.

It was the enactment of these laws that prompted Supreme Court of Israel president Aharon Barak to declare a "constitutional revolution" in Israel. However, the title of a well-known book on the making of the Canadian charter – *And No One Cheered* – would be more apropos of the Israeli enactment of these two new Basic Laws. There were no parliamentary hearings or referenda before these Basic Laws were passed – just a half-empty Knesset chamber, many of whose 120 members were more concerned about primaries and upcoming elections than would-be constitutional revolutions. The two laws were passed by votes of 32-21 and 23-0.

Truth be told, these two new Basic Laws did not radically alter the Israeli legal or political landscape. An increasingly activist Israeli Supreme Court did not require additional tools to strike down political decisions. It had been doing so since the mid-1950s and with ever-increasing assertiveness in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The more important change in Israeli society occurred with the passage of the third Basic Law in March 1992 which changed the electoral system to provide for the direct election of the prime minister.

As observers of Israeli politics know, elections for the Knesset are based on a pure proportional representation. Under the old system, the leaders of the party who commanded a majority in parliament became prime minister. Under the new system, Israelis cast two ballots, one for the Knesset and one for the prime minister. The results of this split vote has been the demise of the Labour and Likud parties. In the 1980s, Israeli politics was characterized by electoral deadlock between Labour and Likud, resulting in successive National Unity governments where the two parties collectively controlled between two-thirds and three-quarters of the Knesset seats.

By 1999, after the second direct election for the prime minister, these two parties could not even muster a majority of Knesset seats between them. The once-mighty Labour alignment had fallen to 27 seats by 1999, and the Likud coalition that Ariel Sharon had worked so hard to build in the 1970s was reduced to just 19 seats, only two more than the third-place party, Shas. This is the real constitutional revolution in Israel that has occurred over the past 10 years.

The psychology of the double ballot was simple and predictable, but it was ignored. Under the old system, where the leader of the party who commanded the allegiance of a majority in the Knesset became the prime minister, voters had to weigh their more particularist concerns – in religious, ethnic or single-issue party – with their desire to see Menachim Begin, Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Shamir or Yitzhak Rabin become prime minister. With the double ballot, the voter was suddenly freed of such internal tussles. New immigrants could cast a vote for one of a number of Russian parties and for the prime ministerial candidate of their choice. Ditto for environmentalists, the Sephardim, pensioners, men's rights advocates, etc. The result was that there was no incentive to vote for the Labour or Likud party so that their leader would become prime minister.

The net result of direct election of the prime minister has been that instead of

Continued on page B3

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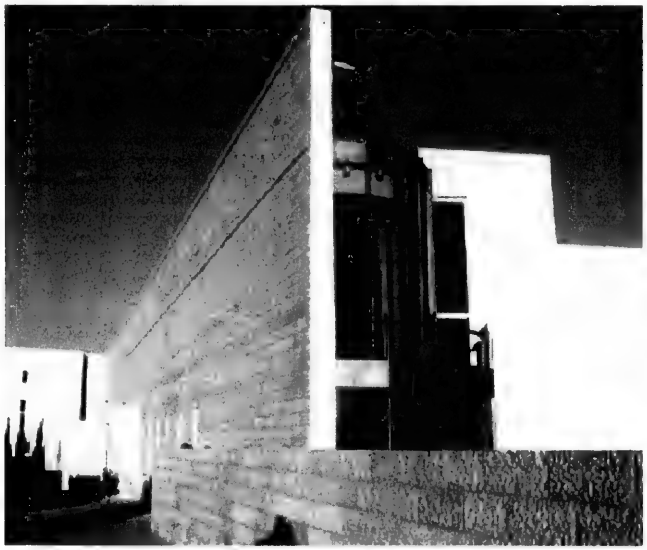

Exterior view of Israel's new Supreme Court building.

Israel lacks an amending formula

Continued from page B2

making the prime minister more independent, it has made him more beholden than ever to his coalition partners. In fact, the opportunities for small parties to influence the prime minister have only increased under the new system. Prime ministerial candidates need to seek support from other parties before the balloting, between the first and subsequent rounds of balloting if no prime ministerial candidate gets 50 per cent of the vote in the first round, after the direct election of the prime minister when he is charged with forming a government, and during the maintenance of the directly elected prime minister's coalition government.

Realizing the effect of this constitutional revolution, the Knesset repealed the law for the direct election of the prime minister in March of last year. The next elections to the Knesset will take place under the old single ballot system. It remains to be seen to what extent Labour and the Likud will be able to rebuild themselves. Once unleashed, can the revolution be rolled back?

The ease with which the Knesset ushered in the constitutional revolution and now attempts to repeal it demonstrates another strange aspect of Israel's constitution. In building its constitution chapter upon chapter in Basic Laws, Israel has no Basic Laws on Basic Laws – no rules of the game for constitutional change. In Canadian parlance, Israel lacks an amending formula. Basic Laws can be enacted by a simple majority of Knesset members who happen to be present in any given parliamentary session. They can be amended or repealed in the same manner. Whereas the Canadian constitution is too difficult to amend, the Israeli constitution is far too easy to alter.

It is difficult to give much thought to Israel's constitutional revolution when suicide bombers are blowing themselves up in the very cafés where Israelis might debate such issues. However, the deeper one looks at the issue, the more relevant the constitutional revolution becomes. On a practical basis, the manner in which Prime Minister Sharon is able to respond to this and indeed any crisis, is a function of the constitutional revolution brought about by the law for the direct election of the prime minister.

Prime minister more beholden than ever to his coalition partners

On a more abstract level, a nation's constitution represents an expression of its most fundamental values. While it is unlikely that many will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom and the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, perhaps they should. For it is in the idea of protecting human dignity and freedom that one finds the raison d'être for Israel's establishment, its defence and its future.

Adam Dodek is a Toronto lawyer and a former Fulbright Scholar in Israeli constitutional law who has clerked at the Supreme Court of Israel.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Father soldiers on after son's death

By REUVEN ROSENFELDER

On Feb 20 at four o'clock in the morning, Ezra and Nurit Eini of Petach Tikvah heard a knock on the door. Representatives of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) had arrived with a shattering message: their youngest child, Moshe, 22, was one of six Israeli soldiers killed a few hours earlier in a Palestinian terror attack on an IDF roadblock known as Ein Ariq, west of Ramallah in the West Bank.

"In a split-second, life is turned upside down," says Ezra, an Israeli tour guide known to literally thousands of Canadian Jews who have visited Israel on community missions over the years.

Barely three weeks later, Ezra is seated on a couch in the lobby of the Inbal (formerly the Laromme) Hotel in Jerusalem, talking to a reporter for the first time since his son's death.

The place is nearly deserted, due to a lack of tourists. But Ezra is about to begin a day of touring with a family from Houston, Tex. They had sent him a fax, not knowing what had happened, asking for his services as a guide on their visit to the country.

'Visitors see Israel through our eyes and our mouths'

With his son in mind, Ezra says he made the decision to return to work as soon a possible. "Because Moshe loved life so much, our family made a decision to pick ourselves up from the ground."

Nurit, a high-school teacher in Ramat Gan, also made a quick return to her classroom. Her students are 17 and 18 years old and are themselves about to begin military service in these tough times. For the first two days after she returned, they just talked for hours, teacher and students.

The Einis have two older children, Shmuel and Yael. Both served as officers in the IDF, like Moshe, who advanced to the rank of captain by the time of his death. He was affectionately known as "Moishale."

Ezra's connection with Canada was made through Victor Yagoda, missions director at the Israel Office of the United Israel Appeal of Canada. Since the mid-1980's, Ezra has guided countless Canadian missions, mainly from Toronto, but also from such communities as Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver.

Guides have a crucial role in a mission's success. "Visitors see Israel through our eyes and our mouths," Ezra says. "My goal is to show them the good the country has to offer. It's a positive message, one of hope. And it won't change now."

He has a network of friends and acquaintances in Canada with whom he maintains regular contact. "I know more people in Canada than in Petach Tikvah, where I live," he says.

Sitting in the Inbal lobby, eerily quiet at this usually busy breakfast hour, his face is unshaven in mourning during the shloshim. He is overcome with emotion. Tears well up in his eyes as he speaks about his son.

He projects a profound, unbounded adoration for Moshe that goes beyond love.

Moshe Eini

Above all, Ezra says, Moshe was connected to nature and the land, the breadth and width of which he walked with his friends. He was active in hiking clubs and the Scouts youth movement. He developed special skills in rock-climbing and rappelling, and he played basketball and skied.

In the IDF, Moshe started out in the prestigious Air Force pilots' course, but withdrew. "It didn't feel right for him," Ezra relates. "He wanted to smell the flower in the ground, not see it from above."

Moshe transferred to the combat engineering brigade. It was a platoon of this brigade that he commanded at the Ein Ariq roadblock. His unit had just relieved another unit that had been stationed there. His soldiers took over at 5 p.m. In the dark, at 9 p.m., the Palestinians attacked.

A piece of paper was later found in his trousers, on which he had noted what needed improvement at the installation. This, says his father, was typical of him: "Ninety-eight per cent wasn't acceptable, it had to be 100 per cent performance."

Moshe, Ezra says, knew how to separate his army life from his civilian activities. When he was home on his brief weekends off, he was always seeing friends, having fun "with a smile permanently on his face." But when he put on his uniform early Sunday morning, he was transformed back into a serious officer with a task to carry out, his father says.

But Moshe did not see the army as a career, Ezra says. He was considering studying nuclear physics.

Nearly 5,000 people attended Moshe's funeral. During the shivah, the house was overflowing with callers, from the army's top brass to Moshe's comrades. His own superior officer, recalls Ezra, said that he regarded Moshe as a model for how to be an officer.

Moshe was actually in transition when the attack took place. He was scheduled to be an instructor at the combat engineers' training program for recent graduates of the IDF officers course. "Only the best are selected for this job," a senior commander said. But it was not to be.

His father faces the tragedy and says, "If this is the contribution I have had to make, the dearest of all possible, I just hope that it won't be in vain."

Ezra points no finger; he has no accusations or complaints. He and his family struggle to go on. In a short while, he will start the day as a professional guide with his American tourists, whose journey to Israel at this time he regards as especially meaningful.

"I'm trying to separate between things," he says. "I think I'm managing. But I can't say it's easy."

Reuven Rosenfelder lives in Jerusalem and is with Keren Hayesod, United Israel Appeal.

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Tribute to Israel

Smiles in Jerusalem

By BATSHEVA POMERANTZ
IPS

The modern Dental Volunteers for Israel (DVI) clinic is located in Jerusalem, between the embattled neighbourhood of Gilo and the city centre – the site of repeated Palestinian terrorist attacks during the past year. Yet the clinic, which provides free dental care for needy Jewish and Arab children, is an island of tranquillity.

"Fortunately, parents have not cancelled appointments because they fear travelling by bus, and they are quite happy to come with their children from all parts of the city," says Trudi Birger, founder and director of DVI.

Dental Volunteers for Israel founder and director, Trudi Birger, in her office at the clinic.

Birger knows the meaning of suffering. A Holocaust survivor whose childhood in Frankfurt, Germany, came to an abrupt end in 1933 when the family began the first in a series of moves to evade Hitler's army, she vowed to dedicate her life to alleviating the suffering of children if she survived those terrible years.

Since DVI began in 1980, about 4,500 dentists from 13 countries have come at their own expense for a minimum two-week period, to volunteer their time and skill to help Jerusalem children of all backgrounds.

Many DVI dentists know about Birger's remarkable survival of the Holocaust and some have read her memoir, *A Daughter's Gift of Love*, which was published in October 2000 and has since been translated into many languages, including Japanese and Croatian.

With the deteriorating security situation in Israel since September 2000, many dentists have stopped coming to Israel. But Birger has been determined that the "children will not be neglected because of the situation. It is important that the program continue even in these tough times," she says.

As soon as the first cancellations arrived, Birger sent impassioned letters to some 350 Jerusalem dentists, asking them to volunteer. Very few responded. She then personally called all those on her list of overseas dentists, mostly non-Jews, to convince them of the importance of DVI's work. Some, like Arne H. of Oslo, Norway, responded eagerly, as did Dr. Anna Lindsors of Uppsala, Sweden, who even brought along her mother, an enthusiastic first-time visitor to Israel.

"When you watch the news in Sweden, it appears that the whole country is at war," observes Lindsors. "But this is simply not the case. Concerned friends have phoned us from Sweden, but I'm not really scared. I am from peaceful Sweden, but here it seems pretty peaceful too."

The Lindsors even went touring in Jerusalem, accompanied by others involved with DVI, and dined with Israeli families of different religious and political backgrounds. "This was the best part of the visit. I was impressed by the Israelis' hospitality," Anna Lindsors says.

Another Swedish dentist, Dr. Sven Busch of Norberg, has visited Israel 10 times since 1990, four of them as a DVI dentist.

"I'm experienced both with Israel and with the local, one-sided media," he says. "Because of the media situation, I felt the need to help Trudi and to pay my respects to Israel. My own personal safety did not enter into it."

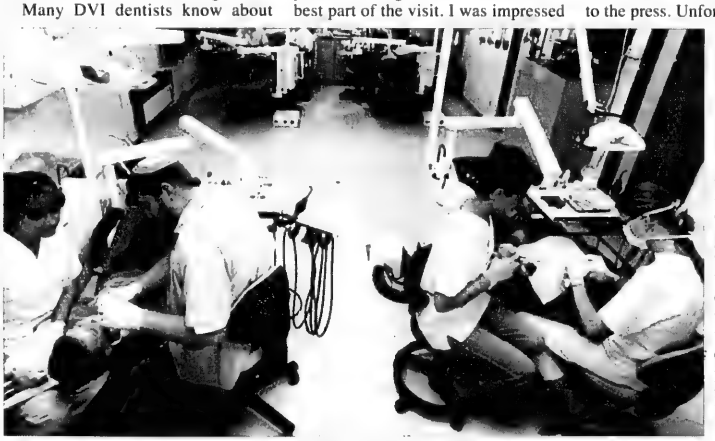
In Sweden, Busch has tried to persuade other dentists to visit. "I wrote letters, telling them that instead of staying home and reading the newspapers or watching television about the situation in Israel, they should go there and work."

For U.S. dentist Dr. Michael Elliott of North Carolina, this was his first trip to Israel. "Everybody is very friendly in Israel, compared to other countries where I have been on voluntary programs," he says "This year, I wanted to come here realizing that the need is greater. Everyone told me I was crazy but the reality is far better than the news indicates. The children at the clinic are well behaved. They come with their mothers and siblings. The assistant helps me understand them, but I usually understand them anyhow. I would come back again for this project."

In addition to helping the children, the dentists act as goodwill ambassadors for Israel. "When I return home, I will complain when I sense that something wrong is being reported on the news about the situation in Israel. I will tell our story to everyone I meet," Lindsors says.

Elliott expressed a similar intention. "I will convey to the people back home that they shouldn't be afraid to come to Israel," he says.

"We are a strong group in Sweden," Busch adds. "We write many articles about the true situation and send them to the press. Unfortunately, none have been published to date. We also circulate e-mails and have sent letters to the Swedish archbishop, who is pro-Palestinian."



Four volunteer dentists work simultaneously in Jerusalem's Dental Volunteers for Israel clinic in order to treat as many needy Jewish and Arab children as possible. [IPS photos]

Busch's suggestions to potential volunteers for DVI: "Trust in Trudi, who gives good advice as to where to go and what to avoid. Avoid crowded buses, travel by car and visit places with a certain amount of precaution. I'm never afraid in Israel!"

Despite the difficulties and the fact that the clinic is only running at an 80 per cent capacity, Birger's extraordinary dedication to the clinic and the devoted DVI dentists who give freely of their time and expertise are helping give the poor children of Jerusalem something to smile about in these troubled times.

Dentists interested in volunteering for DVI can contact:birgert@netvision.net.il.

When medicine could bridge the Middle Eastern divide

By MICHAEL GORDON

The Bedouin woman was flailing about screaming, her heavy embroidered dress flowing over the stretcher. Her face was pale and her pulse was 120 beats a minute with a blood pressure of 100/50. Her husband was explaining in Arabic to the translating nurse that she had developed terrible abdominal pain that afternoon. The nurse confirmed with the patient that she had missed her last period.

It had taken them over an hour to get to Haifa from their village. With them came five other members of the family, and others were gathering outside the department and in the garden outside the obstetrical unit at Haifa's Rambam Hospital. The husband told the woman to co-operate and "enshallah" (with the help of God), all would be well. Blood was taken for hematology and cross matching. The challenge was to get an intravenous going that would withstand her flailing movements.

I was an intern in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, having arrived a few days earlier after a two-month car journey from Scotland, where I had just finished my first intern rotation in medicine at Aberdeen's City Hospital. I was returning to Haifa because of a prize in obstetrics and gynecology that I received from my alma mater, the University of St. Andrews. I was returning to Rambam, having completed a summer studentship there two years previously.

The chief of the department asked if I had ever used an intracath. They had just received some, but no one in the department had any experience with them. I had learned how to use them during my Aberdeen internship and had become reasonably adept at this new procedure which replaced straight needles, taped to the arm, which were always "cutting out." It was the intern's nightmare to get the 3 a.m. call from the ward sister to report the IV had "gone para" and had to be replaced before the blood was ruined or the arm too swollen to use again for awhile.

I swabbed the arm, which was being held by two nurses, and while being watched buy the chief and a resident, I pulled from the package the six-inch catheter with a large bore needle at the end. The intravenous fluid and strips of tape were ready as I put the tourniquet on. The woman was volume depleted, which made it hard to find a vein, but eventually an ante-cubital vein just bigger than the needle could be felt.

With a combination of trepidation and confidence, I pushed the needle in with one movement. As blood rushed into the white catheter, I started to thread it into the vein as I released the tourniquet and pulled the needle out. When the IV was attached, the fluid poured in. While preparing the patient for the OR, we provided plasma. While the incision was being made, the first unit of blood was hung.

By the time the life-saving surgery was over, it seemed like half the village was camped outside the department, spread out on blankets – women in colourful dresses, with heads covered, and men wearing the traditional black and white scarf. When the husband was told that all was well, we could hear the shouts of jubilation outside.

The patient, the most dramatic of the Bedouin and Israeli-Arab patients I looked after in Haifa, was saddened by the loss of the pregnancy, but was joyful at the saving of her life. She was discharged two days later. The intracath was pulled out just prior to her discharge, my first contribution to a department that became my home for the next five months.

Some years later when I immigrated to Israel, I had another exciting experience caring for members of the Arab-Israeli community. I was now a medical resident in Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, which had one of the busiest emergency departments in the city. One evening, an elderly Arab from a rural community was brought in. He had a wound on a lower foot and was going in and out of tetanic seizures. I had never seen a case of tetanus, but recalled the symptoms and signs from medical texts and was told by my staff physician that this was a case of status tetanus. An intern, the emergency room nurse and I managed to get an intravenous line in and administered the first dose of Valium, a drug I had only used intravenously for epileptic seizures. It took a number of repeated doses before the arched back and stiffened neck began to relax. Fortunately his breathing did not stop.

The many family members gathered outside the emergency room were told that the man was very ill, that his prognosis was poor and that we would move him into our newly created and very basic intensive care unit. Once he was settled, I ran to the library and discovered that treatment for him included debridement (surgical removal of dead tissue) and antibiotic treatment of the wound, and intravenous Valium at doses necessary to prevent the seizures.

After a few days, most of the villagers returned home, as the patient was maintained in a state of persistent semi-coma, under the influence of a steady infusion of Valium, titrated to keep him from seizing. He was difficult to nurse, as movement often resulted in muscular contractions, but everything possible was done to prevent pressure ulcers from developing.

Continued on page B8

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Perhaps, one day, physicians will help bring peace

Continued from page B7

Gradually the dose of Valium required to prevent his seizures decreased and he began to awaken. Then, one day, we decided to stop the Valium and he did not seize. We sat him up in a chair and a staff member explained to him what had happened. He smiled at us and blessed us profusely. Two days later, two members of the village returned to visit and seemed astonished that he was sitting in a chair, thin and frail looking, but alive. A week later, he was discharged home, with many blessings from his family and profuse thanks and God's praise from him.

Still, the most exciting experience I had treating a member of the Arab community came when I was an Israeli Air Force physician, doing my rotations as a helicopter evacuation medical officer (equivalent to a MASH unit). I was stationed in Bir Gafkifa (an air base that belonged to the Egyptians prior to the Six Day War. I was now at a forward air force interceptor base and also served the Sinai Peninsula for helicopter evacuations, usually of injured or ill Israeli military personnel.

The call came in that there was an evacuation from the region of Santa Caterina, a monastery deep within the Sinai Peninsula. I had heard of tourists who waxed eloquent about the monastery's mysterious beauty, but I had never seen it.

As the helicopter took off, we all assumed that the evacuee was probably a tourist from one of the organized tours to the historical site. It was late afternoon when we started – an orderly and two paratroopers and I – a standard complement for medivac flights. The sun was setting as the monastery high on the mountain came into view. We could see the flare at the foot of the edifice, which we had been told to look for as a guide to where to pick up the patient.

When we landed, we realized that our assumptions were wrong. Lying on the makeshift stretcher was a 10-year-old boy covered from head to toe in a measles rash, delirious and severely dehydrated. The area nurse introduced the boy's father and told us that he would come with his son to the hospital.

I put in the intravenous line before loading the patient into the helicopter, because the helicopter movement was usually too great to perform procedures.

As we lifted off, the sun was setting over the monastery and the desert was suffused with pink and violet and purples, as the sun slid below the horizon. The father's eyes stared with disbelief as we headed south towards the hospital at Eilat. By the time we arrived, the night lights twinkling as we approached the landing pad, the boy had had sufficient fluid that he was beginning to open his eyes and ask his father where we were. The orderlies removed the boy and his father from the aircraft and we lifted off back through the desert night to the base. I will never forget the look of wonderment on that father's face, as if angels had descended to rescue his dying son – who, we found out the next day, had indeed been rescued.

Over the years that I lived in Israel, I provided care, with my Israeli colleagues, to many members of the Arab communities of Israel, Sinai and the West Bank. I always felt that medicine could help pave the way to peace, that it was my duty as a physician to provide care to everyone and that perhaps such care would act in a small way to cement the bonds that would make for peace. It seems that so far this goal has not been achieved, but that does not mean such actions by Israeli physicians will cease, and perhaps one day, peace will come and physicians will have been a small but important part of that process.

Michael Gordon is head of geriatrics and internal medicine at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto.

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History lives at Jerusalem Archeological Park

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Below the southwestern corner of Jerusalem's Temple Mount, near the archeological feature known as Robinson's Arch, lies a random assortment of massive stone building blocks.

Though you might not realize it at first, these blocks help bring history to life. They were once part of a parapet wall along the perimeter of the Temple Mount. One day in 70 CE, Roman soldiers intent on destroying every vestige of the Jewish Temple pushed the huge stones over the edge.

For nearly two millennia, they have lain where they have fallen.

Stones from the parapet wall of Temple Mount lie where they had fallen nearly 2,0000 years ago. [Bill Gladstone photo]

One of the stones carried part of an ancient Hebrew inscription – "To the area of the trumpets" – which evidently was meant to give directions to Temple shofar-blowers.

Since this is the only inscription discovered from the Second Temple, it was removed to the protection of the Israel Museum and replaced on-site with a replica.

The stones seem to have fallen into an ancient street, whose authentic paving stones are still roughly in place. Due to the deterioration of the underlying drainage system, however, some of the pavement stones have collapsed.

These historic remnants of the Second Temple period were only uncovered in the recent past, after the Six Day War. The period since 1967, which has seen the reunification of Jerusalem, has been one of extraordinary archeological discovery and achievement in Israel.

Robinson's Arch, that bit of Herodian masonry that protrudes from the Western Wall, is presently about 18 metres above ground level. It was at ground level in 1968, and considerably below that in 1835 when the American Bible scholar Edward Robinson (1794-1863) recognized it as the beginning of an arch. Israeli archeologists have carefully examined and removed centuries of rubble.

Historians have determined that Robinson's Arch was part of a causeway over the Tyropoeon Valley to the Upper City, meant to save Temple worshipers an arduous descent and climb to get to the Jewish Quarter. They have also determined that the nearby series of supports for the causeway-bridge once housed four Herodian-era shops.

All these elements and many others are incorporated in the Jerusalem Archeological Park, also known as the Ophel Archeological Park, which, after years of development, fully opened in 2001 with minimum fanfare.

Around the corner, on the south side of the Temple Mount, is the set of stairs that led up to the southern entrance to the Temple. Portions of a double and triple gate are visible, partly blocked off by layers of architecture from later periods. There are also remains of several Ummayad-period palaces, mikvahs, a medieval tower, a Byzantine building and other structures. (It's best to visit the park with a knowledgeable guide who can illuminate this complicated history.)

Also on the site is the Davidson Center, which occupies a restored Umayyad palace. The center offers intriguing exhibitions and illustrations that reflect the Second Temple era, the Roman and Byzantine eras, and the early Muslim period.

You can also learn about archeology and Jewish history here. A short documentary film presents the story of 150 years of excavations in the precincts of the Archeological Park, beginning with the excavations of the Palestine Exploration Fund in the 1850s. A 10-minute digital video describes Jewish pilgrimage to Jerusalem during the Second Temple period.

For many, the *pièce de résistance* of the Davidson Center, and perhaps the whole Archeological Park, may be the Virtual Reconstruction Model of the Herodian Temple Mount. Visitors are shown a convincingly realistic portrayal of the Second Temple, projected onto a screen by a powerful supercomputer and a high-resolution projection system.

Admission to the Jerusalem Archaeological Park is 12 NIS (under $4) for adults. To get a better idea of what the Park is all about, visit its impressive Web site at [www.archpark.org.il/].

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The course is aimed to give Arab and Jewish photographers and journalists the opportunity to enhance their skills as they explored elements of Israeli society.

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Joint vision: photojournalism seminar exposes, explores Jewish-Arab relations

By WENDY ELLIMAN
IPS

Israeli photographer Avi Amran of Beit Shemesh felt awkward sitting in a class with Arab students at the first Jewish-Arab seminar in journalism and photojournalism, especially once the violence of the new intifadah erupted.

"My discomfort lasted the first several weeks of the seminar, but I travelled a long road during that year," he says of the course that he was enrolled in at the 16-year-old Jerusalem School of Photography and New Media in the city's Musrara neighbourhood. The seminar opened just a few weeks before the current violence began.

"Eventually, I chose to do my course-project with an Arab fellow-student, Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a photographer from Abu Ghosh," Amran says. "With him, as with several other Arab students in the seminar, our professional collaboration eventually became friendship, and we still visit one another at home with our families."

For Palestinian photographer Steve Sabella of Jerusalem's Old City, the seminar "opened new avenues for me, and not just professionally. I'd been trying to use my work to force people to open their minds, and show them aspects of Arab life they wouldn't expect. During the course, I met both Israeli students and guest lecturers whose minds were already open. Many of them see our plight, and this has restored my faith for the future."

Continued on page B11

Portrait of the Artist as Someone Else. [IPS photos]

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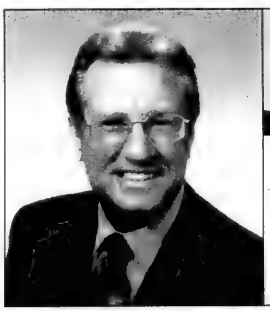

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Canada

'An attempt to see the world from perspective of Arab woman'

Continued from page B10

The seminar, which was taught one day a week for a year, is among several community and co-operation projects fostered by the school (in addition to its full-time programs it teaches in photography, computer imaging and multimedia), all of them supported in part by the Jerusalem Foundation.

The course aimed to give Jewish and Arab photographers and journalists the opportunity to enhance their skills as they explored matters of concern in Israeli society. Heavily oversubscribed, the first course accepted 70 students. A second course with another 70 is now in progress. A third may focus on bridging gaps between Israel's religious and non-religious communities, rather than between Arab and Jew.

Chava Biran, the school's co-ordinator of special projects, says that "while the seminar's purpose was high-level professional training in photojournalism and documentary writing, its underlying theme was, of course, co-existence.

"The external situation made that theme far harder to handle, on both the practical and the emotional levels, but in the end, the students' achievement was correspondingly greater."

Photography school director Avi Sabag says that "by using photography and journalism to expose and explore Jewish-Arab relations, and examine the peace process and social and cultural conflicts, students were later able to move on to develop a common discourse.

"They communicated through their profession, and shared thoughts and aspects of their lives that increase understanding and facilitate dialogue."

Israeli photographer Marsha Vainstein used her camera to explore the feelings of the "other." Winding a white scarf around her head Arab-style, she photographed herself in Jerusalem's Old City.

"It was an attempt to see the world from the perspective of an Arab woman," she says. "I called it *Portrait of the Artist as Someone Else*."

Amram created a photo-montage of four images of a man in flames on the steps of the Dome of the Rock.

"It's called *Abraham-Isaac-Ishmael*," he says, "and it represents my spiritual progress during the year of the seminar. It shows Abraham as the common father of Jew and Arab, of the fire that rages between his sons, Isaac and Ishmael, and how that fire must be extinguished and room made for both."

Daphna Kaplan, from Tel Aviv, photographed graffiti all over Israel and displays some 80 examples in Hebrew, Arabic and English. Fellow students Raed Bwayeh and Ilya Melnikov pointed their cameras at normal, everyday events, such as family picnics by the beach and Old City street scenes.

Sabella's pictures, however, best capture the seminar's theme of hope and change. In his effort to show unexpected aspects of Palestinian life, he has photographed beauty in areas better known for their human ugliness. His lyrical views and sunsets of Nablus and Gaza symbolize a more hopeful future.

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'I love this country'

By SHIRA HONIG
CJN Staff

Looking down from the plane at the Mediterranean's cobalt blue sheen, it seems like all I have to do to unlock the sea's secret underwater treasures is reach out and peel back its surface. The excitement in the El Al plane mounts as we circle above Ben-Gurion airport. A huge cheer erupts when we touch Israeli soil, and we begin to sing. I've been to Israel three times before, but never have I cheered so loudly.

The last time I was here was in July 2000 for my sister's wedding, before the second intifadah broke out, before the United Nations' anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, before Sept. 11, before anti-Semitic violence spread across the globe like wildfire. Before everything. I hope that when it comes to Israel, I will never grow tired or jaded, no matter how many times I visit.

We're here on a mission. If you read this paper regularly, or if you read *The Jerusalem Post*, you've heard about it. Sixty-five Canadians, aged 18 to 32, many of whom have participated in Birthright Israel, are here for a week to volunteer, either with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) or with Yad Eliezer, a non-profit organization that packages and delivers food to the country's poor.

Like me, many others on this trip have been to Israel several times before, and many have family here. We're all ready to contribute, even in a small way, to this great country's well-being.

Immediately after disembarking the plane – some of us kissing the ground – we get on our tour buses to be driven directly to Jerusalem's City Hall. In true Israeli style, we are given banana shakes and chocolate wafers.

From here on in, everything is in brilliant colour. The slight green hills, the square and blue plots of land, and the neat white structures of scattered kibbutzim and moshavim are soaked in the golden light of the late afternoon sun. Even the rocks and the abandoned tanks from the 1948 War of Independence that lie along the road to Jerusalem cast a glow. Black and white film is pointless here.

At City Hall, Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem's mayor, greets us in a conference room upstairs. He thanks us for coming and there are photo ops with the press. The next day – our first day of work at the Yad Eliezer warehouse in Jerusalem – begins chaotically, with an Israeli worker named Yoseph yelling at us to hurry, and us responding by throwing boxes and foodstuffs around without any organization whatsoever. After some confusion and laughter, we settle into a steady assembly-line rhythm, putting together boxes and filling them with items such as flour and sugar.

It's easy, during bleary-eyed moments in a week with little sleep, to forget why I'm here. But every Israeli I meet reminds me – not through their endless thanks, but with their eyes. Some nod at us nonchalantly, but many are clearly delighted and touched that we have come. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Erev Yom Yerushalayim parade that winds through Jerusalem's main streets from City Hall to Sacher Gardens.

Shira Honig [left] with another member of the Canadian volunteer group, Andrea Bergman.

The downtown area is transformed for the event. Balloons, floats and Israeli flags are everywhere. Members of the Gush Katif community hand out fresh red peppers. Kikar Tzion is adorned with rainbow-coloured flags. Temporary stages are filled with dancers and musicians. Signs, posters and t-shirts read: *Kulanu olim l'yerushalayim* (we're all going to Jerusalem), *kol hakavod l'tzahal* (kudos to the IDF) and *halev omer todah* (the heart says thank you). Throngs of students dance in spontaneous horahs and smile for cameras.

As we join the procession, waving our Canadian flags and singing and cheering, I can see the emotion in the eyes of the people who have lined the streets behind the police barricades. Though not many have turned out for the event, they're there. One of our group's participants lets a small boy wave his huge Canadian flag; a soldier

Continued on page B13

Tribute to Israel

Some of the 65 Canadians, aged 18 to 32, who volunteered in Israel in May. This group worked at Yad Eliezer in Romema, Jerusalem.

Much Israeli joy and spirit

Continued from page B12

bends down and gives a little girl a red flower. The men, women and children watching the parade can see the transformation of the city better than any of us can. I feel incredibly privileged to be here at this moment. I want to reach out and thank them all for being so strong and inspiring. Jaffa Street may have been a war-zone on all too many occasions, but the strength and vibrancy of these Israelis cannot be extinguished.

Every native I speak to is confident that they – we – will survive the current conflict

Depending on the way you look at it, the cup is half-full or half-empty. Over the next seven days, I witness much Israeli joy and spirit. I see stores that are closed, but quite a few that are open. Every native I speak to is confident that they – we – will survive the current conflict. The only explosions I hear on Yom Yerushalayim are the sounds of firecrackers over the park, and the air of the Old City is filled with the smells of laundry, challah, olives and pizza.

During the course of the week, I walk in downtown Jerusalem without feeling concerned for my safety. But I also see quiet streets at night and some deserted public places. Hardly any tourists are at the Israel Museum when I visit; for a time, I'm the only person in the Shrine of the Book.

So if you're so inclined, I recommend that you help fill those streets at your earliest opportunity. If you're not so inclined, I suggest you do it anyway. There may never be an ideal time to go. But the state exists now – after more than 2,000 years of it being an impossibility – and now is the ideal time to play a part in its history and welfare, and to feel a part of something much bigger than yourself. If you embrace it, it will captivate you.

Throughout the week, there are moments of boisterous singing, cheering and dancing. We make *Havdalah* in a joy-filled ceremony on a hotel rooftop at Kibbutz Maale Hachamisha and sing *Hatikvah*. Someone yells out, "I love this country!"

We all do. *Halev omēr todah. Am Yisrael Chai.*

The author's trip was organized by Canada-Israel Experience, and sponsored by UIA Federations Canada and the local Jewish federations of Toronto and Montreal. For more information on upcoming missions, call the Canada-Israel Experience at 416-398-6931.

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[Israel Sun photo]

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Guidebook offers scholarly detail in friendly, readable style

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

For avid travellers, the publication of a new guidebook for a beloved country is often the occasion for considerable curiosity and hope.

On a recent trip to Israel, I tried out a relatively new guidebook – the 2nd edition of the *Footprint Israel Handbook* – and was delighted to discover that it offers more scholarly detail than I have yet seen in an Israel guidebook, while retaining a friendly, readable style.

The book was written by Dave Winter and published just before the latest intifadah got under way. It's worth reading, even if only in remembrance of trips taken. It also makes an excellent tool for planning a future trip.

The book is brimming with respect for the Jewish people and their land, and what makes both of them special. It reflects an unmistakable fascination for its subject and a thorough familiarity with history and culture. There are many thoughtful sidebars, 16 pages of colour photographs and hundreds of small sketch maps and illustrations.

Pick a spot: Chances are you'll find more relevant information about it in *Footprint* than in any other Israel guide you can name. The text is not just a dry catalogue of facts and figures; it's informed by fine judgment, as you can see in this straightforward assessment at the beginning of the chapter on the Mediterranean Coastal Strip:

"Visitors seeking a sun, sea and sand holiday tend to head to Eilat, at the southern tip of the Negev. This is a great pity since the beaches along the Mediterranean coast, despite lacking the underwater splendour of the Red Sea's coral reefs, are infinitely superior."

As expected, there are extensive chapters on Jerusalem and all regions from the Negev to the Galilee and the Golan. Naturally, *Footprint* treads carefully when presenting its chapters on the West Bank and Gaza; I was impressed by its sensitive treatment of political issues over nomenclature and other matters.

Although it presents many suggestions about where to stay and eat, and discusses the relative merits of bus travel and car rental, the book seems less concerned with these pragmatic matters than the Frommer, Fodor or Lonely Planet guides. The main focus seems to be on the sights that brought us to the region in the first place.

My two favourite guidebooks on Israel until now have been *Lonely Planet Israel* and the *Knopf Guide to the Holy Land*. The *Footprint Israel Handbook* seems to offer as much useful information as both of them put together. It takes an honoured place beside these trusted favourites on my shelf.

Those who venture to Israel, or are planning to do so reasonably soon, should consider taking this worthy guidebook along.

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Dr. Chaim Weizmann and The Arabs

By AVNER MEIRI

The relationship between Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first president of the State of Israel, and the Arabs has a long and interesting history.

When Weizmann arrived in Egypt in March 1918 with the members of the Zionist Commission, he discovered that Lord Arthur Balfour's remarks that "the Arab problem is not a serious obstacle" did not really stand up to the reality of the situation.

None of the Zionist leaders were aware of, or familiar with, developments in the Arab national movement. Many Arab leaders joined the revolt of Sherif Hussain from Hejaz – what is today western Saudi Arabia – against the Turks in the hopes that they would have an independent Arab state from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire.

In time, Weizmann noted the special problems confronting him in his efforts to improve Jewish-Arab relations. Though the Arab leaders of Egypt and Hejaz were ready to co-operate with the Zionists in return for their support in establishing an Arab federation, the Arabs of Palestine were suspicious and felt they were being asked to give up something without receiving anything in return.

Weizmann seized the first opportunity to eliminate these suspicions when he was invited to a reception given on April 27, 1918, by the governor of Jerusalem, Sir Ronald Storrs. Many distinguished Palestinian Arab leaders attended the gathering, including Mussa Kazim Al-Hussaini, the mayor of Jerusalem, and his deputy, S. Salamah, as well as representatives from the Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches in Jerusalem.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann

In his speech, Weizmann declared: "I am not foreign to this country, even though I was born a little to the north. None of my brothers, who are scattered over the whole world, are foreign to this country. We are not coming to Palestine now, but are returning to our borders. There is enough land and enough room in Palestine to settle several times the number of people it now holds. All the fears expressed by the Arabs, openly or in secret, lest they be ousted from the land on which they now live, are nothing but the fruit of a gross error about our approach and our aspirations, or the result of phantoms created by our common enemies. It is better for us to live in peace, and only if this is the case will the country develop in a proper manner. Once again, we are witnessing the formation of a strong and united Arab body, which is taking on a new life and is about to resuscitate the glorious tradition of Arab science and literature, which are so close to our hearts."

When Storrs referred to the Balfour Declaration in his welcoming remarks, there were cries of opposition from the assembled Arab leaders. The Mufti of Jerusalem, Kamal Al-Hussaini, the older brother of Haj Amin Al-Hussaini, who succeeded him, left the reception in protest.

Weizmann's unsuccessful attempts to talk to other influential Arab leaders of Palestine, including Kamal Al-Hussaini, showed how deeply suspicious they were of Jewish intentions.

On Balfour's advice, Weizmann approached Emir Faisal ibn Hussain, a member of the Hashemite dynasty of Arabia, who became king of Iraq in 1921. The meeting was arranged and held at Faisal's headquarters near Aqaba in June 1918. The two leaders discussed future relations between the Jews and the Arabs in the Middle East.

This meeting, as well as future talks between the two men and other Zionist leaders in Europe, led to the Weizmann-Faisal Agreement of Jan. 3, 1919. The agreement outlined the close relationship between the two ancient peoples. It promised that all necessary measures would be taken to encourage and stimulate Jewish immigration to Palestine "on a large scale." In addition, it also guaranteed that Muslim holy places would be under Muslim supervision.

When Arab-Jewish tensions increased in the 1920s with Arab riots in Jerusalem, Faisal refrained from any reference to the agreement. His excuse for the violence was that Arab demands were not met, and that the agreement was conditional on their fulfilment.

But Weizmann never gave up hope. He continued in his efforts to obtain a settlement between the Jews and the Arabs – in particular, the Arabs of Palestine. Faisal, on the other hand, drew a middle course between confidence and fear and between friendship and opposition.

Several American Zionist leaders, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, called on Faisal to clarify his position. After their meeting in Paris in early 1919, Faisal sent the following letter to Frankfurter:

Continued on page B16

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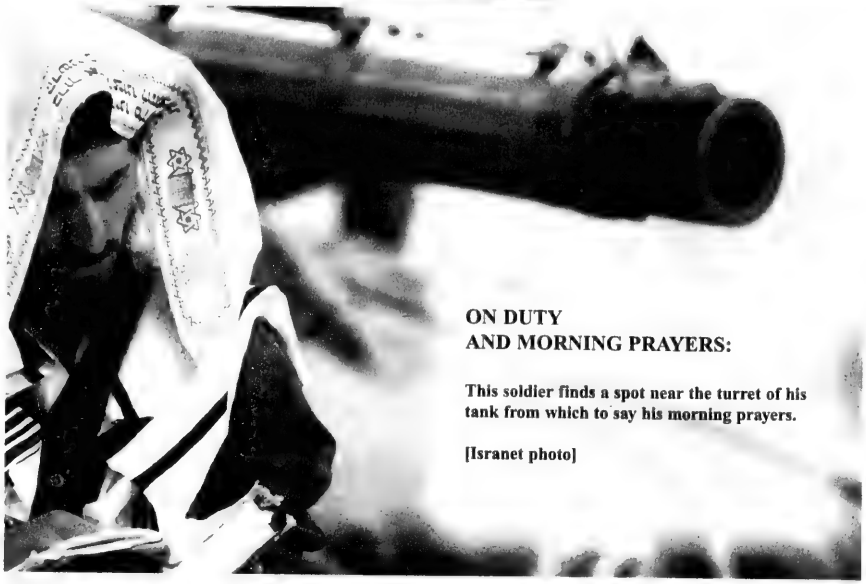

ON DUTY AND MORNING PRAYERS:

This soldier finds a spot near the turret of his tank from which to say his morning prayers.

[Isranet photo]

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British interference cancels Weizmann-Pasha meeting

Continued from page B15

"I want to take this opportunity of my first contact with American Zionists to tell you what I have often been able to say to Dr. Weizmann in Arabia and in Europe. We feel that the Arabs and Jews are cousins in race, having suffered similar oppressions at the hands of powers stronger than themselves, and by a happy coincidence, having been able to take the first step towards the attainment of their national ideas together."

He further noted: "We Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement. With the chiefs of your movement, especially with Dr. Weizmann, we have had and continue to have the closest relations. He has been a great helper to our cause, and I hope the Arabs may soon be in a position to give the Jews some return for their kindness. We are working together for a reformed and revived Near East, and our two movements compliment one another."

After this date, Weizmann made many attempts to meet Faisal and other Arab leaders in order to continue their dialogue, but sadly, most of these attempts were sabotaged by the British authority in the Middle East.

One of these instances occured in 1924, when Weizmann arrived in Cairo, anxious to meet with Egyptian leaders to obtain a declaration in support of the Zionist movement. With the help of an Egyptian Jewish friend, Leon Castro, Weizmann succeeded in arranging a meeting with Saad Zaglul Pasha, a prominent Egyptian leader and head of the Wafd party.

On the same day as the planned meeting with Pasha, Weizmann had been invited for lunch at the residence of the British High Commissioner. During the course of the afternoon, Weizmann mentioned that he had an appointment with Pasha later in the day in order to obtain a declaration in support of Zionism.

The British saw Pasha as an enemy because of his struggles to free his people and his country from the oppression of colonialism. The high commissioner advised Weizmann to cancel the appointment. The meeting never took place.

Avner Meiri was born in Baghdad. A retired teacher now living in Toronto, he devotes most of his time to Hebrew and English literature.

Statement in the United Nations General Assembly by Ambassador Chaim Herzog on the item "Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination," Nov. 10, 1975.

In view of events unfolding today, we have decided to reproduce excerpts from the remarks made by Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, on Nov. 10, 1975, immediately after the adoption of Resolution 3379 on eliminating racial discrimination. He rose to denounce the resolution and those who voted for its adoption, spoke about the origin and meaning of Zionism and said Israel was not bound by this resolution and would not abide by it.

It is symbolic that this debate, which may well prove to be a turning point in the fortunes of the United Nations and a decisive factor as to the possible continued existence of this organization, should take place on 10 November. This night, 37 years ago, has gone down in history as Kristallnacht, or the Night of the Crystals...

It is indeed fitting that this draft, conceived in the desire to deflect the Middle East from its moves towards peace, and born of a deep, pervading feeling of anti-Semitism, should come up for debate on this day which recalls one of the tragic days in one of the darkest periods of history. It is indeed fitting that the United Nations, which began its life as an anti-Nazi alliance, should, 30 years later, find itself on its way to becoming the world centre of anti-Semitism. Hitler would have felt at home on a number of occasions during the past year, listening to the proceedings in this forum and, above all, to the proceedings during the debate on Zionism.

It is a sobering reflection indeed to consider to what this body has been dragged down, if we are obliged today to contemplate an attack on Zionism. For this attack constitutes not only an anti-Semitic attack of the foulest type, but also an attack in this world body on Judaism, one of the oldest established religions in the world, a religion which has given the world the human values of the Bible, a religion from which two other great religions, Christianity and Islam, sprang, a great and established religion that has given to the world the Bible with its Ten Commandments; the great prophets of old, Moses, Isaiah, Amos; the great thinkers of history, Maimonides, Spinoza, Marx, Einstein; many of the masters of the arts; and as high a percentage of Nobel Prize winners in the world, in the sciences, the arts and the humanities, as has been achieved by any other people on earth.

One can but ponder and wonder at the prospect of countries, which consider themselves to be part of the civilized world, joining in this first organized attack on an established religion since the Middle Ages. Yes, to these depths are we being dragged by those who propose this draft resolution – to the Middle Ages.

The draft resolution before the Third Committee was originally a resolution condemning racism and colonialism, a subject on which consensus could have been achieved, a consensus which is of great importance to all of us and to our African colleagues in particular. However, instead of this being permitted to happen, a group of countries, drunk with the feeling of power inherent in the automatic majority, and without regard to the importance of achieving a consensus on this issue, railroaded the committee in a contemptuous manner by the use of the automatic majority, into bracketing Zionism with the subject under discussion. Indeed, it is difficult to speak of this base move with any measure of restraint.

Continued on page B18

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Tribute to Israel

'Zion...the Jewish homeland'

Continued from page B17

I do not come to this rostrum to defend the moral and historical values of the Jewish people. They do not need to be defended. They speak for themselves. They have given to mankind much of what is great and eternal. They have done for the spirit of man more than can readily be appreciated in a forum such as this one.

I come here to denounce the two great evils which menace society in general and a society of nations in particular. These two evils are hatred and ignorance. These two evils are the motivating force behind the proponents of this draft resolution and their supporters. These two evils characterize those who would drag this world organization, the idea of which was first conceived by the prophets of Israel, to the depths to which it has been dragged today.

The key to understanding Zionism lies in its name. In the Bible, the westernmost of the two hills of ancient Jerusalem was called Zion. The period was the 10th century BC. In fact, the name "Zion" appears 152 times in the Old Testament referring to Jerusalem. The name is overwhelmingly a poetic and prophetic designation. The religious and emotional qualities of the name arise from the importance of Jerusalem as the Royal City and the City of the Temple. Mount Zion is the place where God dwells according to the Bible. Jerusalem, or Zion, is a place where the Lord is King according to Isaiah, and where he has installed his King David, as quoted in the Psalms.

KING DAVID MADE JERUSALEM THE CAPITAL OF ISRAEL ALMOST 3,000 YEARS AGO, AND JERUSALEM HAS REMAINED THE CAPITAL EVER SINCE.

King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel almost 3,000 years ago, and Jerusalem has remained the capital ever since. During the centuries, the term "Zion" grew and expanded to mean the whole of Israel. The Israelites in exile could not forget Zion.

The Hebrew psalmist sat by the waters of Babylon and swore, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning." This oath has been repeated for thousands of years by Jews throughout the world. It is an oath which was made over 700 years before the advent of Christianity, and over 1,200 years before the advent of Islam.

In view of all these connotations, Zion came to mean the Jewish homeland, symbolic of Judaism, of Jewish national aspirations.

Every Jew, while praying to his God, wherever he is in the world, faces towards Jerusalem. These prayers have expressed for over 2,000 years of exile the yearning of the Jewish people to return to their ancient homeland, Israel. In fact, a continuous Jewish presence, in larger or smaller numbers, has been maintained in the country over the centuries.

Zionism is the name of the national movement of the Jewish people and is the modern expression of the ancient Jewish heritage. The Zionist ideal, as set out in the Bible, has been, and is, an integral part of the Jewish religion.

Zionism is to the Jewish people what the liberation movement of Africa and Asia have been to their peoples. Zionism is one of the most stirring and constructive national movements in human history. Historically, it is based on a unique and unbroken connection, extending some 4,000 years, between the People of the Book and the Land of the Bible.

In modern times, in the late 19th century, spurred by the twin forces of anti-Semitic persecution and nationalism, the Jewish people organized the Zionist movement in order to transform their dream into reality. Zionism as a political movement was the revolt of an oppressed nation against the depredations and wicked discrimination and oppression of the countries in which anti-Semitism flourished. It is indeed no coincidence at all, and not surprising, that the sponsors and supporters of this draft resolution include countries which are guilty of the horrible crime of anti-Semitism and discrimination to this very day.

Support for the aim of Zionism was written into the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine, and was again endorsed by the United Nations in 1947, when the General Assembly voted by an overwhelming majority for the restoration of Jewish independence in our ancient land.

The re-establishment of Jewish independence in Israel, after centuries of struggle to overcome foreign conquest and exile, is a vindication of the fundamental concepts of the equality of nations and of self-determination. To question the Jewish people's right to national existence and freedom is not only to deny to the Jewish people the right accorded to every other people on this globe but it is also to deny the central precepts of the United Nations.

For Zionism is nothing more – and nothing less – than the Jewish people's sense of origin and destination in the land, linked eternally with its name. It is also the instrument whereby the Jewish nation seeks an authentic fulfilment of itself. And the drama is enacted in the region in which the Arab nation has realized its sovereignty in 20 states, comprising 100 million people in 4½ million square miles, with vast resources. The issue therefore is not whether the world will come to terms with Arab nationalism. The question is at what point Arab nationalism, with its prodigious glut of advantage, wealth and opportunity, will come to terms with the modest but equal rights of another Middle Eastern nation to pursue its life in security and peace.

The vicious diatribes on Zionism voiced here by Arab representatives, may give this Assembly the wrong impression, that while the rest of the world supported the Jewish national liberation movement, the Arab world was always hostile to Zionism.

That is not the case. Arab leaders, cognizant of the rights of the Jewish people, fully endorsed the virtues of Zionism. Sherif Hussain, the leader of the Arab world during the First World War, welcomed the return of the Jews to Palestine. His son, Emir Faisal, who represented the Arab world in the Paris Peace Conference had this to say about Zionism on March 3, 1919:

Continued on page B19

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Tribute to Israel

'Testing agent of human decency'

Continued from page B18

"We Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement... We will wish the Jews a hearty welcome home... We are working together for a reformed and revised Near East, and our two movements complement one another. The movement is national and not imperialistic. There is room in Syria for us both. Indeed, I think that neither can be a success without the other..."

We in Israel have endeavoured to create a society which strives to implement the highest ideals of society – political, social and cultural – for all the inhabitants of Israel, irrespective of religious belief, race or sex. Show me another pluralistic society in this world in which, despite all the difficult problems among which we live, Jew and Arab live together with such a degree of harmony, in which the dignity and rights of man are observed before the law, in which no death sentence is applied, in which freedom of speech, of movement, of thought, of expression are guaranteed, in which even movements which are opposed to our national aims are represented in our Parliament.

The Arab delegates talk of racism. It lies not in their mouths. What has happened to the 800,000 Jews who lived for over 2,000 years in the Arab lands, who formed some of the most ancient communities long before the advent of Islam? Where are those communities? What happened to the people, what happened to their property?

The Jews were once one of the important communities in the countries of the Middle East, the leaders of thought, of commerce, of medical science. Where are they in Arab society today?...

[Zionism] is our attempt to build a society, imperfect though it may be – and what society is perfect? – in which the visions of the prophets of Israel will be realized. I know that we have problems. I know that many disagree with our government's policies. Many in Israel, too, disagree from time to time with the government's policies, and are free to do so, because Zionism has created the first and only real democratic state in a part of the world that never really knew democracy and freedom of speech.

This malicious resolution, designed to divert us from its true purpose, is part of a dangerous anti-Semitic idiom which is being insinuated into every public debate by those who have sworn to block the current move towards accommodation and ultimately towards peace in the Middle East...

We are seeing here today but another manifestation of the bitter anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish hatred which animates Arab society. Who would have believed that in the year of 1975 the malicious falsehoods of the Elders of Zion would be distributed officially by Arab governments? Who would have believed that we would today contemplate an Arab society which teaches the vilest anti-Jewish hate in the kindergartens? Who would have believed that an Arab head of state would feel obliged to indulge publicly in anti-Semitism of the cheapest nature when visiting a friendly nation? We are being attacked by a society which is motivated by the most extreme form of racism known in the world today. This is the racism which was expressed so succinctly in the words of the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat, in his opening address at a symposium in Tripoli, Libya, and I quote: "There will be no presence in the region except for the Arab presence." In other words, in the Middle East, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf, only one presence is allowed, and that is the Arab presence. No other people, regardless of how deep are its roots in the region, is to be permitted to enjoy its right of self-determination.

Twin evils of the world: hatred and ignorance

Look at the tragic fate of the Kurds of Iraq. Look at what happened to the black population in southern Sudan. Look at the dire peril in which an entire community of Christians finds itself in Lebanon. Look at the avowed policy of the PLO, which calls, in its Palestine Covenant, for the destruction of the State of Israel, which denies any form of compromise on the Palestine issue, and which, in the words of its representative only the other day in this building, considers Tel Aviv to be occupied territory. Look at all this and you see before you the root cause of the pernicious resolution brought before this Assembly. You see the twin evils of this world at work: the blind hatred of the Arab proponents of this resolution, and the abysmal ignorance and wickedness of those who support them...

Over the centuries, it has fallen to the lot of my people to be the testing agent of human decency, the touchstone of civilization, the crucible in which enduring human values are to be tested. A nation's level of humanity could invariably be judged by its behaviour towards its Jewish population. It always began with the Jews but never ended with them...

This wicked resolution must sound the alarm for all decent people in the world. The Jewish people, as a testing agent, has unfortunately never erred. The implications inherent in this shameful move are terrifying indeed...

As I stand on this rostrum, the long and proud history of my people unravels itself before my inward eye, I see the oppressors of our people over the ages as they pass one after another in evil procession into oblivion. I stand here before you as the representative of a strong and flourishing people which has survived them all...

For us, the Jewish people, this is but a passing episode in a rich and an event-filled history. We put our trust in our Providence, in our faith and beliefs, in our time-hallowed tradition, in our striving for social advance and human values, and in our people wherever they may be. For us, the Jewish people, this resolution, based on hatred, falsehood and arrogance, is devoid of any moral or legal value. For us, the Jewish people, this is no more than a piece of paper, and we shall treat it as such.

At this point, Herzog tore the document, in full view of the plenary assembly, and left the dais.

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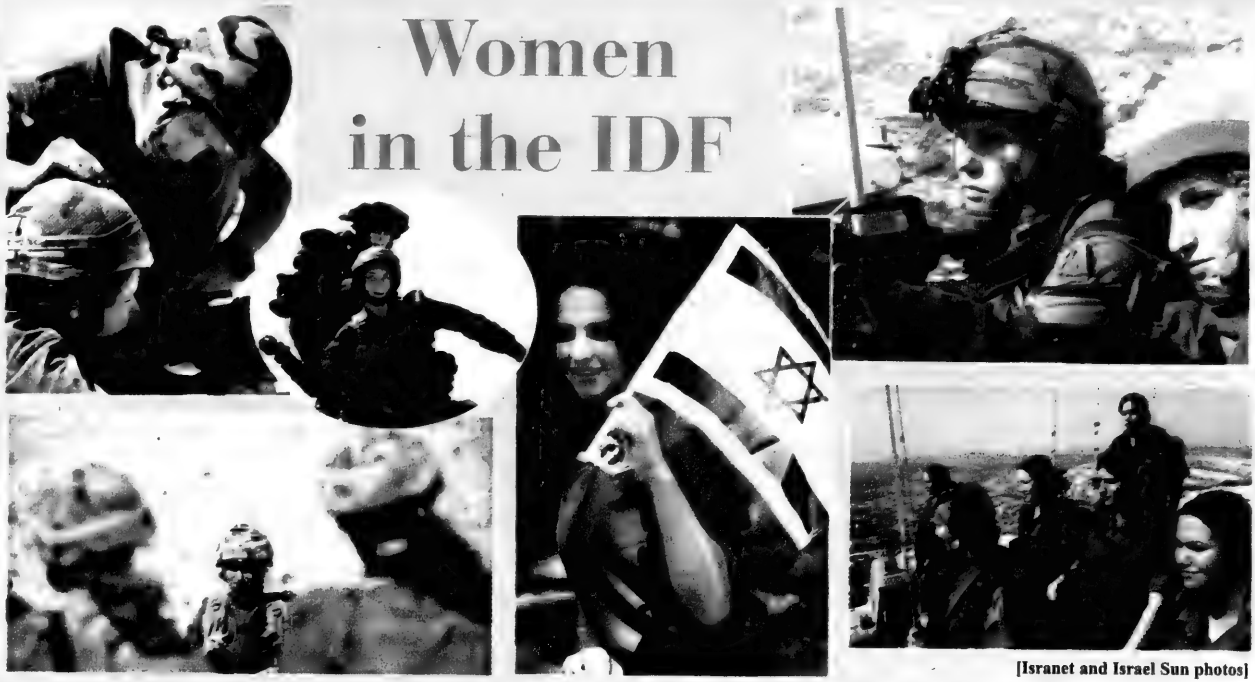

[Israel and Israel Sun photos]

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On Wednesday evening, September 18th, Ben-Gurion University and Mount Sinai Hospital will honour Dr. Zane Cohen, the Surgeon-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital.

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Entering into an unprecedented third term as Surgeon-in-Chief at Mount Sinai, Dr. Cohen is also Chair of the Divison of General Surgery at the University of Toronto. Under his leadership, the department of surgery has developed into a world class centre. Dr. Cohen has launched a project that is part of the Leadership Sinai Advanced Surgical Technology Centre. This project allows surgeons at Mount Sinai Hospital to demonstrate skills to countless professionals worldwide. Among his responsibilities here in Toronto, Dr. Cohen will be educating and teaching students and surgeons at Ben-Gurion University.

Proceeds from the event will be used to establish the Zane and Joan Cohen Scholarship Edowment Fund and will provide scholarship/fellowship funding for individuals studying or working in the area of gastrointestinal diseases both medical and surgical at Ben-Gurion University. At Mount Sinai Hospital, a Surgical Same Day Admitting Unit will be established.

Please join in honouring Zane on this special milestone in his life. In doing so, you will have strengthened the ties that bind Israel and Canada through the partnership of the Hospital and the University.

Yours truly,

Joseph Mapa
President & Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Hospital

Gary Fine, President Ontario Chapter,
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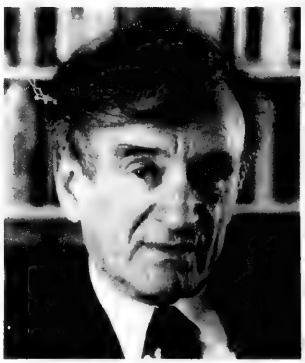

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On Campus

Students, faculty reject call for Israel disinvestment

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Israel supporters in Cambridge, Mass., have hit back hard in response to a small faculty campaign urging Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to divest from companies conducting business in Israel.

Responding to a pro-divestment faculty petition that garnered nearly 120 signatures, 4,000 Harvard and MIT faculty, students and staff have signed a counter-petition calling the divestment effort "a one-sided attempt to delegitimize Israel."

Among the more famous anti-divestment signatories are law professors Alan Dershowitz and Laurence Tribe, Near Eastern languages and civilizations professor Shaye Cohen and medical professor Dr. Jerome Groopman.

The debate at Harvard and MIT comes amid a flurry of divestment campaigns at universities across the United States, including Princeton, the University of Michigan and the University of California system.

Modelled on successful efforts in the 1980s to get universities to divest their holdings in apartheid South Africa, the new campaigns often make explicit comparisons between Israel and South Africa.

For example, the Web site promoting the Princeton divestment petition – which has the support of 41 faculty members – features a quote from Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "If I were to change the names, a description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank could describe events in South Africa."

A conference aimed at launching a national divestment effort was held in March in Berkeley, organized by a group called Students for Justice in Palestine.

The divestment activists have not yet persuaded any university to consider divesting from companies operating in Israel or from U.S. companies that sell arms to Israel.

However, Jewish groups say the campaign's real goal is to demonize Israel.

"It's a tool to implant in the minds of the campus and the larger society that Israel today is like the South Africa of yore, that Israel is the contemporary apartheid state," said Jeffrey Ross, director of campus-higher education affairs for the Anti-Defamation League.

The efforts are also an attempt to attract left-wing students and non- white students to the Palestinian cause, Ross said.

The divestment effort at Harvard and MIT suffered setbacks with a May 8 editorial in the Harvard *Crimson* calling comparisons to South Africa "offensive, repugnant and detrimental to peace."

"This proposal for divestment once again makes Israel the victim of a double standard," the editorial says. "Israel is not the only nation that takes strong and forceful action in times of war, yet it is consistently singled out for criticism."

Harvard's president, Lawrence Summers, told students at a public event that he opposes divestment from Israel, the *Crimson* reported.

The Harvard-MIT divestment effort sparked particular concern, Jewish activists say, because two of the faculty signatories were "house masters," or faculty who serve as counsellors and advisers at residential halls.

The divestment petition calls on the universities to divest until Israel – among other things – complies with UN Security Council Resolution 242 and accepts that Palestinian refugees either be allowed to return to their former lands or be compensated for their losses.

Israel accepts Resolution 242 and other resolutions on refugees, but not the Arab interpretation of those documents.

Harvard has an estimated $614 million in investments in companies that conduct business in Israel.

Beside the 54 MIT faculty and 64 Harvard ones, five Israeli academics signed the petition calling for divestment.

The anti-divestment petition, written by Harvard and MIT faculty and signed by faculty, staff, students and alumni, has been circulated in part by a new student group called Harvard Students for Justice in the Middle East.

The petition notes that the signatories have "diverse opinions on how peace in the Middle East can be achieved," but notes that "to place blame solely on Israel for the recent state of affairs and to demand unilateral concessions without showing any concern for its self-defense is unjust."

Jeffrey Bander, a medical student who in the past few weeks helped spearhead the new Harvard students' group, said the anti-divestment petition's success is "a good example for other Jews."

Bander, who has been to Israel several times but had not previously been involved in campus Jewish organizations, said the group was born out of frustration over "the propaganda and misinformation prevalent on campus."

"I feel that, in general, there's a war going on on our campuses, and that war is being won and fought very well by the pro-Palestinian side," Bander said.

"Very little is done by Jewish groups or agencies to help explain what Israel's position is."

Harvard's Hillel has also circulated the anti-divestment petition. In addition, it is sending a student-faculty solidarity mission to Israel next month, and is raising money to purchase new ambulances for Israel.

The campus also started a Jewish-Palestinian dialogue group this spring.

While Harvard has not been a hub of anti-Israel activity, it has been "uncomfortable to state really pro-Israel views in public" there, said Benjamin Solomon-Schwartz, Hillel's student president.

"In general, especially within the Jewish community, this is a difficult question because we want to say something powerful in support of Israel, but there is a large diversity of opinions," Solomon-Schwartz said. "We don't want to alienate people who don't have a certain opinion, but we want to be a voice for support of Israel on campus."

Princeton's divestment campaign sparked a smaller counter-effort, spearheaded in part by Adina Yoffie, daughter of the Reform movement's president, Rabbi Eric Yoffie.

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THE FUTURE OF JEWISH EDUCATION: Prof. Alex Pomson (centre), coordinator of the Jewish teacher education program at York University, was recently appointed York's first Koschitzky Family Chair in Jewish Teacher Education. (From left): Prof. Martin Lockshin, director, Centre for Jewish Studies; Prof. Paul Axelrod, dean, faculty of education; Henry Koschitzky; Julia Koschitzky; Pomson; Prof. Robert Drummond, dean, faculty of arts; Lorna Marsden, York president and vice-chancellor; Seymour Epstein, executive director, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education; and Paul Marcus, president and CEO, York University Foundation.

Coast to Coat

CBC: responsibly questioning the 'massacre'

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

By mid April, while major components of the British media were discrediting themselves by promoting the "massacre myth" of the Jenin refugee camp, CBC continued to act far more responsibly. It was closer in accuracy and fairness to the U.S. media from which, ironically, it often likes to distinguish itself.

On April 19, the day the Israeli army pulled out of Jenin, Neil MacDonald accurately reported: "A legend is in the making of a massacre of hundreds of dead. But the true number would appear to be more like 40 or 50, mostly armed fighters and of course some innocents." Macdonald described the genuine human tragedy wrought by the destruction in Jenin.

Unfortunately, he failed to explain that Jenin was the point of origin for 23 suicide bombing attacks, necessitating sustained combat to eliminate terrorist cells ensconced among civilians in the camp.

Still, Macdonald concluded his report by noting that the Israeli army lost 23 soldiers who were "young men... sacrificed because commanders chose to fight selectively and not carpet bomb the entire population of the refugee camp into oblivion."

And while I wrote earlier in this space that CBC, in the week of April 14, failed to show Israeli aerial footage of Jenin indicating that only a small area of the refugee camp had been devastated, Terry Milewski's report of April 20 did present that film. It also included Israel's statement that "about 95, 96 buildings of the 1,200 in the camp were damaged," a figure far less than Macdonald's claim, in his April 18 report, that "hundreds of buildings were destroyed."

Towards the end of April, reports were already emerging from human rights groups that they could find no evidence of a "massacre."

On April 30, Paul Hunter reported on United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's plan to scrap a mission to Jenin. In the absence of a UN investigation, Hunter wondered "who to believe?" among the competing claims of Palestinians still alleging a massacre. Palestinian Authority minister Saeb Erekat was featured claiming that Israel was trying to cover up "war crimes and massacres." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was then shown denouncing such a "blood libel against the Jewish people, against Israel."

Hunter cited Israel's claim that only "50 Palestinians and just over 20 Israeli soldiers" died, and admitted that "there's no evidence of anything more." But if that's so, why did he repeat the outrageous accusation from an unidentified Palestinian woman first reported nearly three weeks before: "All the young men are gone. The Israelis killed them, picked up their bodies with bulldozers and threw them in the sewage."

By this time, the news media, knowing that there was no evidence of a massacre, might have steered clear of such sensationalism.

One more illustration of international ambivalence about the Jenin story: Human Rights Watch issued statements in early May indicating that it found no evidence of a massacre, but raised the charge of war crimes that Israel also denounced.

Covering the Human Rights Watch story, Peter Mansbridge noted Israel's rejection of the war crimes charge, and that it questioned "why Palestinians aren't subject to the same scrutiny."

A good question, indeed.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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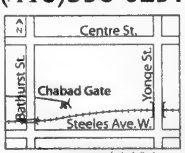

Harts maintain love affair with Hamilton community

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — When Sharon and Lawrence Hart moved to Hamilton in 1987, they almost immediately began volunteering for a variety of Jewish organizations.

The couple, who are admired by many in the community, were honoured at the recent Jewish National Fund (JNF) Negev Dinner in recognition of their longtime dedication and commitment.

Sharon, who is currently national vice-president of JNF of Canada and also serves as national chair of JNF's centennial committee, recently represented Canada at the world conference of worldwide JNF leaders in Jerusalem. Over the past 15 years, she has led many JNF committees, organized Negev dinners and has chaired Tu b'Shvat telethons and blue box campaigns. In 1998, she was awarded the prestigious Bernard Bloomfield Medal for Meritorious Service by JNF Canada. She has also served as vice-president of the Hamilton JCC, and presided over the Nitsan chapter of Na'amat as well as Hamilton Hebrew Academy's parent teacher association. Despite her busy schedule, she finds time to relax by playing tennis with friends at the JCC.

Lawrence currently chairs the public affairs committee of the Hamilton Jewish Federation and is a member of the

Sharon and Lawrence Hart

community editorial board of the *Hamilton Spectator*, where he is a regular columnist. Before taking on his current term as Maccabi Canada president, he served a three-year term as national president of B'nai Brith Canada (BBC). For several years, he was chair of the organization's Institute for International Affairs and in 1997, he co-chaired the organization's first international conference on hate on the Internet. He has sat on the board of numerous organizations, including the United Jewish Appeal, Shalom Village and the local JNF, and has sat on the executives of the Canada-Israel Committee and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

The Harts both grew up in households that were very committed to charitable causes and the Jewish world. Sharon's grandparents moved to Israel in 1911 from White Russia and were among the founders of Nachalat Ganim, now part of modern-day Ramat Gan, which today has a street named in memory of her grandfather, Menachem Yitzchak Levin.

Sharon's mother, Haya Levin, the youngest of seven, was the first child in her family to have been born in Israel. There she met and married Chaim Marcovitz. Sharon's father, who was a labour camp survivor from Romania. The couple later joined Chaim's family in Canada.

"From a young age, I have always felt a sense of responsibility, a need to be involved with our local community and with Israel," Sharon says.

"It was amazing for my parents to see the creation of the State of Israel and that made a great impact on our Jewish identity and pride. Israel is such an incredible place. If you think about it, the country has been in a state of war since its birth, and despite that – look at how much has been achieved."

Sharon grew up in Montreal and moved to Toronto with her family when she was 15. She graduated from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) at the top of her class, and went on to pursue a medical career in family practice and obstetrics at the University of Toronto, where she met Lawrence. The couple's first date was in a falafel restaurant on erev Yom Kippur; within a year they were engaged. They were married in 1981.

Lawrence was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. His parents, Gerald and Sorel (Berkowitz) were first generation South Africans. There was always a strong sense of Jewish values, particularly tzedakah, in their household, Lawrence says.

"I was born just after midnight on January 1, [1952], and as was traditional for the first arrival of the new year, my mother was presented with a hamper of baby products from a local department store, which she immediately donated to a mother and child shelter," he says.

"While that was an example of her tzedakah, it later impressed me that right from birth, I had somehow become involved with charitable giving."

After graduating from medical school in Johannesburg, Lawrence came to Canada for specialist training. In addition to a residency in internal medicine, he completed both a fellowship in rheumatology and a master's degree in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics at McMaster University. He then pursued further post-doctoral training at the Hammersmith Hospital in London, England. He is now associate professor of medicine at McMaster and director of the rheumatic disease unit at Chedoke Division, Hamilton Health Sciences.

An enthusiastic runner, Lawrence has competed at every distance, from 5 km road races to 92 km marathons. His most memorable races, he says, include the Comrades Marathon, the Boston Marathon and the New York Marathon. He has just returned from from Cape Breton where he was part of a 17-person team that completed the 298 km Cabot Trail relay race.

As the recently elected national president of Maccabi Canada, Lawrence hopes to publicize the organization's projects that are aimed at increasing Jewish identity, Jewish unity and awareness of Israel.

"For too long, Maccabi has been regarded as an organization that only sends athletes to Israel," he says. "What goes mostly unnoticed is that it actually has a strong youth infrastructure that stretches across the world."

In addition to their careers and volunteer work, the Harts have also raised three daughters: Lara, 19, Ilana, 17, and Yael, 14. Lara has just completed her first year at the University of Toronto majoring in life sciences, Ilana will be graduating from CHAT this month and going to U of T in September and Yael is in her last year at the Hamilton Hebrew Academy.

Accomplished dancers in tap, jazz and ballet, they have each danced competitively for more than a decade and have won medals at many local and provincial competitions.

Like their parents, the Hart girls are longtime volunteers. They have helped out many organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, as well as with JNF blue box collections and Tu b'Shvat telethons.

Israel remains an important focus of family life. Sharon and Lawrence have tried to instil a love of Israel in their children. They have made many trips to Israel, together and individually. Lara spent four months in Israel last year on the Ramah Senior Educational Experience program.

"We've tried to set an example for them from a young age, giving them a sense of immense pride in their Jewish identity and a profound love of Israel," Sharon says.

Though the Harts were honoured to receive the JNF tribute, that focus – as always for this family – is firmly in place.

"This is all about kavod Am Yisrael," Sharon says. "This is about taking pride in one's homeland."

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הקשר הסעודי

ישראל הוכיחה לאמריקאים בצורה שאיננה משתמעת לשתי פנים שערפאת עצמו חתם על טפסי מימון עבור מבצעי התאבדות פלשתינאיים. קשה להגיד שהאמריקאים הזדעזעו עמוקות. נהפוך הוא- יש ראיות לכאורה שהם לא רק יודעים איך ממומן הטרור, אלא אפילו עוצמים עין כשאפשר.

חברי יורם סורוקין העביר אלי מסמך פומבי שפרסם עורך דין יהודי, ג'והן לופטוס מפלורידה. לופטוס שימש, על פי דבריו, כפרקליט בהתנדבות עבור אנשי ביון אמריקאים שגילו שחיתויות בממסד הביון. לדבריו, יש בידו מסמכים ברורים שקושרים את ממשלת סעודיה להעברת כספים למימון טרור פלשתינאי. על פי דבריו, מועברים הכספים לארגוני צדקה פלשתינאיים שבראשם עומד פרופ. סָמִי אֶל אֶרְיָאן בפלורידה. מר לוטוס מצהיר שבימים אלה הוא מגיש תביעה משפטית שתדרוש לחשוף מה ידוע לשירותי הביון האמריקאיים על פעילות זו.

אף אחד מאיתנו איננו תמים, וחלקינו אפילו זוכרים שבמלחמת העולם היו יחסי מסחר בין חברות אמריקאיות וגרמניה האוייבת. ובכל זאת בא להקיא מהמחשבה שהאמריקאיים, ואולי גם ארצות אחרות, מאפשרות משטחן סיוע ישיר לטרור הפלשתינאי.

האיש ששינה את ההיסטוריה

אני נוסע להעביר הרצאה רפואית במערב אונטאריו ושם לי מוסיקה ישראלית. בלי משים אני שוב באותו סתיו נורא, שומע את שלמה ארצי שר " איפה ישנם עוד אנשים כמו האיש ההוא" וכל הקהל שר איתו לזכרו של רבין, ושומעים קולות ברקים וגשם ואיש לא זז.

ובחוץ ליד אגם יורון יורד גשם, והגשם של אז מתערבב בגשם של עכשיו, ואני חושב לעצמי: חרוצת עמיר הצליח הצלחה שלמה- הוא שינה את מהלך ההיסטוריה בלחיצת הדק אחת. אין לי ספק שלו היה נשאר יצחק רבין בחיים, היה הוא מצליח להשלים את המלאכה ולהביא לנורמאליזציה בין ישראל ופלשתין. אבל מה שהרס טיפש אחד לא יצליחו אלפי חכמים לתקן. אלא שעמיר איננו טיפש. הוא השיג , מבחינתו ומבחינת אנשים שכמותו הצלחה מלאה. רק מה, הצלחתו המושלמת היא כשלוננו המוחלט. מאות הישראלים שנטבחו מאז קיפחו את חייהם בגלל אותו קליע שירה עמיר. על כך אמר איש הניו יורק טיימס תום פרידמן: המזרח התיכון הוא כמו פאזל מסובך שהצליח רבין להרכיב, ואז בא כלב ובכשכוש זנב אחד הרס אותו ואולי גם אכל כמה חלקים, ואיש איננו יודע איך להרכיב אותו חזרה, או אם אפשר בכלל להרכיבו שוב. אבל שישאר בינינו.

הבחירה הקשה

קטע ששלח לי גֶ'רי אַרבוס:

אתה נוסע באוטו המירוץ הקטן שלך בשלוש בבוקר, ופתאום רואה בתחנת אוטובוס שלושה אנשים: אישה זקנה שברור לך שאם לא תועבר במחירות לבית חולים- היא תמות. לידה עומד חבר טוב שהציל את חייך ומעולם לא יצא לך להשיב לו כגמולו, למרות שתמיד חלמת על אפשרות כזאת. ולידם עומדת אשת חלומותיך- אישה שברור לך שיהיו לך חיים מאוד מאושרים לידה.

מסיבה כל שהיא (כמו שקורה בחידונים טפשיים), מותר לך להסיע רק אדם אחד, ואתה לא יכול לחזור פעמיים. את מי היית לוקח?

האם היית מציל את הזקנה, גומל טובה לחבר טוב, או בוחר באשת חלומותיך? שאלה זו נשאלה בבחינות כניסה למשרה מאוד יוקרתית. זכה במשרה אדם שהיה היחיד שענה את התשובה המסוימת ההיא. ובכן- הינה מה שהוא אמר:

הייתי נותן את מפתחות האוטו לַחבר הטוב ומבקש ממנו שיביא את הזקנה לבית חולים, ואני הייתי נשאר עם האישה עד לסוף הטוב..... והמסקנה?

תמיד לחפש פיתרון מקורי שאיננו נופל בתוך הטור המקובל. פיתרון שאיננו פוחד לחשוב בכיוון חדש.....

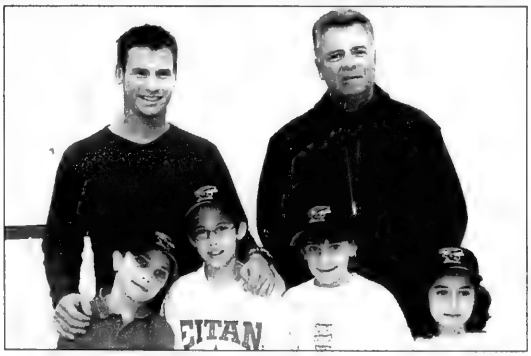
עד כאן הסיפור, ועכשיו פירוש רש"י (יָעֲנוּ מִדְרָשׁ קוֹרֵן):

איך אתה יכול לדעת במבט אחד דרך חלון מכונית שהאישה הזו היא אשת חייך? לפי המראה החיצוני- כמעט בטוח שחייך לא יהיו חיים- לכל היותר אתה יכול להגיד שיהיה לך מעניין ללילה/ יום/ חודש.

ומה פירוש הדבר שהמקרה הזה שימש לבחירת מועמד למישרה יוקרתית? מראש החליטו שהמישרה הזאת איננה עבור אישה- סימן שאיננה יוקרתית- לכל היותר מִשְׁרָת כומר או מוהל או ראש חליכוד. אבל שישאר בינינו.

BLUE JAYS AT ASSOCIATED:

Associated Hebrew Schools Posluns Campus was visited recently by representatives of the Toronto Blue Jays as part of the school's Derech Eretz (respect to others) programme. The speakers told the students to do their homework, complete their education and prepare themselves to succeed. Pictured with second baseman Joe Lawrence (rear left) and former pitching coach Mark Connor, who resigned earlier this month, are, from left: Elliot Wine, Eitan Ostro, Francesca Weigensberg and Erin Krausz.



All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing.

-Edmund Burke

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New Bronfman prize to award future leaders

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – When Charles Bronfman's two children and son-in-law told him what his 70th birthday present was in June 2001 in Jerusalem, he immediately burst into tears.

As his daughter Ellen and her husband Andrew Hauptman joked, it was not a natty tie that had her father welling up.

Instead, as announced officially June 14 from Montreal, just 13 days before their father's 71st birthday, the gift was an annual Charles Bronfman Prize, a $100,000 (US) award that, beginning in May 2003, will go to individuals or groups of individuals "who inspire the emerging generation of Jewish people through the excellence of their achievements."

In a three-way conference call, Bronfman's son Stephen in Montreal, Ellen, in London, and Hauptman, in Los Angeles, explained how they wanted the prize to honour and reflect their father's values and carry on his legacy of commitment to Jewish continuity.

"He was so happy his kids were doing something on such a large scale for him, and he was embarrassed and he was thrilled, and all the emotions came out," said Stephen, chair of the Montreal-based Claridge SRB Investments Inc. "It was quite something."

Stephen said the idea for the prize came after a lot of "mulling over" by the family.

"It would have been easily doable to have a quick event and give away some money and have a nice evening, but that's not what we wanted to do," he said.

"We wanted to plan something that would have a lasting effect, not only in the prize itself, but in the prizewinners… to do something everlasting."

A "high-level" panel of five international judges – yet to be named – will choose the recipient of the prize after a group of "selectors" working within the independent, New York-based Charles Bronfman Prize Foundation, which is administering the award, "whittle" a larger list of names down, Stephen said.

The Bronfman children and Hauptman, president and CEO of the Montreal- and London-based investment company Andell Ltd., are chairing the foundation, but will not have a say in either the list of nominees or the winner.

"It will not be an open nomination," said Ellen, who is chair of Andell Ltd., adding that the candidates will be sought from a variety of institutions.

The recipient will be someone who has distinguished him- or herself in science, the arts, literature, scholarship or humanitarian endeavours.

They are looking for, according to the prize's official mission statement, individuals or a "team" of any nationality, religion or cultural background "whose accomplishments set a standard for the next generation of young Jews and whose endeavours are emblematic of the values and regard for excellence in the Jewish world."

Hauptman said the jury will look for three elements: a commitment to the entire Jewish people, regardless of background; the impact of the potential recipient's work on the global scene; and impact on the next generation.

No one can apply for the prize, and the recipient(s) must be under 50 years old.

"We didn't want the prize to be a lifetime achievement award," Hauptman said. "We wanted the recipients to be young enough to be role models.

"It's fair to say that none of us had in mind creating a 'vanity' prize or giving a prize to someone who's gotten 16 other prizes."

Over the last year of intensive meetings and consultations, he said, the goal "was to focus on someone with Jewish values, who has a global orientation, and, most importantly, will empower and inspire the next generation."

Stephen said his father has done just that and emerged as a "hero" in the eyes of many through such projects as Birthright Israel, which has sent 25,000 young Jews on free trips to Israel.

Stephen said the prize process will not end with the award. The work of the recipient – "who might be quite unknown," he said – will be highlighted to the world and "we will try to build on that, to let the recipient get a bit of spotlight out of what they're doing."

Hauptman said, 'We expect when the time comes to announce the recipient, that he or she will want to share their story: what they do, their mission, the importance of their work."

We mourn the passing of our dear Chaver and executive member

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Jewish scientists among winners of Canadian research award

By LAUREN KRAMER
Pacific Correspondent

VANCOUVER — Two Jewish professors at the University of Toronto are among 20 researchers in science and engineering aged 40 and under and working in Canada who have been chosen by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR) to receive its Young Explorers' Prize.

The winners, who were selected by a panel of international judges unaffiliated with the CIAR, were honoured in a ceremony earlier this week in Victoria as part of the institute's 20th anniversary.

They will each get about $2,000.

Israeli-born Daniel Lidar, 34, is an assistant professor of chemistry at U of T who studies quantum information processors. Predicted to be the computers of the future, they are highly sophisticated devices that will be able to perform computations that present-day computers can't, such as cracking the most sophisticated encryption schemes or searching large random lists.

Lidar is working to make future quantum computers more robust in order to protect them against external disturbances that would cause them to malfunction.

"I take the award to signify a recognition of past scientific contributions, but foremost as a recognition of potential and promise," said Lidar, who has a PhD in physics from Hebrew University.

Another Jewish winner from U of T is Molly Shoichet, whose focus is promoting nerve regeneration after spinal cord injury. The 37-year-old mother of two holds a Canada Research Chair in tissue engineering and is an associate professor of chemical engineering and applied chemistry.

"By collaborating with surgeons and scientists, I believe we can use science and engineering with advanced surgical techniques to overcome devastating disorders like spinal cord injury," she said.

She's optimistic about achieving her two main goals – to improve function in paralyzed individuals who suffer from spinal cord injury, and to ultimately find a cure for paralysis.

Asked how far science is from that goal, she said: "I think we will find a cure, and that by having engineers, scientists and surgeons working closely together, we will achieve our goals."

The CIAR was founded in 1982 by a group of Canadian academics and business people as a private sector initiative. According to its Web site, it aims "to help top Canadian researchers connect with each other and their international peers to collaborate on globally significant challenges."

CIAR presently has 198 members, 116 in Canada and 82 outside the country.

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PA not basis for Palestinian state, says Rice

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — U.S. President George W. Bush will outline his vision for peace between Israel and the Palestinians next week, but the administration does not see Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority as the basis for a future Palestinian state, national security advisor Condoleezza Rice told the *Mercury News*.

"Frankly, the Palestinian Authority, which is corrupt and cavorts with terror... is not the basis for a Palestinian state moving forward," Rice said in a report posted on the daily's Web site Saturday.

Rice repeated the U.S. government's opposition to settlements in the territories and added that Israel also has a responsibility to conditions faced by Palestinians, including easing freedom of movement.

"Israel is going to have to do some very hard things," Rice said. "They're going to have to make some hard choices about how much it's ready for peace, too."

While the Bush administration has become more engaged in the peace process since Bush was first elected, Rice said they would not pursue the approach attempted by former U.S. president Bill Clinton when he hosted Arafat and former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak at Camp David.

"We're not going back down that road," Rice said. "And I would challenge anybody to tell us, 'Yeah, you ought to go back down that road,' given where it ended up."

According to the report, Rice indicated that the United States does not see the possibility for a rapid movement toward a permanent agreement. She said conditions were not ripe for the United States to convene a full-scale peace conference to be attended by heads of state.

Instead, the Bush administration will work to create democratic institutions for the Palestinians. Arafat's role, if any, remains to be determined.

"Everybody focuses too much on the personality. If you build the institutions and they are legitimate, reformed institutions, they will serve the Palestinian people better, and Arafat... the chips will fall where they may," she said.

In related developments, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told Sunday's cabinet meeting in Jerusalem that "the conditions are not ripe for the establishment of any kind of Palestinian state."

Sharon was speaking during a report to ministers about his trip to Washington last week, and his White House meeting with Bush.

In that meeting, Sharon told Bush that a Palestinian state can only come once Palestinian violence stops, serious reforms are implemented and general elections are held, cabinet secretary Gideon Saar said.

"I clarified that this is not the time for any type of Palestinian state," Sharon said, according to Saar.

At Sunday's cabinet meeting, Sharon acquiesced to a request by minister David Levy, who asked for a discussion to be held in the next few days on the convening of the planned regional peace conference.

Meanwhile, Bush is set to call for the establishment of a temporary Palestinian state, along with a call for Israel to freeze settlement building in the West Bank. Diplomatic activity in Washington has been focused on preparing Bush's speech for this week. Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the PA have tried to influence the address, which has stirred heated debate among top Bush administration officials.

According to sources in Jerusalem, the Bush administration has promised Saudi Arabia that it will pressure Israel to halt settlement activity. Before Sharon's visit to Washington last week, the administration asked several Israeli sources whether the prime minister would be willing to make a goodwill gesture and freeze the settlements. This would allow Bush to praise the move in his speech, rather that criticizing continued settlement expansion. Sharon rejected the suggestion, and the president decided against raising the issue during their meeting.

For his part, Sharon sees two states in his vision for the next decade – Israel and Palestine – living in peace, he told U.S. officials during his visit to Washington last week. He said a solution must be found in a piecemeal fashion.

The stages on the road to peace include an end to violence and incitement, reform of the PA, diplomatic negotiations leading to recognition of a Palestinian state without borders, and finally, talks about setting borders, he said.

It appears from this outline that Sharon has accepted the proposal that recognition of a provisional Palestinian state ought to be the first step in diplomatic negotiations, but he told Bush he cannot publicly support a provisional Palestinian state at this stage, as he did last year, due to the escalation of terror attacks over the past 12 months.

He added he will not criticize Bush if he expresses support for the provisional state idea during his coming speech on the Middle East. Sharon proposed to Bush an outline for renewed talks with the Palestinians.

Work begins on West Bank fence amid charges it sets political border

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — As bulldozers began scooping out earth to build a security fence between Israel and the West Bank, Israeli cabinet ministers sparred over the potential political implications of the barrier.

Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer reiterated at Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting that the fence is aimed at preventing Palestinian terrorists from entering Israel.

But right-wing ministers were sharply critical of the fence, saying it would leave Jewish settlements on the wrong side of the barrier and would establish a de facto border.

"This is not a security fence, but an outline for a withdrawal through which a terrorist state will be established," said cabinet minister Efraim Eitam, a member of the National Religious Party.

If Israel wants to build a fence, it should build fences around Palestinian towns and cities, Eitam added.

Science Minister Matan Vilnai, a member of the Labor party, dismissed the claims.

"The fence is not a border, but an obstacle that will prevent terrorists from slipping into Israel," Vilnai said.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the security cabinet would meet in the coming days to hold further discussions about the fence.

After bulldozers worked for several days clearing land at a site near the northern West Bank, Israel officially launched construction of the fence on Sunday.

Ben-Eliezer toured the construction site for the inauguration of the $220-million project.

"The aim is to separate only from a security point of view. Security separation, not political separation," Ben-Eliezer told reporters.

The first section of fence will run about 75 miles, from northeast of Tel Aviv to southeast of Haifa.

A nearly 10-mile-long barrier in the Jerusalem area has also been approved by the government.

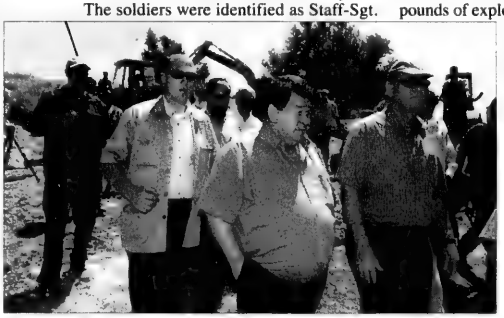
Ditches, patrol paths and electronic surveillance devices are also planned.

According to the director general of Israel's Defence Ministry, Amos Yaron, the fence is not following the border that existed before the 1967 Six Day War. Instead, he said, the fence would be part of a three- to nine-mile-wide "seam" or buffer straddling the border.

During Sunday's cabinet meeting, Sharon also described the fence as part of the government's overall plan to establish buffer zones.

In related developments, two Israeli soldiers were killed over the weekend, in a clash with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The soldiers were identified as Staff-Sgt. Hezki Guttman, 22, of Beit El and Sgt. Alexei Gladkov, 20, of Be'er Sheva.



Benjamin Ben-Elizer, centre, visits the work site at Kfar Salem. [Israel Sun photo]

Four other Israeli soldiers were wounded and one Hamas gunman was killed in Saturday's clash.

The fight took place in northern Gaza, where earlier in the day Israeli security forces foiled a terrorist attack.

In that incident, soldiers identified a suspicious car near the settlement of Dugit and opened fire, causing the explosives inside to detonate. The vehicle contained more than 330 pounds of explosives as well as mortar shells. It was the third large car bomb found in recent days by Israeli forces in northern Gaza.

In another development over the weekend, Israeli troops arrested a Palestinian suspected of killing four people in a terrorist attack on a settlement near Hebron.

The Palestinian is suspected of taking part in an infiltration of the settlement of Dura in late April, in which four people, including a five-year-old girl, were killed and seven others wounded.

And in another incident on Sunday, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man after he ignored orders to stop at a checkpoint in the Jordan Valley.

The man was carrying a suspicious-looking bag and did not stop when warning shots were fired, according to an army spokesperson. Two other Palestinians who fled the scene were later apprehended.

New Hague court may indict settlers for war crimes

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israelis could be indicted by the new International Criminal Court (ICC) starting next month, when the court is formally inaugurated, Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein warned at a meeting of the Knesset Constitution Committee last week.

Among other items, Rubinstein said, the court could decide to try Jewish settlers who move to the territories after June 30, since one article of the treaty establishing the court defines the settlements as a war crime (the June 30 cutoff stems from the fact that the court has jurisdiction only over acts committed after its inauguration on July 1). It could also indict Israel Defence Forces soldiers and officers involved in operations like the one in Jenin during Operation Defensive Shield.

Overall, Rubinstein stressed, "I have faith in the 'purity of arms' of IDF soldiers," and in cases where soldiers were found to have violated orders, they have been put on trial (according to the ICC treaty, the court cannot indict anyone who has already been subjected to genuine legal proceedings in his home country).

Since the start of the intifadah in September 2000, 140 soldiers have been investigated for crimes such as looting, and some have been indicted, Rubinstein said.

'The international court is a great unknown for us'

"[But] the international court is a great unknown for us," he said. "We don't know who the judges will be or who the prosecutors will be. We don't know what it will mean for the Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza or for the neighbourhoods of Jerusalem that were set up over the Green Line following the Six Day War."

Rubinstein stressed that Israel has not ratified the ICC treaty not because it has anything to hide, but out of fear that the court would be guided by political rather than strictly legal considerations. The decision not to ratify will reduce the danger represented by the court, but will not eliminate it entirely, he said.

Deputy Attorney General Rachel Sukar explained that had Israel ratified the treaty, it would be obliged to assist the court by, for instance, handing over any documents it requested. But non-ratification does not provide immunity from prosecution by the court.

The court also does not recognize diplomatic immunity, so even a sitting prime minister could be indicted, she said.

Prof. Ruth Lapidoth, an expert in international law, said that based on the list of candidates for seats on the ICC's bench, Israel cannot be confident that the court's judges will rule in a fair and unbiased manner.

State Prosecutor Edna Arbel said the establishment of the court obligates the state to get ready to provide legal representation for any soldier indicted by the ICC for faithfully executing the government's orders in the territories. The Justice Ministry has set up a special task force headed by Sukar to prepare for the court's inauguration, and the team will include representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the Judge Advocate General's Office.

But Alan Baker, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, warned against creating unnecessary panic over the court. Even though it is being inaugurated on July 1, it will only begin working in about a year, he said.

Committee chairman Ophir Pines-Paz of the Labour party said the ICC's establishment requires Israel to change its policy regarding the settlements to avoid becoming embroiled in legal and political problems.

MK Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) suggested that the Justice Ministry set up a database of complaints against terrorists who have murdered innocent civilians and transfer them to the court. For instance, he said, the ICC should be asked to indict Tanzim leader Marwan Barghouti. These complaints could serve as an acid test for determining whether the court is objective or politically biased, Yahalom said.

Israel presents UN with missile stance

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel last week submitted its official position on missiles to the United Nations for the first time, a move intended as a contribution to arms control discussions in various international forums.

In its statement, Israel proposed starting regional discussions about missiles, with the aim of developing confidence-building measures and decreasing tensions related to missile threats. It was drafted by the Foreign Ministry's strategic issues division in co-ordination with the defence minister.

The Israeli statement opens with expressions of concern about the expanding exports of ballistic missiles to states in the region. This proliferation of missiles has "created a major threat to our national security," the statement says.

According to the document, the export of knowledge and equipment to states in the Middle East has in recent years increased the number of missiles that could carry non-conventional warheads, posing threats to Israel and to regional stability.

Israel has rejected demands aired in various international forums calling on it to introduce full "transparency and accountability" in its missile test reports as a first step toward confidence-building and allaying regional tensions, arguing that arms control arrangements must take into account the region's special circumstances.

The concept of full accountability does not apply to the region, Israel argues, since disclosures about missile tests could be interpreted as threatening gestures rather than as a step to ease tensions.

Israel wants the international community to step up efforts to monitor and supervise the export of missile equipment and expertise. Efforts so far to limit missile proliferation in the region have been ineffective, Israel says.

Israel is committed to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and does not export offensive forms of missile technology. Israeli officials charge that "problematic states in the region" supply missile technology to nearby states.

"In principle, Israel supports any genuine initiative that is designed to effectively prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles, particularly in the Middle East," the statement says. The document calls for meetings to discuss security matters and to formulate confidence-building measures in the missiles sphere.

Officials from 10 states are meeting this week in Madrid to complete discussions about international guidelines governing missile proliferation. Israel has incorporated in the draft guidelines formulations that refer to regional arrangements, along with global codes of conduct.

A group of experts, which was established by the UN two years ago to deal with missiles issues, will meet in New York in early July to wrap up its report.

Auschwitz group vows to combat rising anti-Semitism across Europe

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — A group representing Auschwitz survivors will move its headquarters here as part of its efforts to intensify the battle against anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Europe.

"The former inmates of the camps felt an urgent need to act," Christoph Heubner, the executive vice-president of the International Auschwitz Committee, said last Friday at the group's general meeting. "They are getting anxious about what is going on at the moment, what is coming back in Europe."

Felt an urgent need to act

The committee, founded in 1952, works to help support Auschwitz survivors and further Holocaust education.

In addition to increasing its emphasis on eyewitness testimony and sponsoring visits to concentration camp memorials, the committee intends to step up political lobbying for additional Holocaust education.

"We will also be involved in the public discussion about anti-Semitism in every European society," Heubner said.

Education about Jewish life and the Holocaust can help combat the current rise in anti-Semitism in Europe, the group's leaders say.

Often, Heubner said in an interview, non-Jewish Germans have their first encounter with Jews during meetings with Holocaust survivors.

"These people talk about Jewish life in European countries, how enriching it was," he said. "Talking about Jewish life does not only mean Auschwitz and death and horrifying things. It also means people living together."

Last Friday's announcement of the committee's move from Austria to Germany, where an estimated 100,000 Jews live, came during the group's meeting in Oswiecim – the town in Poland where Auschwitz was located.

At the meeting, Noah Flug, a leader of Holocaust survivors in Israel, was elected president of the group.

Part of the new office's function would be to better co-ordinate the activities of national branches, said Heubner, a 50-year-old German Protestant whose father, traumatized by his experience as a Nazi soldier, "educated his children in a pacifistic tradition."

Taking this tradition to heart, Heubner volunteered when he was a young man with the German Protestant group Action Reconciliation, which sends young Germans around the world to work with Holocaust survivors.

Today, Heubner – a writer by profession – works with the International Youth Meeting Center in Auschwitz.

Many educators and survivor groups agree there is a drastic need for improvement in Holocaust education.

There is apparently a demand for information about Jewish life in Germany, judging by the more than 500,000 visitors to Berlin's new Jewish Museum since it opened in September 2001.

But critics say it is often easier for the general public to deal with dead Jews than living ones.

Responding to increasing public anti-Semitism, Paul Spiegel, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, has called for a drastic overhaul in the school curriculum, so that it includes lessons about Judaism and Jewish life.

In an interview, Spiegel said there are "shocking" gaps in knowledge about Judaism among school children.

Partly as a result of ignorance, he said, "the threshold for anti-Jewish statements is not merely lower, it is non-existent."

WZO to tackle thorny issues this week

By RACHEL POMERANCE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — When Jews from around the world gather in Jerusalem this week for the 34th World Zionist Congress, their presence will be seen as an expression of unity and solidarity with the embattled Jewish state.

Yet one of the major challenges will be to bridge the gaps of the various parties and forge consensus over how to define Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Groups as diverse as Likud, the Conservative movement and the Orthodox have submitted resolutions on the subject, clearly with different goals in mind.

"Although clearly Israel is under attack and we need to pull together," the congress can't afford to "completely ignore the agenda of the Zionist movement," including environmentalism, the gap between the rich and the poor and the religious-secular divide, said Robert Golub, executive director of Mercaz USA, the Zionist arm of the Conservative movement.

Known to many as the parliament of the Jewish people, the 750-seat World Zionist Congress, which determines policies and programs of world Jewry, convenes every four to five years in Jerusalem.

This year's gathering is being held June 17-20 at a time of much angst over the future of Israel and the Jewish people.

But while the issues of global anti-Semitism and external threats to Israel will shape much of the agenda, the labyrinth of policy-making and political plotting that traditionally characterizes the congress is expected to happen as usual this year.

At the congress, ideological groups team up to determine policies of the World Zionist Organization (WZO), which holds half the decision-making power of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

That means influence over the agency's $350 million budget, which focuses on immigration and absorption and worldwide religious, political and educational programs.

Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of ARZA/World Union, the Zionist branch of the Reform movement, agreed with Golub.

There's an "urgent need for world Jewry to come together in solidarity," and their presence in Israel will go a long way toward that end, he said.

But Hirsch said he feared wartime talk would trump the discussion of social issues like pluralism, the acceptance by Israel of non-Orthodox denominations and civil rights.

Hirsch said he strongly supports the notion that "Israel was born a Jewish state and should remain a Jewish state in its very founding definition."

That's "contrary to the assertion of those post-Zionist Jews and some in the Arab community who claim that to define Israel as a Jewish state diminishes its full democratic character and contrary to those religious Jews, some of whom claim Israel should be a halachic state governed by Jewish law and not democratic law," he said.

But Harvey Blitz, president of the Orthodox Union and a delegate on the slate of the Religious Zionists of America, anticipates his faction will take issue with any resolution that endorses equal rights for all denominations and religions.

Blitz said he thinks it is wrong to hold such a divisive debate during such turbulent times in Israel.

"To us, saying Israel is supposed to be a Jewish state has not just ethnic meaning, but religious meaning.

"Israel needs to be a Jewish state and there needs to be a consideration of religious needs and requirements," he said.

While some view the existence of so many factions within the congress as a sign of weakness, many are committed to the social debates that they say signify the relevancy of this democratic organization.

Zionism has always been about a "great deal more than creating a safe refuge for Jews to live in," said David Breakstone, the Jerusalem-based liaison between the WZO and Zionist federations, or national affiliates.

The WZO is concerned with engaging "those living abroad to be involved personally and meaningfully in shaping the society that we have here," and in shaping a *chevrah l'mofet*, or exemplary society, in Israel, he said.

The group has added another force to rejuvenate this year's congress – and the movement as a whole.

This year, 25 per cent of the 750 delegates will be below the age of 30.

During the elections, which were available on the Internet to boost voter turnout, the election slates reserved at least a quarter of their delegate slots for those under 30, according to a new mandate.

"We believe that if there won't be empowerment of youth that will bring new spirit to the goals of the Zionist movement, the movement won't hold up for much longer," said Haim Hayet, a Meretz party delegate of the Congress who serves as chairman of the youth department for the WZO.

— With files from Jessica Steinberg in Jerusalem.

The Week in Israel

June 10

• A study released by Asher Cohen of Bar Ilan University found that 72 per cent of Israel's population is Jewish, rather than the 81 per cent figure cited by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The Bar Ilan figure reflects the integration into Israeli society of non-Jewish immigrants from the FSU, foreign workers working in the country and Palestinians living illegally in Israel.

June 11

• A teenager was killed and at least eight people were wounded when a suicide bomber struck outside a restaurant in Herzliya.

• Cafe Moment reopened in Jerusalem three months after it was destroyed in a suicide bombing. Eleven people were killed and more than 50 others injured in the March attack.

June 12

• Security forces thwarted a large terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip. Soldiers spotted seven armed Palestinians approaching Netzarim and opened fire, killing four of them. The three others fled; one later died of his wounds.

• The army withdrew from the Palestinian Authority's headquarters in Ramallah, ending a two-day siege that began after a suicide bombing in Herzliyah.

June 13

• Five Israeli soldiers were wounded in incidents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

June 14

• B'nai Brith Canada (BBC) and Christians for Israel, in Israel for a joint mission, criticized the Canadian government's Middle East policy at a press conference in Jerusalem. BBC also announced the formation of a strategic alliance with Christians for Israel to try to change Canada's foreign policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

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Arts & Travel

Israel Museum director brings art to Toronto

(below) Insomnia, 1947 is one of the exhibits at Dreaming With Open Eyes, part of the Schwarz Collection at the AGO.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Thanks to a gift from a Jewish refugee from the Arab world, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem has amassed one of the world's greatest collections of Dada and Surrealist art.

Two hundred and fifty of these pieces, from the Vera, Silvia and Arturo Schwarz collection, are currently on display at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

They form part of an exhibition entitled Surrealist Summer, which opened on June 14 and runs until Sept. 8.

Surrealist Summer also showcases Dada and Surrealistic works from the AGO's existing collection and from the collection of Allan Gotlieb of Toronto.

In all, visitors can view more than 400 Dada and Surrealist works from World War I to the present by artists ranging from Salvador Dali to Roberto Matta.

"We are proud to show such extraordinary Dada and Surrealist works," said Matthew Teitelbaum, director of the AGO.

"These movements were born from a spirit of rebelliousness with society and a desire to expand the boundaries of art into the realm of the imagination. It is a spirit that is important still and alive to us through ideas that continue to inspire contemporary artists."

The Schwarz collection at the AGO, under the name of Dreaming with Open Eyes, places emphasis on works by Marcel Duchamp and Man Ray, who exerted an enormous impact on Dada and Surrealism.

The Israel Museum, Israel's largest cultural institution, acquired the Schwarz collection in 1998, when Israel marked its 50th anniversary of statehood.

Born in 1924, Arturo Schwarz was expelled from Egypt in 1949, after the first Arab-Israeli war, and settled in Milan, Italy.

In the early 1950s, he opened a publishing house and a bookstore, which evolved into the Schwarz gallery and presented work by leading Dada, Surrealist and contemporary artists.

The Schwarz collection consists of 750 paintings, 1,500 pieces of ephemera and 2,000 books, said James Snyder, who has been director of the Israel Museum since 1996.

In an interview, Snyder said Schwarz donated the collection out of love to Israel.

"He went to Italy through Israel, and I think he left a part of his heart in Israel," Snyder said of Schwarz, who attended the opening of Surrealist Summer last week.

James Snyder

"He visited the Israel Museum in the 1970s, and decided he wanted to make us the major repository of Dada and Surrealist art," Snyder added.

According to an AGO press release, the Schwarz collection has few equals in scope and quality.

Before coming to Toronto, it was exhibited in Jerusalem and San Francisco.

"We're considering adding another venue after its success in San Francisco," said Snyder, who was previously deputy director for planning and expansion support at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Snyder joined the Israel Museum because he was impressed by the calibre of its collections and the physical beauty of its setting in the wooded hills of Jerusalem.

"I was bowled over," he said.

He and his wife, Tina Davis, a graphic designer specializing in art book design, have two children, and reside in Jerusalem.

Currently, Snyder is presiding over a $15 million (US) renewal program at the Israel Museum, whose 20-acre campus includes a 500,000-square-foot facility for exhibitions and collections and a five-acre outdoor sculpture garden.

According to Snyder, the museum has plans to renovate the Shrine of the Book, housing the Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as the museum's main auditorium.

It also plans to build a new entrance and improve parking and restroom facilities.

Snyder, a Harvard graduate born in 1952, said that local and overseas donors provide 100 per cent of its capital development program and 60 per cent of its annual budget.

The Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum has funded a variety of projects, including the renewal of the museum's auditorium.

Snyder, who had never visited Israel before his appointment, disclosed that the current Palestinian uprising has cut the flow of foreign visitors by half, but has not interfered with the museum's programming.

"We now exist to serve the needs of a local audience," he explained. "We now concentrate on our core mission: to bring substantial enrichment to our local public."

Despite the intifadah, the Israel Museum functions normally. "You should urge people to visit us," he said. "We're one of the most uplifting institutions in Israel for the enjoyment of art and culture."

Upcoming exhibits include:

- 70 works by sculptor Sir Jacob Epstein, running from July 23 until June 2003;
- 60 paintings and works on paper by Marc Chagall, running from Sept. 10 until Jan. 11, 2003;
- North African Chanukah lamps, mainly from Morocco, running from Aug. 15 until July 2003;
- and the New York photographs of Weegee (Arthur Fellig), running from Dec. 17 until April 2003.

In November 2003, the museum will open its first major exhibition on the civilizations of Turkey.

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

MEDINA THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS ANNUAL SHOWCASE JUNE 30 AT EARL BALES PARK

The Medina Theatre Ensemble presents its Annual Showcase, a potpourri of staged readings involving short scenes from familiar sources. Earl Bales Community Centre, Earl Bales Park (Bathurst-Sheppard) $5. Sunday, June 30, 8 p. m. Morris Jacobs, 416-785-0344.

* * *

Reading at Israel's: Jon Papernick, author of *The Ascent of Eli Israel and Other Stories*, has been described as "an astonishing new voice in American fiction" and the book has been called "a profoundly unsettling collection of tales of Americans caught up in the ethnic, religious, social and political conflicts of modern-day Israel."

He reads at Israel's Judaica Centre, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments; no admission charge. Tuesday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Free Concert: Imagine the Sound of Peace is a concert combining Palestinian and Jewish musicians. The show features **David Buchbinder** of the **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** and **Roula Said** of the **Roulettes** along with the **Arabesque Orchestra**, **Arraymusic**, **Both Ends of the Earth**, **Doula** and more.

At the Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W. (at Dovercourt). June 20, 8 p.m. Tickets are free, three per person, available at the door from 6:30 p.m. the night of the event, or in advance at Wonderworks, 79A Harbord St.

* * *

Names in the News

• Dancer-choreographer **Danny Grossman**, leader of the Danny Grossman Dance Company, has won the Muriel Sherrin Award, a cash prize of $10,000 for outstanding accomplishments and international initiatives in the field of dance. The award was one of six given this month by the Toronto Arts Council Foundation.

• The National Film Board of Canada documentary *My Father's Camera*, directed by Toronto filmmaker **Karen Shopsowitz**, recently won a prestigious Peabody Award. At a New York luncheon presided over by **Walter Cronkite** in May, the film was lauded for the inventive way it "blends home movies with original production to explore the role of personal filmmaking in cinematic history."

• **Joel Jacobson**, a columnist with the *Halifax Herald* and a frequent contributor to these pages, has won the 2002 Peter Gzowski Literacy Award for outstanding achievements in promoting literacy in Canada.

Over the past 10 years, Jacobson has written numerous articles on the importance of literacy, often focusing on personal success stories. A $1,000 donation was made in his name to the Dartmouth Literacy Network.

* * *

Nowakowsky Choral Festival: *David Nowakowsky*, the 19th-century synagogue music composer who was music director at the Brody Synagogue in Odessa, Ukraine, for 50 years, is credited with enhancing "ancient melodies in modern European musical formulations without losing the traditional character of these chants."

A foundation has sprung up, spearheaded in part by some Nowakowsky descendants in Toronto, to remember this gifted composer. This summer, the David Nowakowsky Foundation presents the first annual International Jewish Choral Festival in Los Angeles. The festival is meant to provide an opportunity for seasoned choral singers and conductors from across North America to study with world-renowned musicians such as **Michael Isaacson** and **Craig Taubman**.

The plan is to rotate the festival among Los Angeles, London and Toronto. This year it's being held Aug. 4 to 9 at the University of Judaism, Los Angeles. www.nowakowsky foundation.com

* * *

At the Galleries

• Paperworks, an exhibition of watercolours, paper sculptures and shadow boxes by **Eleanor Besen**, **Elizabeth Crammond** and **Anne Warren**. John B. Aird Gallery, 900 Bay St. June 27 to July 20. 416-928-6772.

• Genesis: Wild & Waste by **Rochelle Rubinstein** is a printmaker's "wall book" commenting on ancient texts. An accompanying mixed media exhibition features work by **Michael Amar**, **Lanny Shereck**, **Lyndia Terra** and **Susan Wosik**. Lyndia Terre Gallery, 1469 Queen St., Alton, Ont. June 30 to Aug. 25. 519-940-8118.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• *Toronto The Good!* is a musical about life in the 1890s, written and directed by **Ronald Weihs**. $32-$22. Runs June 18 through July 28. Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. (Bathurst-King). Reservations 416-366-7723.

• **Michael Rubinoff's** production of the legendary Broadway musical *A Chorus Line* plays at the Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, for eight performances. Opens Aug. 9. 416-366-7723 or www.stlc.com.

• The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada presents the exhibit Unturned Earth: The Jewish Farming Communities of Western Canada. Marion and Ed Vickar Jewish Museum, Asper JCC, Winnipeg. Until Oct. 24.

Jazz duo has Jewish-influenced sound

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Musical duos are like marriages: the two people must be honest, they must respect individuality and they often riff off each other's harmonies.

Brian Katz and Ernie Tollar have been jamming and jazzing together for over 20 years and like any successful musical marriage, their chemistry is sparking a comfortable friendship and city-wide shows.

Brian Katz (left) and Ernie Tollar of KATZTOLLAR

But before shows come rehearsals in Katz's Christie Street apartment. KATZTOLLAR (as the jazz duo call themselves) pick up instruments and play some excerpts for the me.

With Katz on his classical guitar and Tollar gripping his soprano saxophone, the two flow into a relaxing Middle Eastern tune called *The Man From Yemen* – based on Katz's travels in Israel.

To show their range, KATZTOLLAR break into a Greek dance rhythm, followed by an Israeli folk song *Zemer Atik* with Katz on the piano.

"A good rehearsal will cross into jamming," says Katz, smiling and a bit breathless from the 15 minute show. "There's a lot of improvisation but there's similar routines we come back to. We like to make the conventional fresh."

Katz, 45, and Tollar, 38, have a tough time pinning down their music into one genre, but they feel their tunes can be put in the world beat, jazz and Jewish music section of any record store. That kind of diversity makes them a unique attraction at the upcoming Du Maurier Downtown Jazz Festival in Toronto, where they will be performing at St. Clair Avenue's Mezzetta Cafe on June 23 and 25. They also play a show at Harbourfront's du Maurier Theatre on October 11.

Katz is a part-time music teacher at the University of Toronto, and Tollar widely freelances his musical skills (which includes playing the Indian and Arabic flute).

Katz has also performed at the Toronto event Ashkenaz and at the Kristofore International Jewish Festival in Holland. As a composer, Tollar has produced scores for films, such as *Shadowmaker – The life of poet Gwendolyn MacEwan*.

Understandably, the duo have not had time to record a CD. But Tollar predicts the production will be as comfortable as their relationship.

"It should be no problem," says Tollar, pointing to a stack of music sheets on his sax case. "I've know these songs for a long time." He laughs. "And I know Brian quite well too."

Yet many jazz partnerships are friction-free. What sets KATZTOLLAR apart from other jazz bands is their special stamp of instrumentation coupled with genre range. Modern jazz is rarely played on classical guitar, while the Indian flute carries its own serene delicacy miles away from the North American counterpart.

The duo can move from Afro-Cuban rhythms to Arabic marches to klezmer medleys in one show.

"Lately, I'm more conscious of my investigation of Jewish music, particularly klezmer," says Katz, whose bookshelf has *The Essential Klezmer* resting beside a Darchei Noam siddur.

"I'm attracted to these sounds and moved by their contours." Katz goes on to explain his love for cantorial music, and how he grew up listening to Yiddish classics. He also spent time teaching at a klezmer camp in Switzerland.

Tollar played with Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band 15 years ago, and has since diversified his musical links, appearing with the Toronto Tabla Ensemble and Daniel Janke's West African jazz group. He has also dabbled in South Indian drumming techniques for the past 10 years.

On the duo's Jewish-inflected sound, Katz feels that the notes pouring through his fingers are touched by his own experiences.

"There's a mix of joy and sadness in Jewish music," he says, "and I totally fit that."

This marriage seems to be riding on a wave of joy recently, and KATZTOLLAR believe the show has only just begun.

"When we're ready to bring ourselves out to the world," Katz says, "we want to have something strong to say. We want to share our roots."

Tickets for du Maurier Downtown Jazz are available at Ticketmaster outlets. Charge by phone at 416-870-8000 or visit www.ticketmaster.ca. Plug into www.torontojazz.com for all of your festival highlights, news and updates.

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Jewish ghosts and other fascinations in Central Louisiana

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to the CJN

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Central Louisiana's historic past is as colourful as its people.

In 1700, the French colonized this region near the Spanish controlled boundary. In 1803, the United States bought the land in what is known as the Louisiana Purchase.

Over the years, members of the French and Spanish population had children with their slaves, creating a new population known as "Creole of colour." The "white Creole" – that is, the French – did not want to be associated with their "mixed" half siblings and cousins who carried the same surnames, and stopped referring to themselves as Creole.

This predominantly Catholic region may not be where you would expect Jews to immigrate, but in the 1830s, Jews arrived seeking a new life and were accepted into the community, first as peddlers, then as merchants and professionals.

The Jewish community in the charming town of Natchitoches in Natchitoches Parish (pronounced Nak-a-tush) on the Cane River established a cemetery, a B'nai Brith lodge and a synagogue. Unfortunately, there are no more Jews left in the town today; some left to seek opportunities in larger cities while others passed away without bearing children or assimilated into the general population.

Some of Natchitoches' most beautiful bed and breakfasts were once the homes of prominent Jewish families, including the Levy-East House, which was once owned by the first president of the city's B'nai Brith chapter, Leopold Levy.

The Jewish German Iglehart family built the inn Chez des Amis. Its current owners, Jim Metcalf and Scott Lumry, swear that the ghost of Mrs. Iglehart, who died in the house, still resides in the dwelling. Apparently, during renovations, she slammed doors and fiddled with the electricity when decorating decisions were not to her liking.

According to local folklore, in addition to Mrs. Iglehart, the Jewish ghost, there are a number of other wonderful historic B&Bs – some with spirits and some without. Accommodations steeped in history include Tante Huppé Bed and Breakfast Inn, Maison Louisiane and Judge Porter House.

Natchitoches was immortalized by playwright and hometown boy Robert Harling in *Steel Magnolias*, which was later turned into a movie. There are plenty of sights to see, including the Kate Chopin House (Chopin is the author of *The Awakening*) in nearby Cloutierville (pronounced Clucherville).

Plantations are strewn throughout Central Louisiana. In 1994, the Cane River Creole National Historical Park acquired the Oakland and Magnolia Plantations, which is still being renovated. Melrose Plantation dates back to 1796, when former slave Marie Therese Coincoin – who later built a very successful exporting business – and her Creole children were given a piece of land by her French lover Louis Metoyer. Coincoin and Metoyer's descendants, dressed in period costumes, operate tours of the plantation today.

Children enjoy exhibits at the Alexandria Museum of Art. [Kathryn Kates photo]

In 1898, Melrose became the home of John and Cammie Garrett Henry. Cammie, a well-known patron of the arts, established an artist residence that nurtured Creole artist Clementine Hunter, who had worked on the Melrose Plantation as a field hand and domestic before she began painting late in her life. To learn more about the Metoyer and other Creole families of the Cane River, visit the St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery and the Creole Heritage Center.

Other historic places in and around Natchitoches include Fort St. Jean Baptiste, a full replica of the 1734 French fort, Old Courthouse State Museum, the American Cemetery and the National Historic Landmark District. Take a ride with Historic District Streetcar Tours, which also rents paddleboats for fun on the river.

The scenic route to Alexandria/ Pineville Parish is through the Kisatchie National Forest, which is famous for Lake Wild Azalea Trail – a great place for outdoor activities.

In the Alexandria area, there is the Kent Plantation House, Central Louisiana's oldest standing structure. Loyd Hall Plantation is a picturesque B&B, but it is a bit crowded, with its 16 cats and four ghosts.

Other places to stay include The Bailey Hotel, newly reopened in Bunke minutes away from the Paragon Casino Resort, both in nearby Avoyelles Parish. A grand place to stay in downtown Alexandria is The Bentley.

Things to do in the vicinity include Southern Forest Heritage Museum in Long Leaf, Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum located on Camp Beauregard, River Oaks Square Arts Center, Alexandria Zoological Park, the "A Shoppes" – 10 unique boutiques – and The Nest, a hiking area with its own spa.

The Alexandria Museum of Art, is now preparing for The Heart of Spain in September 2003, consisting of art treasures that have never before left the Iberian peninsula.

For more information, contact the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-259-1714, the Alexandria Pineville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-551-9546 and the Avoyelles Commission of Tourism at 1-800-833-4195.

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Travel Talk

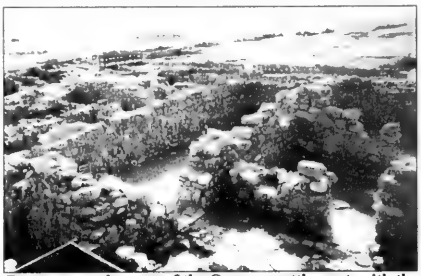
By Bill Gladstone

Ancient Jewish culture preserved in the caves of Qumran

Fifty-five years after a Bedouin shepherd went in search of a lost goat and found seven ancient scrolls in a cave at Qumran, we know surprisingly little about the Jewish sect that produced the roughly 850 scrolls that were eventually found in 11 caves above the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are regarded as a major scientific discovery of the last century, just as their suppression for decades by a secretive clique of Christian scholars ranks as one of the century's biggest academic scandals.

But all that is history, now that almost all of the scrolls have found their way into print. These crumbling parchments have been of immense importance to our understanding of Second Temple-era Judaism and the immediate pre-Christian era.



Reconstructed rooms of the Qumran settlement, with the scriptorium in the centre. Scribes supposedly produced the scrolls in this room. [Bill Gladstone photo]

The consensus among biblical scholars is that it was the Essenes, a Judaic religious sect of extreme piety and asceticism, who produced the scrolls, keeping a library of some 550 of them in Cave 4, and stashing hundreds of others in various caves when the Romans attacked their isolated camp in 68 CE.

However, New York University Prof. Lawrence Schiffman offers a thoughtful hypothesis that it was the Sadducees, loyalists of the First Temple priesthood, who established the large monastic settlement on these heights above the Dead Sea, the excavated ruins of which tourists may inspect today.

Qumran's mystery sect set up camp about 150 BCE, archeologists claim, which is only a year or so after the First Temple-era priestly family lost control of the holy franchise.

An audiovisual presentation in the new visitor centre at Qumran paints a picture of strict religious devotion by a community consisting entirely of celibate males.

"Think of a Catholic monastic order with a strict rule. Then you've got some concept of daily life here," said our guide, Mike Rogoff, during a recent tour. "Vows of purity, chastity and poverty – all of these applied."

But archeologists are puzzled by the fact that some women and children were also apparently buried in the communal cemetery.

Many of the rules that guided the Qumran community were laid out in the Manual of Discipline, one of many scrolls composed by sect members. Another, the War Scroll, challenges the consensus opinion that the sect was pacifist in nature. Essentially a combat manual, the War Scroll describes an apocryphal battle between the Children of Light (the Qumran sect) and an unidentified metaphorical enemy called the Children of Darkness. Obviously, the Qumran sect were millennialists.

"They saw themselves as the Sons of Light; it was the forces of good fighting against the forces of evil," Rogoff said. "There was supposed to be seven battles fought – I always think of this as an eschatological world series. Three would be won by the Sons of Light and three by the Sons of Bad. And then the Sons of Good would win in the end. The scroll is a game plan for an end-of-the-world battle."

We strolled through the rebuilt foundations of an aqueduct, reservoirs, cisterns, observation tower, kitchen, pantry, dining hall, mikvah, pottery workshop and the rectangular scriptorium.

"This is where they actually wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls," Rogoff explained. "They found ink-pots, one of bronze and one of clay, and a sort of desk." (Visitors may also hike along mountain trails and explore some of the many caves in the area.)

Very roughly speaking, about one-third of the 850 scrolls are biblical texts, representing every book of the Hebrew Bible except Esther. Another third are post-biblical and apocryphal works composed by outsiders to the Qumran sect, like the famous Temple Scroll. The last third are mostly works composed by sect members.

They were written on leather, papyrus and – in the case of the Copper Scroll – copper. Many, including the War Scroll and the celebrated Isaiah Scroll, are on view in the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, which affords them the reverential treatment they deserve.

As 19th-century geographer George Adam Smith observes, the biblical-era history of the Dead Sea area may be said to begin with Sodom and Gomorrah, and to end with the massacre at Masada. The barren desert landscape around this legendary, low-lying lake also evokes images of the Ein Gedi oasis and Ezekiel's vision.

Ever since 1947 – at the time of the founding of the modern Jewish state – we also associate the region with the extraordinary discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the many aspects of Jewish history and writings that they illuminate so richly.

The writer travelled to Israel courtesy of the Israel Government Tourist Office and El Al Israel Airlines. Israeli tour guide Mike Rogoff can be reached by email at rogoff@netvision.net.il.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

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Israelis take part in breast cancer conference

All delegates survived the disease

BY LAUREN KRAMER
Pacific Correspondent

VICTORIA — The World Conference on Breast Cancer which took place recently in Victoria drew together breast cancer survivors from such places as Cameroon, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Zambia and Yugoslavia.

Delegates to the conference, which was organized and funded by the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, are all survivors of breast cancer, are instrumental in organizing support groups in their own country, and participate in the International Support Links Program.

Israeli delegate Nurit Tolnai said that after her mastectomy in 1992, it struck her that there were women out there who needed help in coping with the disease.

She was distressed by the attitude she encountered among the medical specialists who treated her, she said. "Doctors saw [only] my sick breast, not me as a whole person."

Tolnai decided to take action, and in 1994, she started up an organization called One in Nine: Women for Women with Breast Cancer.

Nurit Tolnai of Tel Aviv (left) is welcomed to the World Conference on Breast Cancer in Victoria by Marjie Cohn, of Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF), Ontario chapter.

The name refers to the number of women around the world who are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer.

One in Nine now maintains a Web site in Hebrew and English (www.onein9.org.il) which contains information and a forum of 14 doctors who provide counsel to visitors to the site.

There is also a hotline manned by volunteers who are breast cancer survivors, and a quarterly newsletter circulated to the over 1,000 members.

Tolnai, who works 12-hour days on this project, says that since its inception, the organization has assisted close to 2,000 women.

She plans to deliver workshops to women in the workplace in order to talk about the problems encountered by those with breast cancer.

In Canada, it is estimated that of the more than 19,000 cases diagnosed each year, 5,500 people will die from it. In North America, breast cancer is the leading killer of women ages 35 to 55.

Marjie Cohn, director of communications for the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, said that bringing the delegates together was part of an effort to raise awareness of breast cancer on a global level.

"Partnerships and collaboration are so important," she said. "It's just wonderful seeing these women energized by each other."

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Group home has vacancies

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

While other Jewish social service agencies struggle with long waiting lists, there are three spots open at a group home operated by the Chai-Tikvah Foundation for people with mental health disorders.

Located on Stonedene Boulevard in the Bathurst-Steeles area, the residence is designed to house eight people with a variety of mental health issues, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anorexia and Tourette's syndrome. It's fully kosher, and Jewish holidays are observed. There's round-the-clock supervision.

Rochelle Goldman-Brown, Chai-Tikvah's longtime executive-director, says the main reason the home has vacancies is because its 75-name waiting list became out of date and has been dropped.

Goldman-Brown says those who had been on the list have found other accommodations or services, at least partly because the average length of stay in the residence is eight to nine years.

Residents, aged 30 to 50, have access to a variety of services, and must be out of the residence for at least four hours a day. They cook their own meals, do laundry and run errands. No one has a history of violence.

The home has had 58 clients in its history.

Founded in 1983 under the umbrella of Reena, which works to integrate the developmentally disabled into mainstream society, the Chai-Tikvah Foundation seeks to make life easier for those with mental health disorders.

It was established by a group of parents whose adult children had nowhere to turn in the community for support and services. As with Reena, a prime mover behind the group was Rabbi Joseph Kelman, who has made a point of noting that even King Saul suffered from depression and a mental breakdown.

Chai-Tikvah separated from Reena in 1987. It works closely with Jewish Family & Child Service, from which it often receives referrals.

The organization gets 100 per cent of its funding from Ontario's health ministry. Several requests for funds to the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto have been turned down, Goldman-Brown says.

Chai-Tikvah also offers home visits and crisis support to those who live on their own or with relatives, and runs "Club Simcha," whose members meet at the home to give them a chance to socialize.

On June 27, Chai-Tikvah is slated to host a presentation on supportive housing by representatives of several community mental health agencies in Toronto. It will take place at the Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. at 7:00 pm.

For more information, call 905-886-6520.

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RESULTS
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483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

KILBARRY / SPADINA - $2,350,000.
Elegant 5 bdrm. stone Georgian. *Downsview* kitchen & separate breakfast rm. Main fl. library & powder rm. Finished lower level. In-ground pool & cabana on fabulous park-like grounds. Double garage. *Leslie Dennis/*Edie Winberg.

FOREST HILL - $949,000.
Exceptional 5 bdrm. home. Main fl. family rm. & laundry rm. Reno'd kitchen. Multi fireplaces, skylights, central air. Finished lower level. Private drive, double garage. *Edith Weiss.

YORK MILLS / BAYVIEW - $719,000.
Beautiful reno nestled on private cul-de-sac. Landscaped gardens. Main fl. family rm. w/walk-out. Multi fireplaces. CAC. Private drive & double garage. **Richard Sherman.

ORIOLE PARKWAY - $659,000.
Wonderful 4 bdrm. home on great street. Magnificent ravine lot backing onto Eglinton Park. Main floor family rm. Finished lower level. Private drive. Gorgeous views -- a great family home. *Carol Cotton.

FINCH / BATHURST - $579,000.
Fabulous 5 bdrm. custom home. Master w/6 pce. ensuite. Main fl. family rm., office & laundry. Kitchen + brkfast area. Huge lower level. Double garage. Approx. 4,024 sq. ft. *Leslie Dennis

WALMER ROAD PENTHOUSE - $519,000.
Spectacular 2 bdrm. suite. Rarely available. Designer kitchen & baths. Ensuite laundry. CAC. Locker. Parking. *Shawnee Slan.

PRIME ANNEX - $489,000.
Detached 3 bdrm. with finished lower level. Great curb appeal. Walk to subway & Bloor St. shops. Perfect urban home. *Carol Cotton.

FABULOUS ARMOUR HEIGHTS
Lovely 3 bdrm. family home. Main fl. powder rm. Reno'd eat-in kitchen. Deck. Finished lower level. Central air. Private drive & garage. *Leslie Dennis.

FOREST HILL CONDO - $393,500.
Luxury 2 bdrm., 2 bath suite in fabulous "St. Regis". Approx. 1260 sq. ft. Spacious rms. Ensuite laundry. Parking. Locker. *Leslie Dennis.

BATHURST / ANTIBES - $229,000.
Terrific, west facing 2 bdrm. condo boasts large balcony & ample storage space. Locker. Parking. *Lena Rauchwerger.

BATHURST / HILLHURST - $539,000.
Stunning 3 bdrm., 4 bath bungalow. Master ensuite w/skylight & marble jacuzzi. Gorgeous spacious kitchen/family rm. w/walk-out. Fin. lower level. Private drive & built-in garage. *Marlene Federman. SOLD

260 HEATH ST. WEST - $499,000.
Forest Hill's "Village Terrace". 3 bdrms. Reno'd kitchen with brkfast bar. One-of-a-kind main fl. suite with wrap around courtyard. Parking. Locker. Walk to subway. *Betty Cohen. SOLD

ST. CLAIR / SPADINA - $359,000.
Exceptional 2 lvl. townhome style condo w/fireplace, multiple walk-outs to balcony, large laundry & storage rm. 2 parking spots. Steps to TTC, park & shops. *Leslie Dennis. SOLD

YONGE / DAVISVILLE - $249,000.
Beautiful 2 bdrm. condo in great location. Large balcony. Ensuite laundry. 24-hour conc. Parking. Walk to subway. **Richard Sherman. SOLD

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$519K. Charming 2 stry west of Avenue Rd, with inviting principal rms & open fireplace. Update kit, wndws & more. Begin school here! Jeffrey Joseph** & Irene Joseph* Ext. #519/264

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UPPER FOREST HILL VILLAGE $629,900
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Magnif. family home in walking distance to religious schools & schuls. 4+3 bdrms, 4 baths, fin bsmnt with 2 bdrms, 3 pce bath, hot tub, o/d pool. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

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279 PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, **Adda Jade Epstein-Shapiro** am pleased to announce my birth on June 4, 2002, right on my mummy's birthday. My thrilled parents are **Cheryl Epstein** & **Michael Shapiro.** I am named in memory of my great-grandmothers Etta (Green) Epstein and Janet (Lutz) Shapiro. My loving family includes great-grandmothers Lil Gorman and Gertrude Birchwood, grandparents Monica & Barry Shapiro and Paula & Stanley Epstein, aunts and uncles, Eric & Lana, Ian, Neil, Daniel & Greg, Joanna & Mark and cousin Olivia. I was helped out by marvellous midwives Joyce, Nicole, Tasha and Sarah in Toronto. Mazel Tov to everyone!

IT'S A GIRL!
WILSON, Proud parents **Evan & Tracey Wilson** are delighted to introduce their beautiful daughter **Rachel Elizabeth** to the world. Ecstatic grandparents are **Frank & Judith Wilson** and **Don & Olive Ellis.** Great-grandmother **Jenny Wilson** and aunt and uncle **Barbi & Avi Koifman** are just as thrilled. Rachel was born on June 6, 2002, weighing in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. at Markham/Stouffville Hospital

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BERNICE (*Brownie*) GUZIKER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 10:30 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Kehillas Jacob Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY & IDA WEISLEDER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Beth Emeth Section
Family and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ISAAC EPSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Sunnyside Cemetery Association Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

The Family of the late
SIMON MOZES ז"ל
Would like to thank our relatives and friends for their support during his long illness and our recent bereavement. A special thanks to Rabbi Marcus and the B'nai Torah Synagogue members.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Max Korolnek, Jr. ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 11:00 a.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Talmud Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDWARD (*Eddie*) ROSENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Grand Order of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARTHUR SCHIFF ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Meir Section U
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANDREW SENYI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 30th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie Dr
Temple Sinai Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANNE STEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 11:00 a.m.
Lambton Hills Cemetery
Ostrovtzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ANNE TOBE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, 2:00 p.m.
Lambton Hills Cemetery
Royal York Road
Hebrew Men of England Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the beloved memory of the late
MIKLOS SZABOLCSI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 23rd, at 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Adath Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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♀ women seeking men

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LEAVE HER A MESSAGE

Gigi is 34 yrs and from Asia, long hair, medium sized, brown complexion. She's easy going, very charming, loves dining, traveling, dancing, cooking, spending time w/ friends. Seeks someone who's understanding, honest, good hearted, friendly, non smoking and between 34-45 yrs. **AD#1298**

HELLO THAVELLER!

Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way. Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit. Please leave a message. **AD#1095**

♀ men seeking women

WILLING TO SETTLE

Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

FRIENDLY FELLA

Martin, 48 yrs is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. Leave him a message. **AD#1206**

NEW IN TOWN

Recently arrived in Toronto, 50's, looks good, smart, generous & caring, seeking a fair minded gentleman between 55-70 yrs. Has to be financially secure. She enjoys theatre, music, movies, long walks & talks, and books. Help her enjoy Toronto. **AD#1133**

LET'S LIVE IT UP, EH?

Single female with hazel eyes, reddish hair seeks love & laughter. She enjoy ballroom dancing, theatre, walks in the park. Looking for a non-smoker gentleman, who's 69+ yrs., 5' 8", with similar interests and more. **AD#1197**

TOUCH OF CLASS

Single female from Montreal in her 50's. She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservative. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 50-65 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests. **AD#1305**

HOME COOKIN'

Jeanette enjoys the outdoors, sports, hiking, swimming, kayaking and traveling. She seeks someone with similar interests and can talk to about the situation in Middle East. If you enjoy children, dining, and Cicily home cooking, please leave me a message. **AD#1050**

NEW IN TOWN

Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1051**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and traveling. **AD#1438**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE

Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 2", from Woodbridge. He's employed, enjoys walking and running. He's interested in conservation, has never been married, is a non-smoker and social drinker. He's also serious & shy, a nice guy, and a seeks female with similar interests. Leave him a message. **AD#1335**

PASSIONATE FEELINGS

Bonnie enjoys music, dining, walking, long drives and anything that has passion attached to it. She seeks a male who's interested in fine arts & theatre, not so much into sports, and possibly enjoys the outdoors, who has a great smile & sense of humour. Leave her message. **AD#1371**

SEEKING SOULMATE

Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 6", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good. She enjoys dancing & life. She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate. A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend. If you think you're a match, please leave her a message. **AD#1411**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL

Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto. She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religious, observant but shares her deep love for Israel. Please call. **AD#1413**

PERKY WIDOW

Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people. Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70's. Give her a call. **AD#1066**

LOTS OF FUN

Dave is 36 yrs, slim and handsome. He's outgoing and enjoys movie going, dining, concerts and shopping. Looking for a single Jewish female, who is slim, 30-37 yrs, tall and reasonably attractive. If you like what you hear, please leave him a message. **AD#1436**

LET'S MEET

Martin, 49 yrs, enjoys dancing, long walks, flea markets, nice restaurants and week end country drives. He looks for a good natured, friendly individual, a nice person to be with and converse with. Feel free to reply and he will get back to you. **AD#1393**

FUN LOVING LARRY

Larry is 50 yrs and new in town. He likes horses and any outdoor activities. He's look ng for a nice lady with a good sense of humour and lots of love. If this fits your description, please reply. **AD#1397**

PLEASURE & OPTIMISM

A self employed Jewish female, 60 yrs, would love to meet someone who greets each day with pleasure & optimism. Someone who's not afraid to speak his mind, and loves classical music & the opera. Idiosyncratic and has a deep love for Israel, but is not religously observant. Please call. **AD#1437**

HEART OF GOLD

A unique Jewish female, 5' 5", with beautiful brown hair & eyes seeks a Jewish gentleman. She's kind, sincere, creative and lost of fun to be with. She seeks a man with strong morals, who's over 45yrs, handsome over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoking, and financially stable. **AD#1462**

GREEN EYES

She's a pretty 5' 4", blonde w/ green eyes. Fun, very positive, caring & sharing. She enjoys theatre, music, movies, dancing, swimming, and seeks a sincere established non smoking gentleman, with sense of humour, good outlook on life, who is between 60-70, for mutually enjoyable relationship. **AD#1471**

LOOKING FOR LOVE

A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere. **AD#1230**

LONG WALKS

Single Jewish male, in his mid 40's, is an attractive, intelligent, ambitious, professional gentleman. He seeks an attractive Jewish female, 32-44 yrs old for casual dating leading to long term relationship, someone who enjoys dining, movies, good music, dancing, nearby travel and romantic long walks. **AD#1254**

DREAM COME TRUE

Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys. **AD#1179**

HONEST AND CARING

Single male 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

NAUGHTY & NICE

Ruth is easy going, a bit naughty, but very nice. She loves going out, dancing, dining, travelling and romance. It is essential that she be able to communicate with her companion. If you are as naughty and nice as her, please leave her a message. **AD#1133**

ENJOYS LIFE

Single female, 50 yrs, loves to laugh, likes to have fun, is warm friendly, have a child, 2 dogs. She's 5' 6", thin, blonde hair, attractive, nice person, likes dining, movies, travelling, reading, quiet walks, and drives in the country. **AD#1054**

"C" ALL ME

Single attractive female, slim, 50 yrs young. She seeks a male between 55-70 yrs someone who is young at heart and not afraid of "C" words, such as card, cuddling, compassion and confiding. She's looking for friendship, fun and to share the wonders of life. **AD#1150**

SOULMATE SEARCHING

Single female, interested in meeting a trustworthy, loyal, caring intelligent professional Jewish male. She's a non smoker, lives in Toronto, has a great sense of humour. She has many interests and would like to share them with someone for a friendship first relationship. **AD#1366**

CALL ME

Health pro, attractive, 5' 8" hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends. Looking for kind, loving heart who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family. **AD#1222**

COFFEE TALK

Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7" nice and good looking - but the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

A GENTLEMAN

A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

It's absolutely FREE to place your personal message!

LIFE PARTNER

Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, intelligent, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established male, who's over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet. **AD#1181**

CALL ME

Single female from Montreal, 50'ish, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, sense of humour, conservative, enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, beach, seeks male 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservative, with similar interests. **AD#1034**

LET'S TALK

Loving, warm, giving very affectionate, outgoing and friendly. She has a great sense of humour and likes to make people laugh. Compassionate, passionate and sensitive. Loves art galleries, museums, travelling, swimming, walks, and musicals. **AD#1385**

SHARING AND CARING

Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

TRILINGUAL GUY

Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 190 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

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Maccabi youth team seeks hoopsters

Maccabi basketball coaches are looking for good young players to fill out the youth team that will represent Canada at the 10th Pan Am Maccabi Games, to be held July 17-28, 2003 in Caracas, Venezuela.

Toronto-based tryouts for the team will be held on Tuesday June 25 and Thursday June 27 at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Boys born between Jan. 1, 1984 and Dec. 31, 1986 and who reside in Canada are eligible.

A $35 administrative fee is being required of everyone trying out for the team. Those who make the team will be asked to pay the full cost of the trip – a total of $3,500 per player, said assistant coach Irv Mintz.

Unlike athletes who compete in the Maccabiah Games, which are held in Israel, Pan Am athletes are not subsidized, he added.

The Pan Am Maccabi Games are held every four years and include teams from Canada, the United States, Latin America as well as Israel.

For more information, contact head coach Ted Badner at 905-707-7556.

Athletes gear up for youth games

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

There was a time when sporting activities were dominated by boys: boys basketball, boys soccer, boys baseball, boys... fill in the blank.

Those days are long gone as girls have taken to sports in a way their mothers could hardly have imagined.

Female athletes will play a prominent role in the Toronto team at the JCC Maccabi Games, which will be held in Montreal from Aug. 18-23.

Toronto's Maccabi contingent will include a girls basketball team, a girls soccer team, a girls softball squad as well as female swimmers and tennis players.

Toronto's Maccabi team will also include boys teams in basketball and soccer, a baseball team and an all-male golf team, as well as male representation on the swimming and tennis teams.

Altogether, 90 athletes aged 13-16 will represent Toronto at the summer games. The city could have fielded an even larger squad, but event organizers limited the size of participating teams to keep the overall number of athletes to 1,300, said Grant Smith, head of the Toronto delegation.

The JCC Maccabi will also include teams from a variety of North American cities as well as Britain, Australia, Mexico, Venezuela and Israel.

Four other cities – Baltimore, Memphis, Omaha and Springfield, Mass. – will host parallel games.

Montreal is the second Canadian city to host a youth games. Toronto was the first in 1986.

Last year's Toronto team returned home with 50 medals and were particularly successful in swimming events. The boys soccer team won a bronze as did the girls softball team. The girls hoops squad finished second.

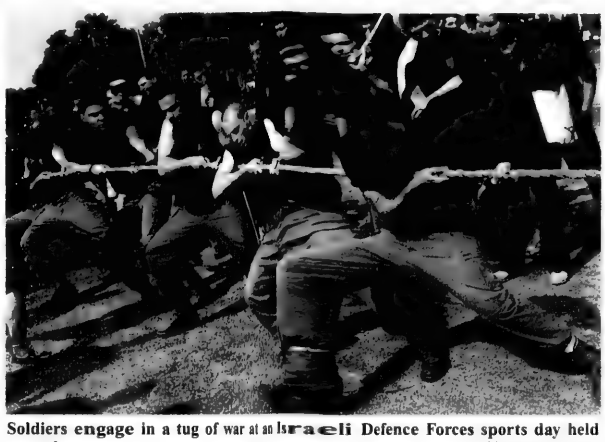
Smith expects the swimmers to again be very competitive along with the girls basketball team, which had won gold medals four years in a row prior to last summer's silver.

Smith said special efforts have been made to include a larger number of female athletes. "We want to give girls the support to compete at a high level and make it a 50-50 split. But there will always be more boys than girls," he said.

Maccabi organizers find that in the summer, female athletes are more likely to attend sleepover camps while a lot more boys remain in town and play rep sports, like baseball and soccer.

Only 15 girls showed up for the softball tryout compared to 30-40 boys. Soccer proved more popular among girls, attracting 20-25 girls, Smith said.

In addition to sporting competition, athletes at the Montreal games will be treated to Judaic cultural activities as well as an outing to a "Canada's Wonderland"-type facility, Smith said.



Soldiers engage in a tug of war at an Israeli Defence Forces sports day held recently. [Israpet photo]

Honouring Sherwood

Toronto Argonauts owner Sherwood Schwarz will be honoured as a new friend of Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad at its fundraising gala, A Celebration of Jewish Song and Spirit, on Monday June 24 at the Sheraton Centre.

The 14th annual event features David "Dudu" Fisher, a renowned Jewish musician, who returns to perform for the second straight year with an all-new show. A limited number of $250 tickets remain and can be purchased through Cheder Chabad 416-663-1972.

Moroccan Jews bring colour to Toronto

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

During the late '50s, '60s and '70s, in the predominantly eastern European Toronto Jewish community, the Goldsteins, Rosenbergs and Rubensteins woke up to the arrival of the Pintos, Mamanns and Sottos – Moroccan Jewry. This new immigration would forever change the face of Jewish Toronto.

Moroccan Jews, who are Sephardim (Hebrew for Spain, from which most Moroccan Jews were expelled), arrived here with little, other than a culture and approach to Judaism overflowing with richness and character. Fleeing anti-Semitism doesn't allow for much packing.

Some 5,000 Moroccan Jews would ultimately make Toronto their home. In four short decades of overcoming great challenges, Moroccan Jews developed an incredible religious and communal infrastructure, boasting more than half a dozen French and Spanish speaking synagogues including the Sephardic Kehilla Centre, Magen David, Minyan Sepharad, Petach Tikvah and Tiferet Israel. Their chief rabbi is Rabbi Amram Assayag. There is a Sephardi day school called Or Ha'emet, whose curriculum includes hugs and affirmations.

Attend a Moroccan synagogue one Shabbat. You'll discover the service is mostly said aloud as opposed to Ashkenazi prayers, which are predominantly silent. I was amazed to learn that my friend, Bert Serfaty, like most Moroccan Jews, knew the morning and Musaf prayer by heart, sang it passionately and with great pleasure.

Toronto's Jewish Moroccans have also been able to maintain their unique minhaggim (traditions), including the Henna ceremony. This traditional ceremony is performed for the bride prior to the wedding ceremony. The bride in dressed in a magnificently majestic dress (*bestido*), and the guests sing ancient songs and have their palms annointed with a muddy smear called the "Henna." If you only attend one Jewish simchah this year, make it a Henna.

Moroccan Jews actively pursued a solid Jewish education for their children. Their respect and reverence for learning and wise people were deeply imbedded through a legacy of scholarship left over from the brilliance of Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Rambam) and Rav Yosef Caro – both of whom lived in Morocco and are revered by all Jews for their redaction of Jewish law.

However, at the time of the Moroccan immigration, Toronto Jewry was reeling from post-Holocaust revelations, and harboured a sociological discomfort with Jews of such a divergent culture. A number of Jewish day schools refused to enrol Moroccan children. Those that did were ill equipped to integrate the newcomers properly, creating a non-graded class for children of every age.

Assistance was forthcoming from the Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS).

Maurice Benzacar was one of those who was helped. Eventually Maurice was himself hired by JIAS and helped other Jewish immigrants from Morocco, Russia, Yugoslavia, Romania and Ethiopia.

Prior to the arrival of Moroccan Jews, Toronto shul-hoppers were only exposed to Shabbat kiddush menus composed of heavy dishes like cholent, with a non-descript dessert of kichlach, all washed down with a shot of scotch. This changed however, with the advent of Moroccan shuls, and their kiddushes, consisting of tasty Moroccan delicacies prepared with culinary artistry. A Shabbat kiddush table in a Moroccan shul is set with Dafina, a sort of Moroccan cholent, and couscous, a small grain, steamed and served with cinnamon and sugar, along with cooked dried fruits such as raisins, dates and prunes. Our Jewish palate has been shaken!

There are still things to be ironed out within the Moroccan Jewish community, such as the development of further youth programs. Change is inevitable. Toronto Jewry, however, has not been the same since we woke up to their arrival and our community is now infinitely richer and certainly more colourful. In the words of the Sephardi sages - Chazak Uvaruch. Strength and blessings. Well done!

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Cilantro Tomato Pasta Salad

1 cucumber
1 cup ripe red tomatoes, diced
1/2 cup red onion, finely chopped
2 tblsps. lime juice
1 tblsp. cilantro, chopped
1 tsp. granulated sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1 cup dry small shell pasta, cooked and drained

Peel the cucumber and cut in half lengthwise. Use a spoon to gently scrape away the seeds. Cut in half again lengthwise and dice the cucumber. Place cucumber, tomato, red onion, lime juice, cilantro, sugar, salt and pepper in a bowl with pasta. Toss gently. Transfer to a serving bowl.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My son Jason has just come back from university. When he first came home, it was a pleasure to see him. We missed him.

Living away this year has really changed him – mostly for the better. But not with regard to his opinions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Jason is trying to see both sides "fairly" as he would put it, but he is misinformed about many of the issues and when we try to enlighten him on the history and facts, he argues even more and it always ends up badly. My mother is a Holocaust survivor and lives with us as well. She is so upset by Jason's attitude, I am actually afraid for her health. I know we taught Jason to think for himself, but this is not what we had in mind. What should we do?

Too Much Conflict

Dear Too Much Conflict,

There is nothing wrong with your son thinking for himself – in fact, you are to be commended for teaching him to have his own ideas. It is to be expected that he will not always agree with your opinions. Religion and politics are usually the hardest subjects to debate, and unfortunately, both play a role in these issues and both are near and dear to your heart.

But you have to try to discuss the issues with him calmly or, as you said, it will always end up badly. You must keep yourself in check to get your message across or he will never understand the history and facts as you know them. Remember, though, that even after you talk, you might not change his opinion.

As for your mother, both you and Jason have to understand that this is a very emotional and controversial subject and should not be discussed in front of her if you are concerned about her health. However, keep in mind that being a Holocaust survivor, she has the experiences to teach him a very important history lesson.

Even if you don't agree with Jason, be proud that he is intelligent enough to have formed his own opinions and comfortable enough to present them to you.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Crossword Puzzle

The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 34.)

A Capital City!

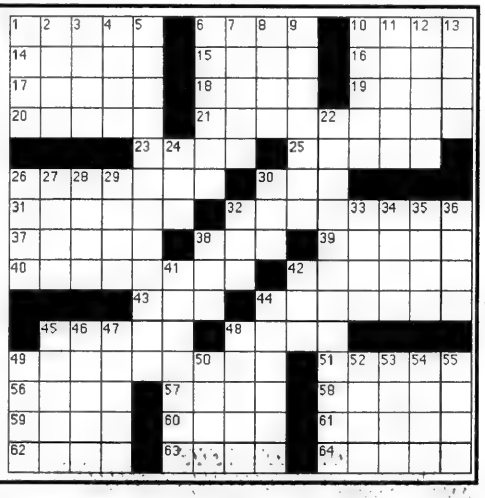
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across

1. Where the Bahai Gardens are
6. Fill in seams
10. Some number crunchers
14. _____ ski
15. Israel's continent
16. Seize (abbrev.)
17. "Beauty is ___", Keats
18. Lose some by finding the right one
19. Hebrew girl's name, subject of song
20. Svelte
21. Where a neighbor's capital was
23. Where Tree of Life grew
25. Where Venus de Milo was found
26. Colonists, French or Spanish descent
30. Hurok
31. Where David's capital price was
32. Head with a flow (sailor's term)
37. Spelling
38. Where a tribal capital once stood
39. Visual aid
40. Leon and family
42. Where David had a hole-in-the-wall
43. Link
44. Russian, Iranian, Danish, red, black
45. Navigational aid
48. French without
49. Our Capital City for 3,005 years
51. Sherif Hussein bin Ali's capital city
56. Chooses
57. Marcel Marceau
58. VII, XIV, or DCL
59. What something can be suited to
60. Hershheiser
61. 16 Across, in Dimona
62. Neck fluff
63. Landscape writer Fairbrother
64. Football Hank

Down

1. Fedoras
2. Fr. capital's enviable month
3. "___ the day"
4. Celebrate
5. City's bus stops, in this Israeli port
6. Action groups
7. An Israeli, or perhaps an Odessan
8. Hebrew hearty name
9. City district, in Jerusalem
10. Soo or Suez
11. PR stuff
12. Jason's boat
13. Kenton or Musial
22. City's resort assets, Israeli mecca
24. Israeli Minister Melchior's nat. land
26. Shmooze
27. Aft
28. Extended it (city's boundary) Heb.
29. Lights (Heb.)
30. Shemesh, in English
32. Head, headland, in Arabic
33. Heyerdahl's raft
34. Mujeres or Cozumel
35. Mail, in Modiin
36. Units of energy or work
38. An indigo source
41. Cinnamon, in Hebrew
42. Species, in Hebrew
44. Ships of the desert
45. Prefix for thin, fine
46. Coffee __ ___ ?
47. Strategems
48. Male organ fluid
49. Led David's attack on 21 Across
50. Israeli coin, preceded new shekel
52. Resign
53. Land of Opport.
54. Ray
55. City, later known as Damascus



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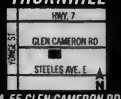

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The Canadian Jewish news

40 Pages | Thursday, June 27, 2002 | 17 Tammuz, 5762 | 75¢

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This Week

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Russian community launches campaign for Israel.
Page 6

Jewish high schools reach for the top. *Page 13*

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Al Waxman collection at Toronto Reference Library.
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Soccer star represents United States at World Cup.
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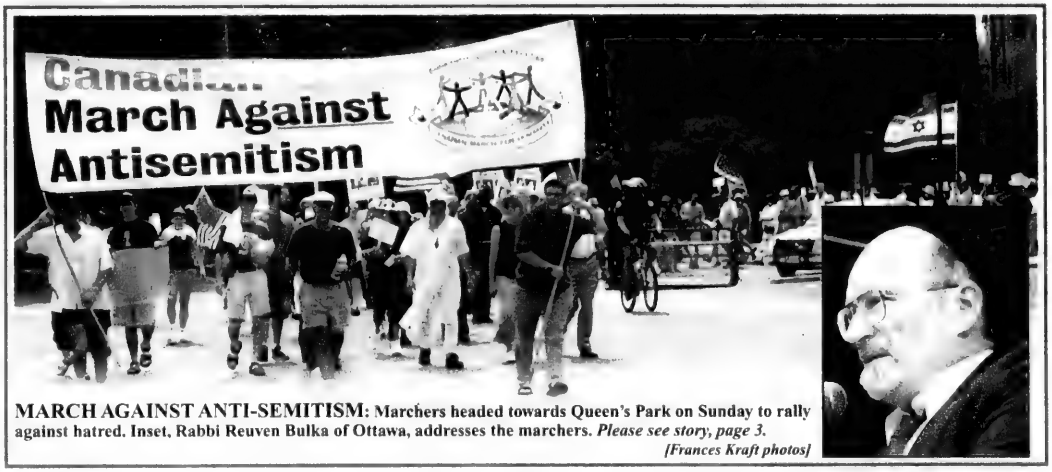

MARCH AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM: Marchers headed towards Queen's Park on Sunday to rally against hatred. Inset, Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa, addresses the marchers. *Please see story, page 3.*
[Frances Kraft photos]

Teacher mourns for a fallen student

By RIVKA BEJELL
Special to The CJN

The phone call came from my school. It wasn't official yet, but rumour had it that our former student Shani Avi-Zedek, 15, was on the 32 bus that had just been bombed, on her way to a *yom keff* (a day in the swimming pool) with her new school.

Shani was my student for three years, all through junior high, a bright, pretty, vivacious, friendly girl, always involved in school activities. She was on the school paper committee and on the *va'ad kitah* (class council), she participated in all the parties and fun activities, and was also a straight-A student. She had the knack of making friends wherever she went, and she stayed loyal to old friends while she was busy making new contacts in her new school.

After having an hour-long discussion with her best friend Mor the previous night, Shani phoned another friend, Yael, and made plans to meet her on the 7:45 bus to town the following morning. Yael, fortunately, ran late and missed the bus. Shani was on time, as usual.

Friends of Shani Avi-Zedek are seen mourning at her funeral. She was one of 19 people killed by a suicide bomber in Gilo last week. By the end of the week, 32 Israelis had been killed. Inset, Avi-Zedek.
[Israpet photo]

After the bomb went off, Shani's family went frantically looking for her. With the help of friends and neighbours, they searched every single hospital in Jerusalem. They knew for sure that she was on that bus (she had called Yael, minutes before the explosion, to ask her why she wasn't on the bus).

Continued on page 23

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Pinchas
Candlelighting: 8:45
Havdallah: 9:50

French government remains silent — please see page 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Jewish Memorials

WINKLER, Man. — A plaque and park were dedicated here recently paying tribute to Jews who settled in this town about 120 kilometres southwest of Winnipeg. The memorial to Jewish pioneers and the Jewish Settlers' Heritage Park pay homage to the heads of the 15 Jewish families that settled in Winkler before World War I, as well as their children.

ISRAEL

Arafat's Theft?

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has pocketed more than $5 million (US) in foreign aid intended for needy Palestinians, according to a Kuwaiti newspaper. *Al-Watan* also claimed that Arafat diverted aid money from Arab states that was earmarked for Palestinians who lost homes during Israel's anti-terror operation in the West Bank this spring.

Mad Cow Disease

JERUSALEM — The Israeli cabinet has approved more than $3 million (US) to fight an outbreak of mad cow disease. The government took the move after an outbreak of the disease was found earlier this month at a farm in the Golan Heights.

Bomb Bets Probed

JERUSALEM — Israeli police are investigating reports that an illegal gambling ring in the country is taking bets on where the next Palestinian suicide bomber will strike. The ring, which operates in the town of Kiryat Malachi, is distributing betting sheets with the odds for various locations, according to the reports.

WORLD

NA Aliyah Up

NEW YORK — For the first time in years, North American aliyah is on its way up. According to the Jewish Agency for Israel, the number of North Americans making aliyah in 2002 will reach 1,500, an increase of 20 per cent over last year.

Turner Says Sorry

ATLANTA — Ted Turner has apologized for saying both Israel and the Palestinians are engaged in terrorism. "I want to make it absolutely clear that my view was – and is – that there is a fundamental distinction between the acts of the Israeli government and the Palestinians," the founder of Cable News Network (CNN) said last week. "I believe the Israeli government has used excessive force to defend itself, but that is not the same as intentionally targeting and killing civilians with suicide bombers." In earlier comments, Turner was quoted as saying that "both sides are involved in terrorism."

Medal to Arafat

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio's city council has awarded its highest honour to Yasser Arafat. The move reversed a recent close vote not to award the Pedro Ernesto Medal to the Palestinian Authority chairman. Gerson Bergher, a leader of the city's 40,000 Jews and a former council president, said the reversal took place while he was absent from his municipal duties.

Rabbi Backs Down

NEW YORK — A militant rabbi has decided not to launch armed patrols of Jewish sections of Brooklyn, despite an "overwhelmingly" positive response. Rabbi Yakove Lloyd vowed, however, to put the patrols on the streets soon, despite police threats that they would be arrested.

Embassy Move

WASHINGTON — U.S. President George W. Bush has postponed moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem for an additional six months. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 requires the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem, but the two presidents since then have made use of a waiver enabling them to postpone the move for national security reasons. Bush said in a memo that his administration "remains committed to beginning the process of moving our embassy to Jerusalem."

Jews Sue

NEW YORK — Jews who once lived in Arab nations are planning to sue the Arab League for lost and stolen property. Some 800,000 Jews fled Arab lands after Israel was created. The action was the idea of Amram Attias, a Moroccan-born Jew who lives in New York. The lawsuit does not estimate a financial figure, but is seeking restitution for 200,000 houses, 6,000 synagogues, and hundreds of schools, cemeteries and other assets confiscated from once-thriving Jewish communities across the Arab world.

Charles on Tour

KRAKOW — Prince Charles toured Jewish sites here earlier this month. Wearing an embroidered blue kippah, Charles toured Krakow's centuries-old Remuh synagogue and Old Jewish Cemetery.

Rhodes Exhibit

ATHENS — The archeological museum on the Greek island of Rhodes is mounting an exhibit about the once-thriving local Jewish community. The exhibit, running until July 15, focuses on the history and daily lives of Jews who once lived on Rhodes. The Nazis occupied Rhodes in 1943 and deported all of the island's 1,700 Jews to Auschwitz; only 161 survived. There are now fewer than 50 Jews remaining.

Chrétien Condemns Terror Bombings

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Jean Chrétien last week issued the following statement expressing the "shock and outrage" of Canadians after back-to-back terrorist attacks in Jerusalem killed 25 Israelis, including many young people:

"Canadians are horrified by these brutal attacks. They seek not only to destroy innocent lives, but are clearly aimed at derailing all efforts to achieve a lasting resolution to the conflict. They must not be allowed to succeed. G-8 leaders will review the prospects for peace in the region [this] week [at the G-8 summit] in Kananaskis during our discussions of international issues.

"Canada strongly condemns these terrorist attacks and urges all who truly seek peace to call an end to them. No cause can justify these terrible acts and no resolution can

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Grass-roots group marches against anti-Semitism

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Marchers bearing Canadian, American and Israeli flags held signs denouncing hatred and supporting democracy during Sunday's Canadian March for Humanity and a subsequent rally in Queen's Park.

The event, attended by an estimated 600 people, was organized by a new grassroots group, Canadians Against Antisemitism, spearheaded by Sandra Stern.

Following the 15-minute walk to the site of the Ontario government, formalities included addresses from a dozen speakers, including politicians and Jewish, Christian and Sikh clergy.

Stern said she hoped to take the event across Canada in the near future. "People can change the world. They can make a difference," she said.

Our peaceful society "must remain a beacon," said Art Eggleton, Liberal MP for York Centre and Canada's former defence minister. Canada must stand with the people of Israel in the fight against terrorism, he said.

Liberal senator Jerry Grafstein noted that anti-Semitism "starts with Jews, but it never ends with Jews."

On behalf of the New Democratic Party, Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin denounced "in the strongest possible terms the disturbing rise of anti-Semitic incidents" both here and abroad. He attributed the rise in anti-Semitism, at least in part, to the portrayal of Israel in the media.

Sgt. Johnnie Stevens, a black veteran of one of the first U.S. army battalions to liberate the concentration camps, said it was because of people such as those at the rally that the United States had changed its discriminatory ways.

Max Eisen, who was liberated by Stevens' all-black battalion, said he was greatly heartened to see people of different faiths at the event.

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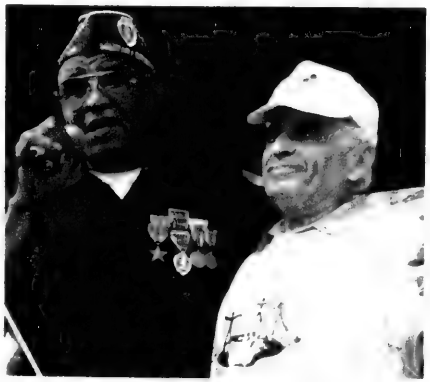

Above, Sgt. Johnnie Stevens, a veteran of one of the first U.S. army battalions to liberate the concentration camps, embraces Holocaust survivor Max Eisen at Sunday's rally. Eisen was liberated as a teenager by Stevens' unit. At left, protesters approach Queen's Park.

[Frances Kraft photos]

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30 years of women rabbis celebrated

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Rabbi Sally Priesand was ordained as a rabbi in 1972, she changed women's place in Judaism permanently.

Rabbi Priesand was the first woman rabbi ordained from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC/JIR) in Cincinnati, and the first woman rabbi to be ordained from any denomination.

She was in Toronto recently to help celebrate 30 years of women rabbis at an event jointly sponsored by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning; Na'amat; National Council of Jewish Women; UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy; Jewish Women International of Canada; Canadian Women for Reform Judaism; Women's League for Conservative Judaism/Canadian Seaway Branch; and Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

Also on the panel – marking the first time they have spoken together publicly – were Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, the first woman ordained as a Reconstructionist rabbi, and Rabbi Amy Eilberg, the first woman ordained as a Conservative rabbi.

The evening also included a tribute to the GTA's female rabbis: Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director of Kolel; Rabbi Debra Landsberg, spiritual leader, Temple Emanu-El; Rabbi Lori Macklis, assistant rabbi, Temple Sinai; Rabbi Michal Shekel, assistant rabbi, Temple Har Zion; Rabbi Sharon Sobel, director, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism; and Rabbi Yael Splansky, associate rabbi, Holy Blossom Temple.

Rabbi Goldstein told the capacity crowd at Holy Blossom Temple that the three women on the panel "rise above stereotypes and narrow definitions to bring to the rabbinate a wholeness it now can be proud of."

The celebration, she said, focused on what is unique about being both female and a rabbi, and what has changed in the past 30 years.

Rabbi Priesand, who has served as rabbi of Monmouth Reform Temple in New Jersey since 1981, said that she decided she wanted to be a rabbi at age 16, but did not think about being a pioneer or about championing women's rights. "I just wanted to be a rabbi.

"I am grateful, [though] that part of my life's work has been to open new doors to women in the Jewish community. My rabbinate has been based on the concept of empowerment...

"Rabbis are not surrogate Jews whose power is absolute, but facilitators and teachers who help others discover the richness of our heritage. In this realm, Jewish feminism has encouraged us to rethink previous models of leadership in which the rabbi maintained complete control and did everything for members," she said.

"Over the past three decades synagogues have moved more and more away from the concept of hierarchy and power toward new opportunities for partnership and networking."

An evening celebrating the 30th anniversary of women as rabbis featured, from left, Rabbi Sally Priesand, first woman Reform rabbi and first woman rabbi from any denomination; Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, first woman Reconstructionist rabbi; Rabbi Amy Eilberg, first woman Conservative rabbi; and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, rabbinic director, Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

In many ways, Rabbi Priesand said, Jewish feminism has been a grassroots movement, but change at the top has taken longer. "But even there, tokenism is becoming a thing of the past."

Over the past two years, more than a dozen women have joined the faculty at HUC/JIR, more women have become regional directors and vice-chairs of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis is set to install its first female president.

"This bodes well for our daughters and for our people," Rabbi Priesand said.

Rabbi Sasso, who was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1974, serves with her husband Rabbi Dennis Sasso at Congregation Beth El Tzedec in Indianapolis as part of the first practising rabbinic couple in the world.

While at rabbinical school, Rabbi Sasso said, she discovered her goal "was not to fit in, but to bring who I was to the rabbinate. My being a woman was not the only point, but neither was it besides the point."

For 30 years, said Rabbi Sasso, who is also the author of spiritual children's books, women rabbis have brought the pain and healing in their lives to their roles "and in the process have renewed the Jewish community.

"Women's spirituality [is marked] with a belief that difference does not mean inferiority or superiority. Women construct a network, not a hierarchy. They bring together diverse voices and build consensus."

Rabbi Eilberg, a pastoral counsellor, is co-founder of the Bay Area Jewish Healing Centre and a nationally recognized leader in the field of Judaism and healing. She was ordained 17 years ago by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

She said the ordination of women was the only way for the Conservative movement to be true to its own "raison d'etre – offering Jews a way to live a traditional Jewish life in the concept of change, contemporary reality and ethical sensibilities.

"Only by embracing the equality of all its members could the Conservative movement be true to its own ideals," she said.

Women rabbis have done what all rabbis have done, "but in this pioneering generation we have made contributions that are uniquely ours as women, and we are proud.

"We have wrestled with new questions and found new responses that are unique to women's realities. We have created ways to respond with prayer, to the sacred but hitherto unacknowledged moments in women's life cycles.

"We serve with open doors, those who feel that Judaism had been closed to them, because we too had been excluded," she said.

CORRECTION:

In the SeeJN photo, "Money Raised for Baycrest" (*CJN*, June 20, page 4), we incorrectly identified a Baycrest Terrace resident. Her correct name is Ruth Hanff. *The CJN* regrets the error.

From the editor's desk will return

Tories' tax cut delay leaves parents 'very upset'

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Disappointment – mixed with fear the measure might be permanent – greeted the Ontario government's announcement last week that it is putting the tax credit for private school education on hold for one year.

While expressing understanding that Queen's Park must trim spending and raise revenue, Jewish officials voiced dismay that Premier Ernie Eves was freezing the popular Equity in Education tax credit, a measure the Jewish community had fought hard for.

In the provincial budget brought down June 17, finance minister Janet Ecker announced the Tories would delay the second phase of the credit, meaning it will be frozen for a year at $700, or 10 per cent of the first $7,000 in private school tuition fees.

The move is expected to save the province roughly $15 million.

The credit, introduced a year ago, had been slated to rise to $1,400, or 20 per cent of tax-deductible fees next year, and increased annually until it reached the maximum of $3,500, or 50 per cent of fees, by 2006. It was expected to cost some $300 million once fully in place.

"It's a real disappointment," said Seymour Epstein, executive director of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education. "On the other hand, we understand fiscal pressure. We're prepared to wait and have patience, as long as it's for one year. It's understandable, but it's still a disappointment."

Georgeanne Burke, a spokesperson for Jewish Parents for Equality in Education Funding (JPEEF), and one of the leaders in the fight for funding of private, faith-based schools, was forthright: "We are very disappointed. This will represent a tiny amount of saving, just .07 per cent of the budget. It singles out parents [of children] in religious schools who have been discriminated against."

Though small, the saving "will have a major impact on religious parents."

Burke said "a lot of Jewish parents are very upset. They're nervous and worried, and justifiably so." Some parents, she said, are worrying that the tax credit will never be fully implemented.

Some newspaper columnists went further, speculating that the credit was as good as dead.

But Ecker, a former education minister who once opposed the credit, assured reporters that the delay is "simply a one-year postponement" in the life of the credit.

"We are very disappointed," stated Yisroel Janowski, president of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS). "We took [the Tories'] promise for what we felt it was.

"We hope the entire program will be re-instituted."

Meantime, Janowski is urging Jewish parents and other interested parties to "let the government know what our concerns are."

While also expressing disappointment with the delay, the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress said the Jewish community "fully appreciates the general fiscal pressures that has influenced the government to take these measures.

"We have waited a long time in order to achieve some equity for our children in independent religious schools. [The] announcement calls for patience as opposed to a political re-assessment. We fully expect that this one time measure will in no way affect the tax credit in the long term. The government has indicated to us time and again its full support of this measure," CJC region chair Ed Morgan said in a statement.

Morgan said the credit "must be seen as part of an attempt to rectify a longstanding human rights inequity. As such, it is not equivalent to other tax initiatives."

On other budget matters, CJC said it was gratified to note that the province's freeze on home care health funding was removed.

The Jewish community had lobbied for the removal of the freeze.

However, CJC said it appears funding for home care is still inadequate, and that it would continue to press for more.

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Russian community launches campaign for Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Toronto's Russian Jewish community has undertaken an emergency campaign to raise $100,000 for the victims of terror in Israel.

The campaign – the first of its kind in the Russian community – is already well under way, with 40 to 45 per cent of its target already reached. UJA Federation will match the amount raised through its Challenge Fund, meaning $200,000 or more could be headed to Israel in the next few months.

Prior to the launch of the campaign in early May, the Russian Jewish community in Toronto had focused on raising money to support local programs and schools, said Inna Kholodenko, who co-chairs the campaign along with Rita Khazanski.

But with reports from Israel describing the carnage being inflicted on the Jewish community there – many of whom are immigrants from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) – an initiative was launched to appeal for support from the local Russian community, Kholodenko said.

Approximately one million Jews from the FSU live in Israel and many local Jews have friends and family living with the threat of terrorism.

"Everybody was watching the news, what was going on. It was extremely frustrating. We were getting upset by the situation and feeling we should do something about it," Kholodenko, a native of Ukraine, said.

The emergency campaign is being held in parallel to the Russian community's annual fund-raising effort, which this year has a target of $2.4 million, up from $2.04 million the year before, said Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, senior rabbi of the Jewish Russian Community's Centre (JRCC).

Speaking at a luncheon headlined by Rabbi Berel Lazar, chief rabbi of Russia, Rabbi Zaltzman described the remarkable growth of the community in the last 20 years. In 1981, Toronto was home to 1,500 Russian families. Today there are 8,000 families and a total of about 40,000 Russian Jews.

In the last 20 years, the community has opened a day school and weekend schools, and it offers adult education classes. Four full-time synagogues serve the community. During the most recent High Holy Days, services were held in seven synagogues and that figure is expected to rise to eight during the High Holy Days later this year. The community also supports a monthly Russian newspaper, and a new English-language monthly magazine is set to debut in July.

The Russian community raises the vast majority of the JRCC's operating budget, with this year's total budget set at $4 million, Rabbi Zaltzman said.

Russian Jews are very supportive of Israel and a good number of them lived in Israel before moving to Toronto, he said.

The funds raised by the community "will help victims of terror," Rabbi Zaltzman added, though he said the precise target programs are not set yet.

Don't miss our story on Russia's Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar in next week's issue of The CJN.

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED:
Beit Rayim Synagogue and Hebrew School recently presented its third Judy Stein Volunteer of the Year Awards. This year's recipients were Bill Mandelman (far left) and Sharon Deutsh (far right). Youth award recipients were Dara Siegel (second from left) and Rachel Hindel (second from right). The presentations were followed by a volunteer appreciation evening and an Oneg Shabbat.

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Demand accountability

Last week, 32 Israelis were killed by brutal acts of deliberate slaughter by Palestinian murderers aimed primarily at defenceless individuals, mostly women and children. In response, the government of Israel decided to send its Defence Forces into the West Bank, once again, to find and destroy the terrorist infrastructure. As long as the Palestinian Authority (PA) refuses to destroy – they already know where to find – the terrorist infrastructure, Israel has no serious alternative but to try.

It was a weighty decision made reluctantly, with a heavy but resolute heart. It will undoubtedly mean more bloodshed on both sides. Indeed, the IDF apologized on Saturday for the mistaken deaths of three innocent Palestinians, two of whom were children.

Israel's Minister of Defence Benjamin Ben-Eliezer emphasized that the IDF operation is military only and strictly temporary. "There is no intention and there won't be...any control of civil affairs...in the Palestinian areas in which the army is fighting terror," Ben-Eliezer said.

A government's – any government's – first and highest obligation is to defend its citizens. Israel must and will do that. No decent, responsible, moral country anywhere on earth would have decided differently than Israel has in these circumstances.

The military presence, checkpoints, roadblocks, inspections, incursions and myriad other interventions by the IDF into Palestinian life are indeed humiliating to the Palestinians, as PA spokespeople maintain. No one, certainly not the Israelis, denies that. But humiliation can never justify the deliberate, terrorizing and terrifying slaughter of innocent life. Moreover, and equally to the point, Palestinian humiliation is the result of the deceitful behaviour of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. It was he who decided to walk away from the negotiations table, reject compromise, unleash violence against Israelis, refute every commitment he made to forever abjure violence, glorify "shaheedism" (suicide bomber martyrdom), incite terror against Israelis, fund terrorism against Israelis, collaborate with terror organizations and with nation-state-exporters of terror against Israelis and Jews, and even send out young murderers to perpetrate their unique form of violence against Israelis.

Before September 2000, the PA ruled over more than 90 per cent of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza, if not yet over more than 90 per cent of the territory there. The Palestinian economy was soaring. Unemployment was very low. Many economic and industrial programs were under way jointly with Israel and Jordan and many more were planned. Many military, agricultural, educational and social programs were also under way or planned jointly with Israel. Investment from overseas poured into the PA. Tourism flourished in the West Bank and east of it. The Jericho casino alone was bringing $40 million (US) each month into PA coffers. Because of Arafat, it has all come to an end.

It is high time and high honesty that the Palestinian people and western leaders finally demand accountability from Arafat rather than make excuses and apologies for him. By wielding the gun and the suicide bomber's backpack and belt, it is he who has brought his people to this sorry condition of humiliation and much worse.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Editorials & Letters

Dry Bones

ISRAEL BURIES ITS DEAD, AND FROM THE NATIONS OF EUROPE...
WE DON'T EVEN GET A "MINUTE OF SILENCE"
ACTUALLY, IN THE FACE OF ARAB TERROR...
EUROPE HAS GIVEN US YEARS OF SILENCE!

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Thanks, CUPE, for singling out Israel

Bravo to Ontario CUPE for bravely standing up to the Israeli military machine! Clearly, CUPE head Syd Ryan and others gave great thought to their resolution and recognized the necessity of singling out for condemnation one of the few countries in the world to possess the necessary mechanisms of democracy and due process that allow for and value dissent and legitimate criticism. Obviously, they were aware that a resolution critical of Israel was least likely to fall upon deaf ears. How else to explain the lack of any similar resolutions condemning Russia's systematic destruction of Chechnya, China's role in fomenting Maoist insurrection in Nepal, Syria's state-controlled tyranny of its own population and its military, financial and political support of the terrorist organization Hezbollah, Pakistan's support of Islamic militant extremists in Kashmir and, of course, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Fatah's logistical, financial and moral support of homicide bombers? I salute Ryan and his supporters for their single-minded determination and intelligence.

Phillip Maerov
Toronto

* * *

Women's bravery in Auschwitz

Regarding Bernard Baskin's column "Another valuable collection" about the book *Never Far Away: The Auschwitz Chronicles of Anna Heilman* (*CJN*, May 30), I have just completed the translation from Hebrew and Yiddish of a Yizkor book on Ciechanow for the Jewish Geneological Society. It contains seven pages devoted to the same struggle in Auschwitz that was carried out with the courageous help of the women who worked in the ammunition factory in Auschwitz's forced labour camp.

In those pages, Rosa Robota is recalled as a heroine because she was instrumental in organizing the women's participation and accepted a torturous death rather than reveal the names of the others who took part. Heilman would probably recognize this name.

Miriam Dashkin Beckerman
Toronto

* * *

No Muslim moral dilemma?

In an article May 31 in the *Toronto Star*, Tawria Hamamra describes herself as a devout Muslim who volunteered to carry out an attack on behalf of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. Her purpose, as of those before her, was to murder innocent men, women and children. She only balked when told by her handlers that she had to dress like a modern Israeli women with her hair loose, makeup, sunglasses and tight-fitting trousers. This she declined to do because it was against her religious beliefs.

Would a responsible religious leader anywhere please explain which is the greater sin for a Muslim? The moral dilemma is very simple for Jews and Christians. Why is it so difficult for Muslims?

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

Where do we draw the line?

Contrary to what Morton Weinfeld asserts in "Gay Pride in Jerusalem" (*CJN*, June 13), the issue is not one of tolerance versus intolerance. Rather, it's where exactly we draw the line. We're all tolerant, depending on the issue at hand. For instance, one would believe that all Jews would be appalled by parades celebrating bank robbery or bestiality as "alternative lifestyle." Those behaviours are forbidden by the Torah just as homosexual activity is forbidden.

Whether or not the rhetoric of certain politicians in criticizing homosexuality is appropriate under the circumstances is one thing. Nevertheless, Orthodox Jews are within their civic rights to protest the spending of public money on such a spiritually damaging campaign.

Robert Levine
Toronto

* * *

Is Israel better off now than 35 years ago?

This June marks the 35th year of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Two generations of Palestinians and Israelis have grown up with the occupation. As an Israeli-Canadian, I have to ask myself, is Israel more secure that it was 35 years ago? Are Israelis better off than they were 35 years ago? And what kind of people have we become in those 35 years?

Thirty-five years of occupation means that Israel has directly intervened in the lives of two generations of Palestinians. Thousands have been killed and tens of thousands arrested. Daily checkpoints on all major roads stop everyone. Everyone is searched and questioned. Houses and lives are destroyed in the name of Israel's security.

But today, Israel is less secure than at any other time in history. Today, more Israelis die from suicide bombs than on the battlefield. Israel is richer than it was 35 years ago but we are angrier and more intolerant. Today, the respected Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies reports that almost half of Jewish Israelis support the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, and close to 40 per cent support the expulsion of Arab-Israeli citizens from Israel.

Earlier this year, I wrote two letters criticizing the occupation, one to the *Globe and Mail* and one to the *Toronto Star*. After they were published, I received appalling and venomous hate mail, including death threats. All were from Jews. Canadian Jews have a proud history of supporting human rights and democracy. These calls and letters disgrace the community's heritage.

Israel can only survive if it is democratic and respects human rights. It is not a question of who was right, but where we go from here. Peace cannot happen unless the occupation is ended. Canadian Jews need to support an end to the occupation for the sake of Israel's safety, for the sake of Palestinian lives and for the sake of Jewish morality.

Sarah Shartal
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Waiting for Goisbault: The French government remains silent

By GERALDINE SHERMAN

It appears that the many supporters of Solidarity With Jews At Risk (SWJAR) who spent five nights standing vigil in front of the Bloor offices of the French Consulate in Toronto, obtaining hundreds of signatures on petitions, will never hear what the government of France has to say.

The hastily organized vigil was motivated by outrage at recent events in France. Hundreds of violent acts had been committed against Jewish property and people since September 9, 2000, the start of the current intifadah. Last fall, for instance, 200 Arabs attacked Jews in the Champs Elysee before Rosh Hashanah. Since then, Jewish schools have been vandalized, synagogues burned, cemeteries desecrated.

Geraldine Sherman

"Never again" seemed to be happening now and in France, culminating in neo-fascist, National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen winning a place in the presidential run-off against incumbent Jacques Chirac, a man whose own civil rights record is less than sterling. Weeks earlier, the French ambassador to Britain, Daniel Bernard, had called Israel a "shitty little country," adding, "Why should the world be in danger of World War III because of those people?" He remains in office.

The vigil's three organizers, Anna Morgan, Rachael Turkienicz and I, felt that government sponsored rhetoric against Israel and French Jews had served to inflame the population. "The point of the vigil," said Turkienicz, "was to demonstrate our solidarity with the Jews of France and implore the French government to do whatever was necessary to protect and defend this vulnerable group." We wanted to encourage politicians to work with their police, to tone down their rhetoric and to secure the safety of their Jewish communities. At the same time, we wanted to let French Jews know they were not facing this challenge alone, and to remind France that the world was watching.

Concerned Jews and non-Jews handed out information sheets and petitions on the street, in synagogues, schools, and study groups, asking for signatures to be sent to the Consul General of France in Toronto, M. Hugues Goisbault. The response was overwhelming. Articles appeared in *The Canadian Jewish News*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star* and the *National Post*, which also printed a letter from the organizers. The fax machine in the consul general's office must have whirred day and night. (So far as we know, New York was the only city outside Europe where a similar vigil was held.)

We waited for a response. None came.

Perhaps the consul general was unsure how to address his reply.

We recrafted our petition as a letter which was sent on May 8 and urged the French government to reply publicly.

"As founding members of Solidarity With Jews At Risk," we began, "we are gratified with the overwhelming turnout of voters in the French presidential election and the resounding defeat of Jean-Marie Le Pen." We said that we were also astounded by the number of Torontonians who came forward and signed our petition, and "while we support government actions taken so far by France to restrain inflammatory rhetoric and increase police protection for French Jews, we regard these as first steps only." We asked Goisbault to "please tell us, and the concerned public, what further measures this new government will enact to assure Jews all over the world that these barbarous crimes will not be tolerated and that France will enforce the rule of law and protect all its citizens, including Jews."

Two days later, we received a reply, which said, in part, that "security is one of the major issues for the new French government" and that they had formed a new ministry responsible for home affairs, internal security and local liberties and hoped to strengthen various police forces.

"The French authorities have always firmly condemned crimes against democracy. Exemplary sentences have been pronounced in order to punish any person committing any *anti-Semitic connoted act* on the French territory."

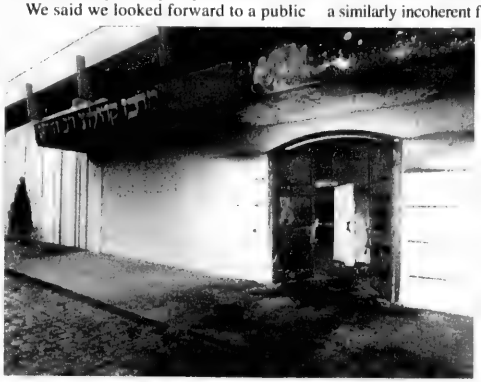
It concluded: "Please notice that France has never stopped denouncing and fighting against terrorism in the world, particularly condemning terrorist attacks in Israel. Today, our country is paying tribute to terrorism [sic]. The death of French citizens, victims of terrorist attacks in Pakistan testifies it."

We tried, initially, to make sense of the letter, to decode its message, especially the meaning of the repeated phrase, "anti-Semitic connoted acts." There was no mention of petitions, no recognition of the extent of the problem, no expression of responsibility or regret. We asked prominent members of the arts community to join us in a Standing Beside committee and received the support of Irving Abella, Margaret Atwood, June Callwood, Jacques Israelievitch, Norman Jewison, Mia Kirshner, David Mirvish, Peter C. Newman, Anna Porter, Jack Rabinovitch, Arlene Perly Rae, Heather Reisman, Mark Skazinetsky and Matthew Teitelbaum.

A new letter, with their names added, was sent on May 23, this time with a copy to the French ambassador in Ottawa, Philippe Guelluy. In it we expressed our shock and condolences to the people of France for the recent loss of innocent lives at the hands of terrorists in Pakistan, while stating that it was even more shocking when terrorism occurs in a country such as France. We mentioned once again recent incidents of anti-Semitic acts in France, adding that while we appreciated the initiative France appeared to be making to prevent future attacks, we needed some assurance that "the climate of intolerance that prevails in France" had also changed.

In addition, we stated that we expected the French government, through its consul general, "to make a public statement to reassure our concerned community that there is a recognition of omissions in the past as well as an invigorated policy for the future."

We said we looked forward to a public reply. A few days later, in a phone conversation with the ambassador's secretary, we were told that the letter had been received but "a reply is not forecasted."



Synagogue arson in France. **[RNS/Reuters]**

June 6. Still no word from the consul general of France in Toronto. We left messages for him to call one of the three original SWJAR organizers. He did not. In fact, we have been able to speak only to his secretary.

On May 31, one of the members of the Standing Beside committee met with the consul general on another matter and we were informed, through him, that Goisbault would be willing to meet informally with our committee at his official residence on June 10. He also passed on to us a sheaf of documents. They included, most notably, a statement from the ambassador's office entitled "Anti-Semitic connoted acts in France," an article in *Le Monde* by Jean Frydman, a Jewish businessman, and a letter by the ambassador published in the *Ottawa Citizen*.

The first document, dated April 11, states that "it is unacceptable to make the conclusion that France is going through a general renewal of anti-Semitic ideas... On the contrary, surveys show that the French population totally condemns these isolated acts."

It says that France "has always refused to confuse the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with anti-Semitic acts, which are to be condemned no matter what the context in the Middle East," but argues that "the resurgence of anti-Semitic acts is clearly linked to the situation in that region." In this official document, there were repeated denials of a problem as well as an attempt to offer assurance that security had been increased.

In the more disturbing *Le Monde* article, published April 9, the author wrote that while it's true there are anti-Semites in France as everywhere, "the existence of racist or anti-Semitic minorities has never meant that the country where they live was necessarily racist or anti-Semitic." As proof, he cited the many French who defended Alfred Dreyfus ("Which country went to the brink of civil war in order to defend the honour of an innocent Jewish officer?") and continued in a similarly incoherent fashion, mixing history and fiction.

Finally, there was the May 23 letter by the ambassador, published in the *Ottawa Citizen*, that stated his government's position: anti-Semitism is only a problem in France as it relates to the Middle East conflict.

On June 6, we informed the Standing Beside committee of our failure to receive a proper, public answer to the community's signed petitions or their personally endorsed letter. While SWJAR supports the French government's added measures to secure its Jewish citizens, we are concerned that they remain unwilling to make a clear, public statement admitting the history of French anti-Semitism or to acknowledge it as a particularly virulent problem today. For these reasons, we decided not to meet the consul general at this time. We are not alone in being met by silence from the French government.

Also on June 6, the French ambassador to the United States abruptly cancelled a long-scheduled meeting with 100 American Jewish leaders, saying that the representative of a sovereign state doesn't meet with non-governmental groups – this despite the fact that the event had been co-sponsored by the Republican Jewish Coalition and the Senate Republican Policy Conference.

More worrying still, on June 10, the Simon Wiesenthal Center issued a stern reminder that while some things change, others seem immutable: "The continuing attacks on Jews in France, which have been more numerous than in any other western country, are being carried out against the background of alarming indifference, with citizens and government leaders turning a blind eye. This indifference, coupled with the threat of anti-Semitism and the verifiably documented acts of violence, are prompting a continued feeling of utter abandonment within France's Jewish community."

SWJAR has succeeded in making our own community aware of the plight of French Jews. We have failed, so far, to make the French government behave responsibly. It seems that half a victory will have to do for now.

Geraldine Sherman is a writer and journalist living in Toronto.

A day in my life

Several times recently, I have been asked how I manage to get started every morning with my work in its various aspects. The question assumes that my routine is always the same and, in a broad sense, that is indeed so.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Physical and spiritual ablutions start my day. Then comes breakfast, during which I listen to the radio and manage to read as much of the morning paper as my temperament is willing to allow. I try not to overload the early morning hours with bad news, for that would inevitably throw a pall over the rest of the day.

Since I subscribe to a variety of e-mailed news updates, most of them concerned with Jewish affairs and problems, I am quickly tuned in to the major issues that face our people. I also have requests to comment on certain matters, and a half-dozen letters require answers, and sometimes they are double in number. After two hours or so in front of the computer, which lasts until about 9 a.m., I can make some telephone calls and attend to other matters.

But then, after a while, the realities of existence will assert themselves: There's my daily visit to the hospital to see my wife, who has been lying there for more than two years now, unable to communicate – but she is alive and as beautiful as ever, and she will always be part of my existence as long as she keeps on breathing.

Otherwise, my life is pretty much like that of most of my readers, I suppose. I have my joys, I have my family, my friends, my books and my music, and in that way I am never quite alone – although I must admit that I do feel lonely from time to time.

There is an unfinished novel that awaits my daily input. There is also so much to read, both in my computer and in my books that clutter the desk, that the hours pass quickly, and I find that there is always too little time. But as long as I can read, and function reasonably well, I have no complaints. I am fortunate to have family and friends who stand by me when I need them.

Sometime later this year – if all is well – I hope to celebrate my 90th birthday, and when that happens, I will let you know how it feels to reach that age.

Meanwhile, keep reading my column, and I'll keep on writing it!

It's Istanbul, not Constantinople, now

Forty years ago, when I taught English in the public high school in Bursa, Turkey, I had only one Jewish student. I found one Jewish shopkeeper in Bursa's bazaar. Near my apartment was a simple, sequestered synagogue. Travelling down the Turkish coast, I passed a wedding party (of Turks) happily dancing to *Hava Nagilah*, even though this song may have been their only exposure to Jewish culture.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Yet, Jewish history in Asia Minor goes back to before Hellenistic times. For instance, in Sardis, a Greco-Roman city, lie remains of Jewish shops. Later, Byzantine Jewry was overwhelmed by exiles fleeing the blood-soaked Spanish Catholic monarchs. The descendants of those exiles form today's 500-year old Turkish Jewish community.

However, I had not learned much about their lives when I was a young English teacher, so on my return to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps in Turkey, I made an effort to see what their lives are like today.

About 27,000 Jews live in Turkey, 2,500 in Izmir, 180 in Bursa, and most of the rest in Istanbul. Turkey's treatment of its Jews, with the exception of a period during World War II when many males were interned in camps, has been excellent. Thousands found refuge there during the war, despite the horrific sinking of the Struma.

In the Ottoman Empire's glory days, Jews were part of the business class and even advisors to sultans. Their decline in power matched that of the Ottoman Empire. After Ataturk's revolution and the emergence of modern Turkey, Jews remained unmolested. My interviews in Izmir and Istanbul were with people who feel at home in Turkey, even as their children and relatives continue to leave.

My husband and I arrived in Izmir on erev Shabbat and found the synagogue. By chance, as we arrived there, so did a young woman paying her daughter's fees for a weekend retreat with other Jewish kids in Istanbul. Tilda has her own business and her husband is – what else – a computer techie. One daughter attends a private high school in Izmir, the other university in Istanbul. Do they have Muslim friends? Of course. Are they afraid? Of course not. They have relatives in Israel; their daughter has been there. Just the same, they don't discuss Israel with their Muslim friends. But "life is good." We thanked her and left the synagogue, skirting the armed guard outside the building. Since an attack on an Istanbul shul in 1986, all synagogues have armed guards.

In order to attend synagogue in Istanbul, we must call the chief rabbi's office, send copies of our passport, hotel name, and the name of the synagogue that we want to attend.

After that, we went to the office of the weekly Jewish newspaper, *Shalom*, (published in Turkish and Ladino) for an interview with its editor. We talked about youth and the future of the Jewish community. Istanbul boasts one Jewish day school, Ulus (where my Izmir friend's daughter spent the weekend). Today, Jews enter professions at will, mirroring the shift from business to professional life in Jewish communities worldwide. And like elsewhere in the West, intermarriage is beginning to take its toll.

At one time Jews lived in a suburb, Kuzguncuk, among a mixed population of Christians and Muslims, now home to an artist colony and a largely Muslim population. Today Jews live scattered all around Istanbul.

Why do Jews continue to leave Turkey? Many study abroad, mostly in the United States, and many of them stay, since prospects seem brighter there.

The interview took place as Israel was chasing terrorists in Jenin. How has that situation, and Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit's recent accusation of Israeli genocide against the Palestinians, affected Turkey's Jews? Like others we spoke with, the editor attributes Ecevit's comment to Parkinson's disease. The media has been critical of Israel, but the community works with them to explain Israel's position. There is always the problem, according to her, of the media not distinguishing between Turkey's Jews and Israeli policy. I knew I was on home ground there!

What will be the future of this ancient community? Turkey, a country of 70,000,000, is a burly, quiescent giant in the region, a secular Muslim country with close ties to the United States, Israel and the European Union, which it wants to join.

The bottom line may be that, if Turkey prospers, its Jews will prosper. If it falters, then its minorities may take the heat. For now, however, "life is good."

Losing games, finding balance

I've been playing B'nai Brith softball for about ten years. In that time, I've lost about 200 games and won maybe 50.

Two hundred times I've lined up to shake hands with my opponents after losing a game. They used to say "good game" as they shook hands. In later years, as the teams I played for got worse and worse, they said "thanks." After our most recent 30-8 shellacking, some of the opposing players just said "hey" and flashed a sympathetic look and nod – the type you might give in a shivah house.

Stuart Shaven in Winnipeg

The team I play for now—the Diamonds—is, well, not very good. We haven't won yet this year and the season is about one third over. Last week, during a 28-0 loss, it occurred to me that we have become just like the Washington Generals, that rag-tag crew of fair to middling basketballers who get demolished by the Harlem Globetrotters in every game. In fact, I could have sworn I heard one of our opponents hum *Sweet Georgia Brown*, the Globetrotters' theme song, as he rounded second base.

Our base running is suspect. We make bad decisions in the field. And, as far as hitting goes, most of us haven't had this much trouble getting to first base since we started dating in high school.

But what we are good at is shmoozing on the bench, going for beer a few times a season and sharing a few laughs. And that's the point of it all. We may play for the love of the game, but we play in a Jewish league because we're looking for more than competition. We're looking for community, camaraderie and connection.

Despite a busy home and work schedule, I make a point of playing ball every year. It's not for the exercise—as a Diamond infielder, I seldom budge and I'm not doing a great deal of base running. Putting handfuls of sunflower seeds into my mouth is as close as I get to exercising during a game. (We're not 100 per cent certain, but when I came home from a game last week, my wife thought she saw moss growing on me.)

What keeps me playing ball is my desire for balance in my life between work and play. I think what brings me back to a Jewish softball league in particular is the desire to participate in a communal activity that isn't all about obligation.

Just like we need balance in our day-to-day lives, we need balance in our Jewish communal experiences as well. While each person's ideal blend of communal experience differs, I suspect we all need doses of spiritual experience, community service, social life and recreation.

Earlier this year, I resigned from a volunteer position with a Jewish organization. After about 15 years of service on various Jewish boards and committees, I had simply burned out. My Jewish communal experience stopped being fun; it stopped being meaningful (even though I am passionate about the last organization I worked with). Too many meetings; too many reports; too many details; too much politics. My Jewish communal balance was way off.

Even though I've been playing for a decade, I have found that since resigning from my position, Jewish league softball has become more important to me than ever before.

I have come to learn that it is about more than play. It's about connection. There are even times when playing baseball contributes to my spiritual awareness as well, as I find myself saying things like: "Oh, God, I wish we could win a game!" and "Oh, God, I hope he doesn't hit it toward me!"and "Oh, God, are we pathetic!"

As an active volunteer, I found myself becoming resentful and bored. By taking a short leave from volunteerism, I am restoring the balance that had been missing for so long.

This break from committee work will ultimately make me a better volunteer when I return. For now, I just need some Jewish-flavoured play time. We all need it sometimes. I'll get back onto boards soon enough; for now, I just want to get on base.

The Kirshner File

Marcel Reich-Ranicki delves into his life

Marcel Reich-Ranicki, whom I had the pleasure of interviewing 14 years ago in Frankfurt, is Germany's foremost man of letters, a literary critic whose commentaries can make or break a writer.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The epitome of the cultured German intellectual, he has written for Germany's leading publications, from *Die Zeit* to *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, has hosted popular radio and television programs and has written penetrating books dissecting German literature.

And yet, Reich-Ranicki refuses to call himself a German. "I have no country of my own, no homeland, no fatherland," he writes in his engaging memoir, *The Author of Himself* (Princeton University Press).

One can understand his reticence. He was born in Poland in 1920, in the city of Wloclawek, but lived in Germany from the late 1920s onward. There, in Berlin, partly under his mother's influence, he developed an enduring affection for the German language. Expelled from Germany in 1938, Reich-Ranicki was plunged into the despair of the brutal German occupation of Poland.

After the war, he worked for Poland's intelligence service and foreign ministry. But regarding Poland as an "alien country," he moved to Germany, where he honed his talents as Germany's leading authority on German literature. Despite his fame and fortune, Reich-Ranicki could never forget the past. And in *The Author of Himself*, he delves into it with gusto and brooding contemplation.

His father, David, a businessman, was born in Plotsk, which in the 19th century had been a part of Prussia. His mother, Helene, the daughter of a rabbi, was a Prussian Jew steeped in German culture. On her initiative, Reich-Ranicki attended a German-language primary school. When his father's business failed, the family relocated to Berlin. There, amid the comings and goings of the Weimar Republic, he learned to appreciate the love of his life – German literature.

Not long after the Nazis came to power, one of his teachers was transferred to another school after he had the temerity to criticize the new Germany's state anti-Semitism. Reich-Ranicki recalls this man, an avatar of German idealism, with great fondness.

Reich-Ranicki also has clear recollections of his Jewish religion instructor, Max Nussbaum, who immigrated to the United States and became a rabbi in Hollywood (where he converted Elizabeth Taylor, Sammy Davis Jr. and Marilyn Monroe).

As Hitler tightened his grip on Germany, Jewish pupils like himself were gradually excluded from school activities and excursions. His teachers, Nazis or not, generally treated their Jewish students decently and correctly. Lacking money, contacts and initiative, his parents did not think of emigrating.

During this uncertain period, he decided he would be a critic. So it is not surprising that what he feared most was being prohibited, as a Jew, from going to theatres and opera houses.

Due to the anti-Semitic policies of the day, Reich-Ranicki was not admitted to the university of his choice. As a result, he missed out on a university education. It was a grievous blow: "I was never able to make up for what was denied me then." But, as he subsequently elaborates, his failure to reach academe was not fatal. "Whatever I can do I have taught myself," he writes. "I became a self-taught person through necessity."

Two weeks before Kristallnacht, he was ordered out of Germany, along with 18,000 other Jews of Polish nationality. "This was the first officially organized mass deportation of Jews," he writes.

In Warsaw, Reich-Ranicki earned pocket money as a tutor in German. He never doubted the ultimate victory of the Allies in World War II, but he greatly feared that terrible things lay in store for Jews. By contrast, his mother never lost her faith in German order and justice.

He met his wife-to-be, Teofila Langnas, in wartime Warsaw, and they shared their ordeal together. Given the opportunity to escape from the ghetto, she chose to remain with him. Ever the critic, he observes: "For a woman to risk her life in order to save her friend, lover or husband – that was a theme I was familiar with from operas, ballads and short stories."

Thanks to his stellar knowledge of German, he was engaged by the German-controlled Jewish Council as a translator. "For the first time in my life I was needed."

The ghetto, as he recalls, was hideous. "Death was encountered... at every step. I mean this quite literally: In the gutter, especially in the early morning, scantily covered with old newspapers, lay the corpses of those who had died of debility or hunger or typhus and whose burial nobody wished to pay for."

There was only one automobile in the ghetto and it belonged to Adam Czerniakow, his boss. Reich-Ranicki has mixed feelings about him. At the request of ghetto historian Emanuel Ringelblum, he prepared copies of the correspondence between the Jewish Council and the German occupiers. These priceless archives were placed in 10 metal containers and two milk churns and buried for safekeeping.

Although Reich-Ranicki never harboured illusions about what awaited Polish Jews, he did not believe the rumours about their mass murder. "That the aim [of the Germans] was the Final Solution did not occur to anyone."

Marcel Reich-Ranicki

Reich-Ranicki witnessed the 1942 deportation of Jews from Warsaw to Treblinka. His parents were among the doomed. "The following day I bumped into the commander of the Jewish militia at the embarkation point... He told me: 'I gave your parents a loaf of bread – more than that I couldn't do for them. And then I helped them up into the truck.'"

Though not a member of the Jewish Fighting Organization, which resisted the 1943 liquidation of the ghetto, Reich-Ranicki participated in one of its operations. This enabled him and Teofila to escape into the countryside.

Hidden by a Polish peasant, they spent two years cowering in a cellar and in an attic. In postwar Poland, he worked for the ministry of public security. Then he was a postal censor and secret service agent.

Reich-Ranicki joined the Communist party in 1945. He felt indebted to the Red Army, which had driven the Germans out of Poland. And he jumped at the chance to join a universal movement which sought to solve the great problems of our time. Later, he would regret his decision.

At the age of 28, he was appointed vice-consul at the Polish embassy in London, a position that required him to spy on Polish exiles. But having been branded as an ideological subversive, he was soon dismissed and kicked out of the Communist party. Reich-Ranicki became a translator, book reviewer and author. Anti-Semitism in Poland had bubbled to the surface, alienating him from his birthplace.

He landed in Germany in 1958, unknown but undaunted. "Naturally, I had to start at the top. I had no sooner arrived in Frankfurt than I went to the offices of *Frankfurter Allgemeine*." The arts editor accepted his book review, and he was launched on what would be an illustrious career.

He began writing for *Die Welt*, a mass-circulation conservative daily, and for *Die Ziet*, a left-of-centre weekly favoured by intellectuals. In 1963, he wrote his first book in the West, *German Literature in West and East*, and in 1964, he initiated a radio series, *Literary Coffee House*. By 1970, he was ready to write a book of profiles of important German literary critics. In 1988, he began hosting *Literary Quartet*, a TV show whose popularity made him a household name.

Before leaving *Die Ziet* in 1973, Reich-Ranicki lectured in Sweden, Australia and New Zealand. Then he was offered a plum job he could not refuse: the directorship of *Frankfurter Allgemeine*'s literary section, possibly his most important position.

His main achievement there, he says, was "bridging the traditional gulf between academic German scholarship and literary criticism." For all his accomplishments, Reich-Ranicki left the newspaper in a huff. He and his editor, Joachim Fest, had enjoyed a fruitful and cordial professional relationship. But it turned frosty when Fest, a biographer of Hitler, tried to relativize Nazi crimes.

Reich-Ranicki was also annoyed when Fest published articles by historian Ernst Nolte, who claimed the Holocaust had not been the fault of the Germans, but the outcome of European fascism and anti-Semitism.

For Reich-Ranicki, it was the final straw. As he explains: "The political and moral consensus which had existed between us regarding the Third Reich and its consequences, the consensus that was fundamental to my work on *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, and indeed my whole existence (in Germany)... was needlessly, indeed wantonly, destroyed by Joachim Fest."

It's a pity that *The Author of Himself* concludes on such a sour note. But at least Reich-Ranicki does not try to sugar-coat this unpleasant incident.

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Suicide attacks pose threat to both sides: Rae

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Bob Rae says it's time to press for a paradigm shift in discussions about the Middle East.

The former Ontario premier returned last month from an intensive five-day trip to Israel along with eight other lawyers to learn about the system of justice and human rights advocacy there, meeting with Israeli legal experts, Palestinian Authority spokespeople, professors, members of Knesset and IDF advisers.

"For a long time, I think the assumption has been that if only Israel would withdraw from the occupied territories, the solution would logically come," said Rae, speaking recently to an invited group at a downtown law office as a guest of the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada.

The event, one in an ongoing series that began 30 years ago, was organized by Toronto lawyer Bert Raphael.

Rae, who is now a partner in a law firm and an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto, also criticized the notion that if Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon were not in power, the problem would not exist.

Although Rae has never been an enthusiastic proponent of Israeli settlements, the premise that withdrawal from the territories would bring peace is "essentially wrong," he said.

"It's impossible to expect the Israeli population to accept the meaningfulness of negotiation with someone [who] has proven to be incompetent, unwilling and incapable of stopping the suicide murders."

Those attacks, said Rae, threaten not only Israel's sovereignty, but the Palestinians' own "supposed capacity" for sovereignty. Until they stop, he said, there's no basis for discussion.

A second paradigm shift, to which governments have to respond, is the "convergence of the old anti-Semitism and the new anti-Semitism into some awful, powerful, virulent virus which we're seeing in many manifestations."

Under the old paradigm, anti-Semitism was a thing of the past, but the promotion of hatred and "disgusting [anti-Semitic] propaganda" is not only tolerated in the Arab world but accepted as true, he said.

"If children in refugee camps and schools in the Middle East are being fed this vitriol, we have to do whatever we can to stop it, to insist that we understand that this infects opinion and the whole climate of civility which is a precondition for coexistence."

The hatred is reflected in growing anti-Semitism in Europe and North America, he added. "You have to ask yourself whether something deeper isn't at stake and happening in the post-September 11 world."

Canada is not immune, said Rae. "We have leaders who are committed to tolerance and fighting hatred, but we have to recognize that there are comments made about Israel which, frankly, encourage this re-emergence. I think we have to have the guts to say we can't accept this."

The old Canadian view, said Rae, is that the solution to a problem is somewhere between the two positions. "Well, not necessarily. You have to have some moral and political criteria."

Rae was troubled by the PA "climate of concern and fear" that holds Palestinian moderates back from speaking publicly. "People who stand up and say these [types of moderate] things a lot, end up not being around very long."

"To be fair," he added, "I think there's also a very strong sense within the Palestinian community that there are some real issues that Israel's going to have to come to grips with, that if the occupation continues indefinitely – and it's continued for over 30 years – there are some real issues around what happens to the civil relationship between the communities."

Attention has to be shifted to the type of state the Palestinian Authority will be, he believes. "Are the civil institutions going to be allowed to emerge, which will give it legitimacy and capacity to govern?" he asked.

"Sovereign states define themselves by their capacity to enjoin their citizens from carrying out acts of hostility against others."

Although the Palestinians "claim – assert – that their aspiration is to have a state, there does not yet appear to be an understanding or appreciation of the essential compromise that that objective assumes," Rae said.

Preconditions for having a state include having rules and laws, the capacity to enforce the laws, and an acceptance of the legal obligation to recognize neighbouring jurisdictions, he added.

Rae blamed the persistence of what he called "apocalyptic thinking" among the Palestinians for causing the "grim daily reality of having to govern" to become "comparatively unromantic and uninteresting."

Although Israel has its internal challenges, he noted, it is intensely concerned about law, rules, rights, and limits of power to the point where Israeli military activities are subject to judicial review.

Rae said the Palestinians in refugee camps have been used as pawns in a horrible game for a very long time. He believes that, ultimately, Egypt, Jordan and other Arab countries will have to be part of the refugee solution.

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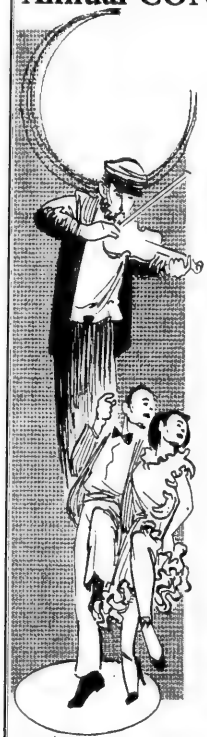

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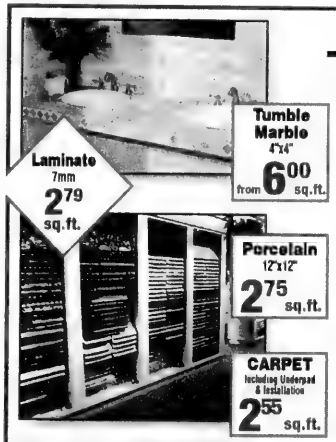

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Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate students and coaches. Kneeling, from left, JWS coach Tom Blair with his students Ruban Kellen, Lewis Robinovitch, Eytan Perl and CHAT coach Richard Stoll. Standing, from left, are JWC students Matthew Leibl and Richard Winograd and CHAT students Andrew Segal, Jonathan Klein, Adam Lazier and Mark Edelstein.

Jewish high schools reach for the top

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

For the first time ever, students from two Jewish high schools found themselves in Edmonton competing for the *Reach For The Top* trophy.

After winning their respective provincial rounds, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and Winnipeg's Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (JWC) proceeded to the national games.

Reach For The Top is a television quiz show, which began in 1961, where high school students compete for points by answering general knowledge questions.

Competitions begin at the city level with winners going on to provincial games. Finalists proceed to the nationals – Ontario and Manitoba send their top two high schools – and face off in fierce high-speed rounds of educational trivia.

For many years, *School Reach*, as the show is also known, was played without much media attention, said CHAT game coach Richard Stoll, who has been preparing students for the event for the past 16 years.

With Joe Motiki as provincial game show host and Daniel Richler quizzing at the nationals, *Reach For The Top* has reemerged this time around with a newer funkier style in an effort to be more appealing to the teenage audience, Stoll said.

From the exhibition matches against various staff members to round table challenges against other schools, the energy level remains high.

To survive Ontario, "You need to be good and fast," Stoll said, adding that you also need a bit of luck.

First of all, he said, the current team – Jonathan Klein, Adam Lazier, Andrew Segal, Mark Edelstein and Jared Gordon – was very strong.

But, he noted, it was also fortunate for CHAT that Earl Haig Secondary School didn't play this year because they've been hard to beat.

At the provincials, the only team to trump CHAT was the University of Toronto Schools. CHAT and UTS were the Ontario representatives in Edmonton.

"Ten years ago, Winnipeg's Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate won the Manitoba provincials, but they didn't play the nationals because they chose to go on their annual trip to Israel," JWC coach Tom Blair said.

With this year's trip cancelled, Wolinsky students – Eytan Perl, Matthew Leibl, Ruban Kellen, Richard Winograd and Lewis Robinovitch – found themselves with the time to proceed to the next stage of the games.

Once the teams were in Edmonton, the Jewish community was very helpful arranging for kosher food and Shabbat accommodations, Stoll said, adding that throughout the process, *Reach For The Top* director Paul Russell helped them with their needs. For example, Saturday games were rescheduled for the CHAT students and kosher food was provided at the Edmonton banquet.

There were Jewish holiday questions also thrown into the mix.

The students from the Jewish day schools sometimes missed those questions because it "just depended on how fast the players were with the buzzer," Stoll said.

There is certainly a level of alertness needed to deal with the tension and still be first on the draw, said CHAT team player Jonathan Klein.

But it was also just fun to hang out with other kids who share the same interests in these kinds of competitions, Klein said.

The finalists formed friendships during the games and as they made their way towards the trophy, the tension built as shut-out team members began rooting for their new friends.

And the winner?

The shows will be broadcast on ACCESS from June 26 to July 10 at 5 p.m. (reruns on July 22 to August 5) and on Canadian Learning Television sometime in the fall.

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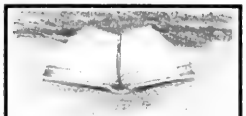
Rabbi Shmuel Marcus, son of Rabbi Raphael Marcus of Congregation B'nai Torah, is enrolled in the Wexner Kollel Elyon of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in New York, an affiliate of Yeshiva University. He earned his B.A. in History at Yeshiva College; his M.S. in Jewish Education from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration of Yeshiva University; and received his Semikhah from RIETS. Rabbi Marcus has taught at the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy-Yeshiva University High School for Boys.

Jewish Life

Are you yashar?

By RABBI MOSHE J. YERES

With the commemoration of the Seventeenth of Tammuz on June 27, the Jewish calendar enters the sad period called the Three Weeks when we recall events that led up to the destruction of both the First and Second Temples. Our tradition teaches that every year at this time we should reassess why we still exist in exile and have not yet merited the Temple's rebuilding and our ultimate ingathering.



Rabbinic Reflections

The great sage, Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin (1817-1893), head of the Yeshiva in Volozhin and known by his initials Netziv, noted in the introduction to his biblical commentary *Ha'amek Davar* that in rabbinic literature, the book of Genesis is also called the *Sefer Hayashar* – the Book of the Just. The name, writes the Netziv, reflects the uniqueness of our Patriarchs, Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaacov, that they dealt with all those they came in contact with in a manner that was not just legally correct, but morally and ethically exemplary (i.e., yashar) as well.

Regardless of an individual's status as an idol worshipper who at times may not have had the Patriarchs' good in their hearts, the Patriarchs acted toward them with love, going beyond the strict letter of the law. Avraham, for example prayed to save the wicked of Sodom. Yitzchak made a pact of friendship with Avimelech the Philistine, and so on. Our first biblical book, therefore, reflects this founding ideal of our people with the accolade *Sefer Hayashar* – the Book of the Just.

The Netziv continues and notes that in Moses' last soliloquy prophecy, the poem of Parshat Ha'azinu, a premonition of the Second Temple's destruction and the exile are found in Deuteronomy 32, 4-5: "*Hatzur tamim pa'alo... tzaddik veyashar hu. Shichet lo... dor ikesh ufitalto.*" ("The Rock, his work is perfect... just and right is he. They [Bnei Yisrael] have dealt corruptly... they are a perverse and crooked generation.") As the Netziv points out, Moses' prophetic words were meant as a *tziduk hadin* – an acceptance of God's judgment against the Jewish people for the ruin of the Second Temple and our present exile.

What do these words actually signify? The Netziv writes that the Jews of the Second Temple era were not wicked or bad per se, or even idol worshippers. In fact they were "good and diligent in Torah." But they had one failing, a flaw the Almighty considered so serious that He removed His protective shield from them. The Jews treated each other without the modicum of respect; their conduct to each other was not yashar. The *sinat chinam* (baseless hatred) they maintained to other Jews led them to suspect and label as Sadducean, agnostic or heretical any belief and behaviour that did not exactly match their own. Because of this, emphasizes the Netziv, the Jews came to disunity, violence and, eventually, communal self-destruction and exile. The decree to destroy the Temple was thus justified; for God is yashar and cannot tolerate such "crooked" behaviour, though it may have been done with the purest of intentions. Such actions, to quote the Netziv, "only cause destruction of God's creation and the settlement of the land of Israel."

The *matzav*, as the present situation in Israel has come to be called, has caused Diaspora Jewry to focus on our support and connection to the Jews in Israel. The message of the Netziv – and it's the message for these Three Weeks of introspection – is for us to also focus on relationships in our own communities as a way to further the process for peace and restoration for Eretz Yisrael and Klal Yisrael. Suddenly, the oft-used term *yiyasher kochacha* – may your strength be yashar – takes on added meaning.

Rabbi Moshe J. Yeres is head of Rabbinics and Talmud at the Richmond Hill campus of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

A Cry for Peace

By LEON KRYM

Oh Abraham "Father of Nations."
Your name is inspiring.
Your status overwhelming.

"And I will give unto Thee,
And to Thy seed after Thee,
The land of Thy sojournings,
All the land of Canaan,
For an everlasting possession."*

...And the farmers are toiling the land.
Wilderness made into blooming orchards
Swamps into fertile ground.
Bricklayers, building homes, houses,
Cities and towns.
And the Dead Sea, "alive" and thriving
In the Judean Desert.

Jerusalem of Gold, the City of David.
Home of Three Holy Shrines.
Inspiration to the faithful, the worshippers,
And the pilgrims.

Blessed are the inhabitants
Of the land of "Milk and Honey."

Yet, envy and hatred consume
The House of Ishmael,
Conquest admire, a burning desire,
Israel entire.
Today: Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem.
Tomorrow: Paris, London, New York.

Shooting, stabbing vendors and shoppers
On the markets, streets and alleys

Mothers, babies, Jerusalem
Blown apart by "holy weapons"
Of the Jihad, Hamas and Al-Aqsa killers –
Preached by the Mullahs
From the pulpit in the mosque.

And the House of Israel,
Amid explosions and suicide bombers,
Calling on our "Fathers Abraham,"
"The father of Nations" – yours and ours –
A cry for peace not war
Friend, not foe.

Israel,
Although painfully shaken
But strong and resilient.
Bruised and wounded
Yet, confident and determined
Will steadfastly defend our land,
Homes, families and Jerusalem.

"Ma Tovu Oholecha Yaacov
Mishkenoteha Israel"

"How good are thy tents, O Jacob
Thy dwellings, O Israel."**

---

*Genesis, Chap. 17
**Numbers, Chap. 24

Leon Krym lives in Toronto.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach on Judaism

***Judaism for Everyone*, by Shmuley Boteach, Basic Books, 2002, $41.50.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Only 36, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, a quite unorthodox orthodox rabbi, is a phenomenon: founder of Oxford University's L'Chaim society, author of 13 books, including the recent bestselling *Kosher Sex*, a frequent guest on TV and radio shows around the world and an untiring advocate of a rejuvenated Judaism for our time.

It must be emphasised that this book is not the usual how-to guide to Jewish ritual and practice. It presents the basic ideas of Judaism in a universal and philosophical context.

The author believes that Judaism, "with its strong ethical emphasis, can serve as an inspiration for modern-day men and women who long for a spirituality that will make them into better people – teaching them how to be more happily married, raise more secure children and channel their ambition into purposeful action."

Rabbi Boteach is uncompromising in his defence of traditional Judaism. "By rejecting the supremacy of Jewish law as the consummate vehicle by which man comes close to God, and embracing a more palatable, comfortable and rational Judaism, Reform Judaism, notwithstanding the nobility of its intentions, is guilty of rejecting God's right to be more than human – in fact, to be God, and thus not always accessible to temporal intelligence."

This view, simply presented but not pursued, presents a variety of theological problems that the author does not address.

Tolerance is a value, Rabbi Boteach maintains, that Judaism can teach world religions. Jews have never insisted that their beliefs are superior to others. Nor have the Jews ever persecuted another nation for not adopting Judaism. The rabbis of the Talmud taught: "Do not despise any man" (Ethics of the Fathers, chap. 4). Hence, racism and the hatred of other tolerant faiths is an unforgivable sin in Judaism.

Likewise, the rabbis declared, "Even a Gentile who studies God's law is equal to a high Priest" (Bava Kamah 38a). These rabbis saw God's salvation freely available to all men and women.

Life and abundance are pillars of Jewish belief and action. Though death and mortality were their constant companions, the Jews still pulled out the best bottle of wine they could every Friday night and festival eve, and made a toast to life. Judaism has never been a religion of cemeteries, tombs and mass graves. Rather, it has been the religion of young children, families, communities and the living Torah, which has sustained and animated this most ancient people through every trial.

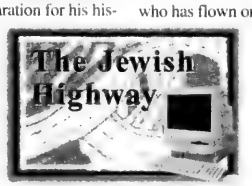
Above everything else, the author, in this thoughtful, informative and often inspiring, work insists that Judaism "is not just a collection of ideas. More significantly, it is a program of action by which to bring Godly ethics and values to mankind, ensuring that they take root within the individual and each successive generation. The purpose of Judaism is to translate spiritual abstractions into a tangible reality that becomes an inseparable part of human living."

Undauntedly optimistic, the author predicts that more and more non-Jews will want to study Judaism and will use it to further their spiritual growth and ethical development. This will happen, not because Judaism is a better religion than the world's other great faiths, but because it is more suited to our times.

"A Jewish wave is coming. For 11 years in Oxford, I witnessed it swelling. It will make a great splash in all the world's cities. Scores of non-Jews will surf its crest. My hope is that this book will serve as a beachhead where all can land safely."

Jews in space – part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ



In a few weeks, Israelis and Jews everywhere will look to the heavens even more than usual as Ilan Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, lifts off aboard the space shuttle Columbia. We'll learn more about Ramon next week, but in preparation for his historic mission, here's a look at Jews in space in fact and fiction.

The first Jewish astronaut and the second American female in space was Judith Resnick, who first flew during the maiden flight of the Discovery in August 1984. **[http://www.christa.org/resnick.htm]** Resnick was chosen to fly again in January 1986 aboard the Challenger, in which she perished along with rest of the crew shortly after launch. **[http://www.pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/shuttle/missions/51-l/mission-51-l.html]**

A special plaque in memory of the Challenger astronauts has been dedicated in Arlington National Cemetery. You can see the plaque and read more about the mission at the Arlington National Cemetery Web site **[http://www.arlingtoncemetery.com/challengr.htm]**.

Several other Jewish astronauts have followed Resnick into space, including career test pilot Scott Horowitz, who has been in space four times **[http://www.jewishsf.com/bk960216/uspilot.htm]** In 1996, astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman took a "Space Torah" on board his shuttle and then returned it to his congregation, Houston's Or Hadash. The synagogue's Web site praises its member for demonstrating "that one could embrace traditional Jewish values and yet venture into the newest frontiers of human existence." **[http://members.aol.com/orhadash1/mehadash.htm]**

In a wonderful article in *Hadassah Magazine*, Miryam Wahrman speaks to another Jewish astronaut, David Wolf, who has flown on three shuttle flights. In addition, Wolf spent four months aboard the Russian space station Mir, including a Chanukah that was out of this world. Although Wolf brought along a menorah, he couldn't light it because open flames would have posed a serious risk in the oxygen-rich atmosphere. So Wolf took advantage of zero gravity to enjoy another tradition: "I probably have the record dreidel spin; it went for about an hour and a half until I lost it. It showed up a few weeks later in an air filter. I figure it went about 25,000 miles." **[http://www.hadassah.org/NEWS/archive/2001/march01/profile.htm]** You can find David Wolf's official bio on the NASA site. **[http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmbios/wolf.html]**

Although Jews may be relatively new to space, they have done a great deal to shape how our world views outer space. I was intrigued by the article *Jewish Visions of the Fantastical Future*, which looks at the work of filmmakers ranging from Stanley Kubrick *2001: A Space Odyssey* to Woody Allen *Sleeper*. "While Jewish science fiction teems with stock images of aliens, spaceships, and robots, it is distinctive for its futuristic interpretations of ancient Jewish mythical tales. In contemporary science fiction, dybbuks and golems metamorphose into robots and computers. The veneer is different, the landscape futuristic, but the underlying themes and archetypes of classic Jewish tales persist, linking Jewish past and future." **[http://www.jewishculture.org/currents/0001current.htm]** For more on Jews, science fiction and the future, see Jonathan Tobin's *The search for Jews in outer space continues* **[http://www.jewishworldreview.com/cols/tobin051399.asp].**

Of course, no discussion about Jewish and space would be complete without a nod to one of the most popular space adventures of them all, *Star Trek*. Although there haven't been any famous Jewish astronauts aboard the various Enterprises, the *Star Trek* series have had no shortage of Jewish performers, including William Shatner (Capt. James T. Kirk), Walter Koenig (Cmdr. Pavel Chekov) and Brent Spiner as the very popular android, Data.

But the individual who has left the most indelible mark on *Star Trek* is Leonard Nimoy, who as the Vulcan science officer Spock adapted the hand salute that Nimoy had seen in synagogue during Birkat Kohanim, the Priestly Blessing **[http://members.rogers.com/nimoyleonard/nimoy_startrek.html]**

As Nimoy explained to the *New York Times* **[http://www.ajc.org/JewishLife/BeingJewishDetail.asp?did=199&pid=289]**, "Why did I think back to that hand gesture? Actors are always looking for something personal to bring to their professional lives. Maybe, then, it was the convergence of my spiritual and artistic lives. Maybe, in a way, I can call that salute my Vulcan shalom, my greeting of peace, my yearning for the blessing of peace – the age-old quest of the Jewish people, my people."

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com

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Mixed reports on summer Israel trips

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

All things considered, the Canadian arm of Birthright Israel is doing pretty well.

Next week three busloads of Canadians will tour Israel on the free, 10-day trip for 18-to-26-year-olds. That's one bus – about 40 people – less than at the same time last summer, which is not a significant decline, says Adam Minsky, director of Israel and Overseas Programs for Canada Israel Experience (CIE).

Overall, the number of North American young adults visiting the Jewish state this summer is down by an estimated 50 to 90 per cent from 2000, the last summer before the violent Palestinian intifadah began driving away tourists.

Advocates for such programs worry that even if the situation in Israel improves, it will take a long time to rebuild their infrastructure and convince North American Jews that Israel trips are an important rite of passage.

One thing that is different for Birthright this year, Minsky said, is the lack of a waiting list. Earlier in the intifadah, spots were filled quickly when participants pulled out.

He attributes the earlier spate of cancellations to the abrupt change in Israel's situation. "This time, we don't have a large number of cancellations," Minsky said.

When current registrants signed up, they already knew what to expect in terms of the volatility of the situation and the security precautions taken, which are not changing substantively this summer, Minsky said.

At a time when many providers of Israel trips for young adults are lamenting the decrease in participants, CIE is seeing an increase in the area of volunteer programs, particularly among young people who have already been to Israel.

"It really speaks to the impact of the Israel experience," Minsky said. About 70 people have already been on such programs, and another 70 are expected to make the trip over the summer.

"We've managed to shift gears and focus more on the volunteer programs and second-time programs," said Minsky. "That has kept the numbers up in Canada."

Certainly high school and youth movement programs have been affected, he noted. "We're hoping it will be a temporary thing."

In response, CIE and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, along with other organizations, are sending more than two dozen Israeli shlichim to spend time at Jewish overnight camps this summer, bringing a taste of Israel with them. The program began last year as a pilot and was expanded into a national program this year.

The Reform movement, once the largest provider of teen trips to Israel is sending only 20 to 30 kids this summer. There is only one Canadian participant. Two years ago, 1,391 youngsters took part in their program. Last year, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations – the Reform umbrella – cancelled its teen programs in Israel altogether.

Tamara Kochberg, regional youth director for United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, has mixed reports about her movement's summer Israel trips.

This summer, there are six Canadians on the United Synagogue Youth (USY) Israel summer trips out of a total of 100 North American teens. Before the intifadah, the trips averaged 450 to 460 participants. Last summer there were only two Canadians. On the other hand, not all of USY's Israel programs are running this year, Kochberg said.

"I think there's an unusual sense of pride and honour in going to Israel now," she said. "We do what we can to honour our own delegates going to Israel.

"I think there will be the usual bounce-back when things settle down. During the Gulf War, it was the same thing. There was a lot of doubt and hesitation. I think one of the biggest things we've seen is that people who visit Israel during these tough times come back with a stronger message than any kind of PR we can do."

Last year, however, USY launched two new Europe-based programs which had been under discussion for some time. A spokesperson at the USY's office in New York said the programs weren't introduced specifically as an alternative to Israel, but she said there is a possibility parents will see them that way.

National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY), an Orthodox outreach organization for high school students, is replacing its TJJ (The Jerusalem Journey) program with a similar trip to the West Coast, said Rabbi Glenn Black, NCSY's Toronto-based regional director.

Rabbi Black is concerned for the future of Israel summer trips and about the implications for organizations like his own.

NCSY is running only two programs in Israel this summer – a boys' learning program with two Toronto participants and one for girls with one local participant – but last year there were five such programs.

"We held on as long as we could, but we couldn't pull it off," said Rabbi Black. The boys' program has been moved from outside Israel's so-called Green Line to within its pre-1967 boundaries, for security reasons.

News is better for intensive year-long programs, including NCSY's, which has more than two dozen local participants.

Rabbi Black sounded dejected at the prospect of not being able to send young people to Israel, even as he talked of plans to continue his Jewish outreach in other ways.

"We're not sure where the light at the end of this tunnel's going to be... When you do outreach, you want to introduce Israel as a major piece."

Is he worried? "Absolutely."

With files from JTA

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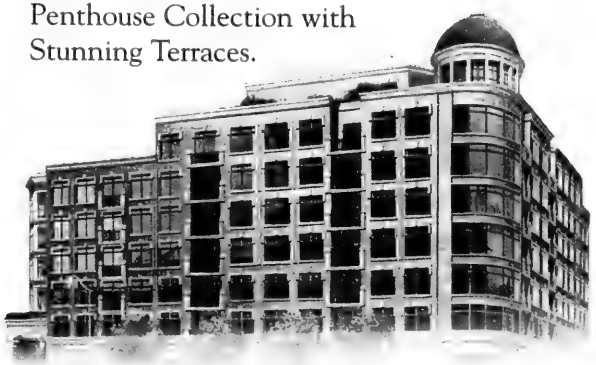

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- Ability to work under pressure on multiple tasks and meeting tight deadlines
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to work co-operatively and creatively in a team environment
- Knowledge of the Jewish community is a definite asset

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Please forward your resume and letter of intent to: Eileen Olmer, eolmer@ujafed.org or 4600 Bathurst St. Toronto, M2R 3V2. No phone calls, please.

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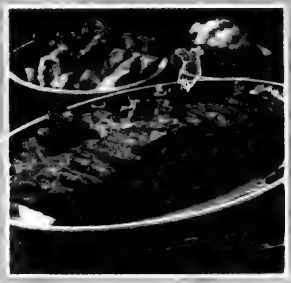

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, July 2, is deadline for July 11 issue. There will be no issue July 18, and the July 2 deadline will also include items that would ordinarily appear July 18. Monday, July 15, is deadline for July 25 issue. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, June 27

SELF HELP GROUP

Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Toronto IBS Self-Help Group meetings are the last Thursday of every month. 7-8:30 p.m., at Mount Sinai Hospital, 15th floor classroom. **Jeffrey Roberts** 416-932-3311.

Sunday, June 30

BETWEEN TWO GIANTS

Yiddish Culture Council lecture on Between Two Giants: I.L. Peretz and Chaim Nachman Bialik, with guest speaker **Abraham Novershtern**, lecturer on Yiddish literature at Jerusalem University and director of Sholem Aleichem House, Tel Aviv. 8 p.m. at Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W.

MEDINA SHOWCASE

The Medina Theatre Ensemble presents its annual Showcase Presentation, staged readings involving short scenes from familiar sources. 8 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre, inside Earl Bales Park, 4169 Bathurst St. For more information, **Morris Jacobs** 416-785-0344 or **Susan Harssar** 416-485-1967.

WINGATE BRANCH

Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion holds an all members meeting 9:15 a.m., with breakfast nosh, at the Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024. No meetings will be held in July and August.

GARAGE SALE

Second annual garage sale is at 8 a.m. at Chabad @ Flamingo, 8001 Bathurst St. For more information or to donate used goods, call 905-763-4040. Legal appraisal tax receipts and pick-up are available.

Wednesday, July 3

YIDDISH MUSIC

Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation invites you to annual Concert of Yiddish Music, Between Two Worlds: Yiddish Song in Europe and America, with the Klezmer Band Beyond the Pale led by **Eric Stein**, and singers **David Wall, Stella Walker, Bronna Levy**. 7:30 p.m., Mel Lastman Square. For information, 416-635-2883, ext. 155. In case of rain, concert will be held at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave.

And What Else Is New

SINGLES SHABBAT DINNER

Singles (55-70) Shabbat Dinner at Temple Sinai, Friday, July 12. Dinner 6:30 p.m., services 8:15 p.m. followed by a Summer Concert. Reservations and payment must be received at the temple by July 5. **Sara** 416-487-4161.

SPEED DATING

An Aish singles event for ages 25-40 is on Monday, July 15, at 8 p.m. 905-764-1808.

WOMEN'S CENTRE

North York Women's Centre, 201 Caribou Rd. 416-781-0479.

You Have a Choice, a workshop examining one's beliefs that contribute to the degree of stress in a woman's life. Wednesday, July 10, 7-9 p.m. This is an evening designed to honour "who we are."

Women Caring for Ourselves, a 3-evening workshop that will explore issues around health (breast care, STD/AIDS awareness, birth control, safe sex practices, pelvic exams). Thursdays July 11, 18, 25, from 6-8 p.m.

Continued on page 19

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What's New

Continued from page 18

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Lost for Words! The Aphasia Institute is seeking mature volunteers to be communication facilitators. Lead a small group of language affected adults in conversation. The commitment is for 3-4 hours per week. Extensive training is provided.

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Note: For all three of the above, please call the Volunteer Centre of Toronto, North York Branch 416-631-6117.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, call the centre office 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Cookstown Factory June 27; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27; Casino Rama July 3, 17, 31. Bingo every Tuesday at 2 p.m. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). June 27, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Summer Learning Series for Seniors, Communication, with gerontologist **Rheta Rosen**. Wednesday, July 3, topic Effective Listening and Responding at Ryerson University 10 a.m. to noon.

Casino Rama. Thursday, July 4, departing 8:30 a.m. Free lunch coupon. Bring your players card. Tickets at ticket sales desk.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 110.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Through to June 30: Regarding Landscape, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman,** on view at Koffler Gallery, the Art Gallery of York University and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. Ext. 380.

Sundays, a shuttle bus travels between the 3 galleries, ext. 268.

Register now for Summer 2002 visual art classes at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Classes begin July 2. Information/registration ext. 269.

Thursday, July 11: New show at the Koffler Gallery. **W. Mark Sutherland's** Scratch, involving sculptural works, sonic poems, bookworks, videos and audio visual installations. Artist talk July 11 at 6 p.m. Opening reception July 11 6-8 p.m. at the Koffler Gallery. Show runs to Sept. 27.

Koffler Concert Band. Join the Koffler Adult Band. The only requirement is minimal previous experience on any instrument, a desire to play and a love of music. Choose from the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. Conductor **Resa Kochberg**. Wednesday evenings 8-9:30 p.m. Register for fall now! Ext. 228.

Koffler Renanim Children's Chorus, a Jewish children's choir under the direction of **Debra Aronson**. Youngsters ages 8-14 who love to sing, will gain a solid foundation in singing technique and sight singing while learning musical rudiments and developing listening skills. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Call now for fall registration ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Seniors Club, Thursday, June 27, 2 p.m. Golden Oldie movie, *Notorious* starring **Cary Grant** and **Ingrid Bergman**. Directed by **Alfred Hitchcock**.

ABOUT PEOPLE

DR. ZANE COHEN TRIBUTE

On Sept. 18, Ben-Gurion University and Mount Sinai Hospital will be honouring **Dr. Zane Cohen**, surgeon-in-chief of Mount Sinai Hospital, at a tribute dinner at the Sheraton Centre Hotel. Keynote speaker will be Nobel laureate **Elie Wiesel**. Dinner chair is **Barry D. Lipson**. Honorary chairs are **Lawrence Bloomberg**, **Leslie Dan**, **George Fine**, **Henry Goldbach**, **Dr. Bernard Goldman**, **Wolfe Goodman**, **Al Green**, **Sid Greenberg**, **Alex E. Grossman**, **Fred Litwin**, **Alexandre Raab**, **Consul General of Israel Meir Romem** and **Dr. Rosalind Romem**, **Gerald Schwartz**, **Ellie Tesher**, **Dr. Walter Unger**, **Irving Ungerman** and **Michael Wynston.** For more information on the event, contact the Ben-Gurion office at 416-665-8054.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

HARRY POSEN MEMORIAL LECTURE: Holy Blossom Temple recently held a series of lectures featuring Shira Herzog, who spoke on the topic Israel aand the Challenges from Within. The series was made possible through the generosity of the Posen, Speigel and Cohen families. Seen, from left, are Charles Cohen, David Posen, Joyce Speigel, Robin Posen, Shira Herzog, Stephen Posen, Barry Speigel, Rabbi John Moscowitz and Debra Hendler, Holy Blossom Temple Foundation's director of development.

HONORARY DEGREES

Among the Canadian cultural icons to have been recognized by the University of Toronto with honorary degrees at this year's spring convocation ceremonies are:

Nine-time Emmy Award winner **Lorne Michaels**, executive producer of *Saturday Night Live*, who was inducted into the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 1999, received his honorary doctor of laws on June 18.

Jack Rabinovitch founded the Giller Prize in 1994, one of Canada's most important cultural awards dedicated to celebrating the best in Canadian fiction, to honour his late wife Doris Giller. Rabinovitch, currently president of Nodel Investments Ltd. received his honorary doctor of laws on June 18.

ROSENBERG MEMORIAL LECTURE: Beth Tzedec Congregation recently hosted the annual Rabbi Stuart and Hadassa Rosenberg Memorial Lecture with guest speaker Gershon Hundert, professor and chair of the department of Jewish studies at McGill University, Montreal. The event was sponsored by the David and Karla Goldberg family. Shown, from left, are Gershon Hundert, the Rosenbergs' daughters Ronnie and Elissa, and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation.

[Mollie Rothman photo]

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On Campus

Student artists sought for novel project

By LARA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

The curators of an upcoming bookmark display at the 26th annual Jewish Book Fair are currently seeking submissions from university students or young artists.

The Bookmark Project, a part of Flex, Koffler Gallery's art intervention program, will be running in conjunction with the Jewish Book Fair at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) from Nov. 3 to 10.

Curators Andrea Brent and Susan Johnston, fine arts students at York University, have been working on the project since February.

"We encourage bookmarks of unusual materials and shapes, as long as they work as a bookmark... Any material you can possibly dream of: photography, printmaking, textiles, beadwork, whatever," Brent said.

In addition to being displayed at Koffler Gallery during the book fair, selected bookmarks, all original works of art, will be slipped into some books, and dropped into some people's purchases.

Artists will also be handing out their bookmarks randomly during the fair. In this way, "people can find art or be given art when they aren't expecting it, in a form that they aren't expecting," said Brent.

Although they welcome submissions from anyone interested, "we would like the bookmarks to revolve around the themes of literacy, reading, and Judaism," she said.

In addition to adding an artistic element to the book fair, the Bookmark Project will showcase young artists' artwork in a major Toronto gallery during a highly visited event:

"Somebody will go home with something you've made, and your name is going to be on it. They're going to remember you, and your name has been put out," Brent said.

Art intervention "makes people aware of art," she said. "It gets their minds thinking about what art is, and how different everyday objects such as a bookmark can be art."

Other Flex projects have included an artwork series in which handmade bars of soap were inscribed with various messages and placed in washrooms throughout the BJCC.

Those interested in the Bookmark Project are asked to submit slides, detailed drawings or a sample bookmark for consideration.

The curators also need an estimate of how many bookmarks the artist is willing to create (the Koffler Gallery will not be reproducing them).

All bookmarks must be signed original works, and not reproduced mechanically. Selected students and artists will receive an honorarium.

The Koffler Gallery also requires background information on the bookmark, Brent said.

"We want to know what the motivation is behind the bookmark. We would like an artist's statement saying who you are, what your purpose is for doing this project, and what materials you used.

"If you're an aspiring artist, if you're a student, if this is a cause that you care about, if you're interesting in literacy and Jewish history, I would encourage you to get involved in the project; it will be a great experience to you as a beginning artist."

For more information, or to submit your bookmark, e-mail bookmarkpro@hotmail.com.

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CONTEST WINNERS: The Holocaust Centre of Toronto of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto recently named the winners of its 2002 Ontario Provincial Arts/Writing Contest on the Holocaust. Sunny Wan (left), a Grade 12 student at Earl Haig Secondary School, won first place in the senior division for his musical composition titled *Scene*, while Adi Wolff (right), a Grade 8 student at Netivot HaTorah, won in the junior division for her essay *Rescuers and Bystanders During the Holocaust: Raoul Wallenberg and Pius XII*. Wan and Wolff won trips to Washington, D.C., to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Pictured with the winners is Brenda Fishauf, a donor who helped make the competition possible.

[Sid Cohen photo]

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The CJN will not publish a July 18 issue... stay with us throughout the summer for all your news

Coast to Coast

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילוער

אויסגעמיטן אַ פּאָגראָם אויף לאָדזשער ייִדן

פון נחמיה קנאָבעל (סאָראָנסאָ)

אין 1936, נאָך די פּאָגראָמען אין פּשיטיק, מינסק־מאַזאָוויעצק און אַנדערע שטעט, האָבן די אַנטיסעמיטן אויפגעהויבן די קעפּ און דערקלערט, אַז לאָדזש איז אויך אַ גוטער פּלאַץ פאַר אַ פּאָגראָם און רויב פון ייִדישן האָב־אוך־גוטס. ספּעציעל אין די אָרעמע געגנטן ווי באַלוט, אַלטשטאָט, ווו ייִדן האָבן געפירט דעם קלייך־האַנדל, געהאָט קליינע געוועלבער, אָפענע האַלעס אין איינקע שטאָטישע פּלעצער. די אַנטיסעמיטן האָבן זיך געגרייט אין אַ געוויסן טאָג צו פּאָגראָמירן די ייִדישע איינוווינער. אָבער די אָרגאַניזירטע ייִדישע אָרבעטער באַוועגונג, ספּעציעל די פּראָפעסיאָנעלע פאַראיינען, די „יוניאָנס", האָבן זיך אין געהיים געגרייט צו ענטפערן אויף יעדן אָנפאַל קעגן ייִדן.

די אָרגאַניזירטע פּראָפעסיאָנעלע פאַראיינען זיינען געווען באַהערשט פון „בונד" און „לינקע פּועלי ציון". דער טראַנספּאָרט פאַראיין: טרעגערס, פורמאַנעס און פיזישע הילף אָרבעטער אין געשעפטן זיינען געווען אונטער דער השפּעה פון די פּועלי־ציון. אויך דער פליישער פאַראיין: קצבים, שעכטהויז אָרבעטער, יאַטקעס אָנגעשטעלטע, און טיילן פון באַקלייד־פאַראיין: נאָדל אָרבעטער און פּרעסערס, אונטער דער פּועלי־ציון. דער האָלץ פאַראיין: סטאָלאָרעס, בוי־אָרבעטער און דאָס גלייכן זיינען געווען אונטער דער השפּעה פון בונד.

פון פּוילישע שכנים, וואָס האָבן מערסטנס געוווינט אין די זעלבע הייזער, האָט מען זיך דערוווּסט, אַז אין אַ געוויסן מאַרקטאָג וועלן די פּאָלאַקן אָרגאַניזירן אַ גרויסע דעמאָנסטראַציע, דאָס מיינט אַן אָרגאַניזירטער פּאָגראָם אויף ייִדישע געשעפטן, גרעסערע און קלענערע. ספּעציעל איז געווען לייכט פאַר זיי צו דערגרייכן אָפענע האַלעס, וואָס האָבן זיך געפונען אין האַרץ פון דער אַלטשטאָט אויף זגערזשער גאַס, צווישן ברעוונאָווסקאָ און פּאָזשעטשנע, קעגנאיבער דעם אַלטשטאָט גאָרטן, וואָס מען האָט גערופן פראָיִם־לאָזערס גאָרטן, אויפן נאָמען פון אַ דינאַמישן פירער פון בונד.

ווי אַ פאַרוואַלטונג מיטגליד אין נאָדל־אָרבעטער פאַראיין, האָב איך זיך פערזענלעך באַטייליקט אין אַלע זיצונגען צו אָרגאַניזירן דעם פּלאַנירטן ווידערשטאַנד קעגן די פּאָגראָמשטשיקעס. עס זיינען פאָרגעקומען שטרענג געהיימע באַראַטונגען, מערסטנס אין פּריוואַטע היימען פון פאָרשטייערס פון די פּראָפעסיאָנעלע פאַראיינען, ווו מען האָט אויסגעאַרבעט די גענויע פּלענער.

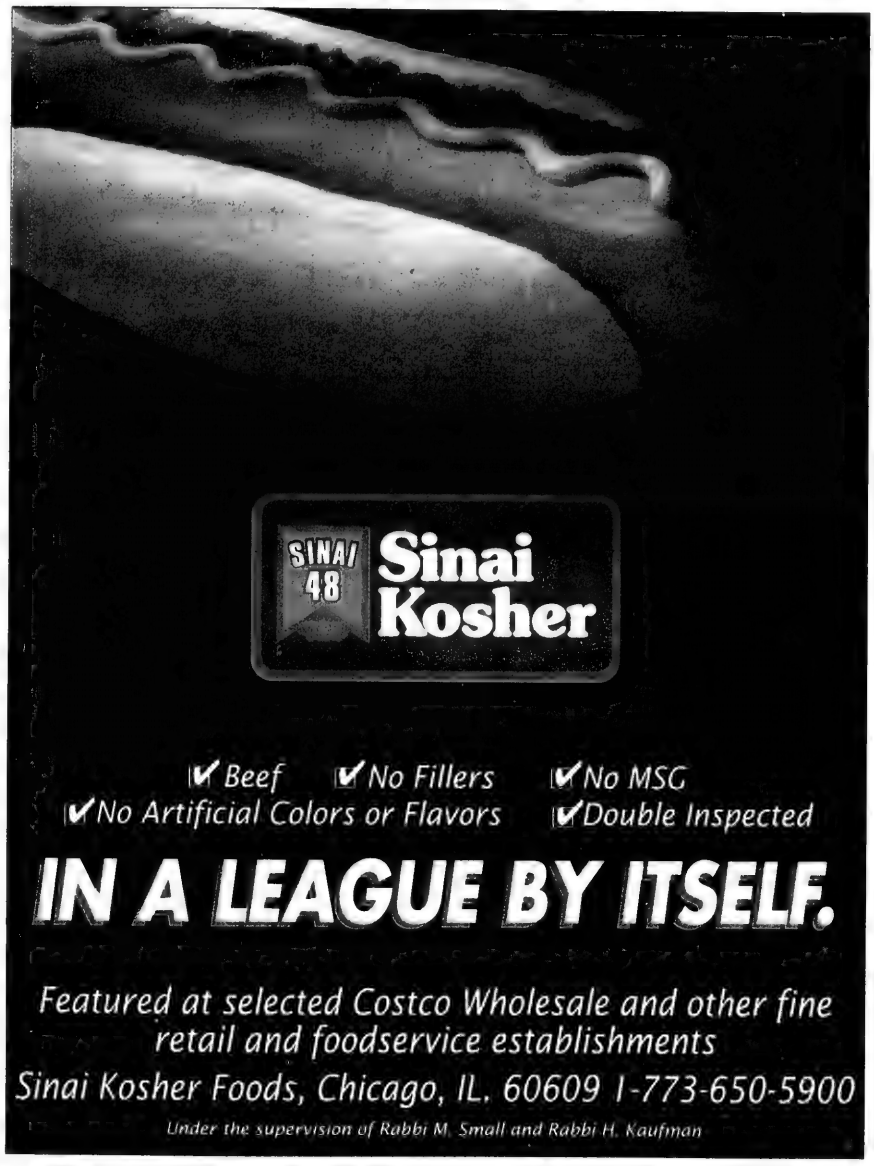
צום באַשטימטן טאָג זיינען מאָביליזירט געוואָרן די אָרבעטער, ספּעציעל די, וואָס האָבן געאַרבעט נאָענט צו דער געפּלאַנטער דעמאָנסטראַציע, ווי די טרעגערס פון יונה פּילצערס פּלאַץ אויף לאַגעווניצקע. די טרעגערס פון די אָרומיקע געשעפטן, ווי אויך אַ צאָל אָרבעטער פון שעכטהויז זיינען דעם טאָג נישט אַרויס צו דער אַרבעט. גלייכצייטיק איז געמאַכט געוואָרן אַ פאַרבינדונג מיט דער אַזוי־גערופענער „אונטערוועלט" — שטאַרקע יונגען וואָס האָבן געוווּסט ווי אַזוי צו דערלאַנגען אַ קלאַפּ. זיי האָבן אויך אין געהיים מאָביליזירט זייערע אָנהענגערס צו זיין צוזאַמען מיט דער אָרגאַניזירטער אַרבעטערשאַפט.

איך וויל אַרויסברענגען אַ וויכטיקן פּרט: ביים אָרגאַניזירן די ווידערשטענדלער איז געגעבן געוואָרן אַן אויסדריקלעכער אָנזאָג: נישט נוצן קיין הייס געווער, קיין מעסערס, נאָר „טרוקענע" מכשירים, ווי שטעקנס, דרענגער, טיילן פון וועגענער, די אַזוי־גערופענע „אַרטשעס", און מיט דעם זיך אָנטקעגנשטעלן די פּאָגראָמשטשיקעס.

אין באַשטימטן טאָג האָבן די פּאָלאַקן זיך פאַרזאַמלט אונטער דער אָנפירונג פון אַ צאָל כוליגאַנעס, מיט דרענגער, שטעקנס און אַנדערע שלאָג־מכשירים, אין דער געגנט פון זשאַביע גאַס. פון דאָרט האָבן זיי אָנגעהויבן זייער מאַרש צום באַלוטער פּלאַץ, נענטער צו די האַלעס.

(סוף אין קומענדיקן ווינקל)

STANDING TOGETHER: Thousands of Jewish students in Toronto recently signed a declaration of solidarity with the children and youth of Israel. The Declaration Scrolls were presented to the Ministry of Education, the Jewish Agency and schools across Israel. Pictured is the presentation at the Tali school in Gilo. The project was initiated by the staff of UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and its executive director, Seymour Epstein.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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg Holocaust educator 'touched the hearts' of students

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — With Hersh Zentner's death June 11 at age 64 after a long battle with cancer, the Jewish community here lost a pioneer in Holocaust education who was instrumental in bringing the subject to Manitoba schools.

Obituary

Zentner, who was born in Canada to Canadian-born parents, first became interested in Holocaust education after a visit to Auschwitz in 1988. After retiring in the early 1990s for health reasons, the longtime high school teacher threw himself into his new avocation.

In her eulogy, Holocaust survivor and activist Barbara Goszer recalled her first meeting with Zentner at a Holocaust awareness meeting nine years ago.

"At that meeting, he offered us the opportunity of a lifetime: his services as a Holocaust educator," she recalled. "All he asked for was office support staff and survivors to go with him and give personal testimony.

"Hersh's proposal was just what our Holocaust awareness programming needed to bring us on par with other communities in Canada."

Zentner's objective was to teach the Holocaust to the non-Jewish world, Goszer said.

"He felt that the information and survivor stories would help to stem the rise of racism in our schools," she said. "He was the architect of our Holocaust education outreach program and with a quickly-assembled speakers' bureau consisting of survivors and March of the Living students, began its pilgrimage."

She said survivors who accompanied Zentner to schools were mesmerized by him and enchanted by his openness and energy. Teachers and students were also impressed and responded positively.

"Our program took off with the speed of lightning," Goszer said. "Every school clamoured for Hersh's program. In the first year, we were doing four or five presentations a week. We had to slow it down because it was taking a great toll on us."

Barbara Kowall, executive director of the Jewish Heritage Centre, said Zentner "had his own way of presenting the Holocaust.

"Others modelled their presentations after his. He was an inspiration to everyone and touched the hearts of every student and adult he spoke to. We hope to be able to perpetuate his work."

Zentner is survived by his wife Lil, who retired a few years ago after a lengthy career teaching in Winnipeg's Jewish school system, and by daughters Pam and Allie, son-in-law Jason and grandson Jonah.

Suicide bombing shocks visiting Torontonians

Members of a UJA Federation solidarity mission to Israel who were in Jerusalem at the time of last week's bus-bombing said they were shocked and emotionally overwhelmed by the attack.

Emotionally distraught and still in shock, Carol Sterling, vice-chair of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, said the attack "puts it all into perspective.

"Israelis do not want to be victimized and simply wish to be comfortable in the State of Israel. People are making great sacrifices and we need to continue to show our support."

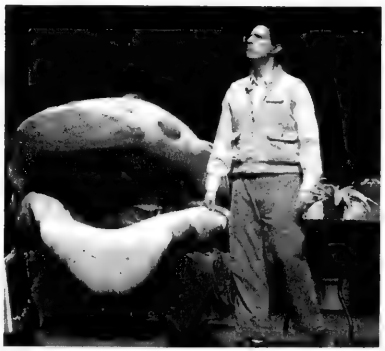
The Torontonians were in their hotel room when the suicide bombing occurred Tuesday morning. Many said they were impressed with how Israelis handled themselves after the bombing.

Sterling said Israelis feel the need to go with life as best they can.

"They live in the moment despite the sadness surrounding these events," she said. "You go home at the end of the day and realize how important support for Israel is, both financially and otherwise."

UJA Federation associate campaign director Jeff Springer said "the group is handling it extremely well, despite the fact we are all still in shock."

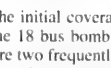
The mission includes more than 80 Toronto community leaders.



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS:
Michael Worb, a parent at the United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst Campus, starred as "Seymour" in the Act One Productions and USDS play of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The cast was made up of USDS parents and staff members and was directed by Alex Moses. Performances were held at the Isabel Bader Theatre on June 12 and 13.
[Steven Epstein/Big Dipper photo]

Pernicious misrepresentations

According to Reports



By PAUL MICHAELS

In the initial coverage of the horrific June 18 bus bombing in Gilo, there were two frequently heard misrepresentations that require firm rebuttal.

PA minister Saeb Erekat explained once again that the Palestinian Authority (PA) cannot crack down on suicide bombers because Israel has destroyed its security apparatus. This is nonsense. When the Palestinian forces were intact (as they still are in Gaza), they did little or nothing to stop terrorist attacks. Indeed, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and elements of the PA have encouraged violence and terrorism.

The second misrepresentation is more pernicious as it concerns the very core of the conflict. In his June 18 report on CBC's *The National*, Neil Macdonald included comments from Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi, yet again justifying suicide bombings: "We are under occupation, our holy places are under occupation, so we haven't another choice. We refused occupation and we are struggling now against occupation. So they [the Jews] should leave."

Rantisi means, as explicitly stated in the Hamas charter, that the Jews should leave all of Israel. Instead, Macdonald follows Rantisi's comments with the remark, "But Israelis are in no mood to leave the territories they occupy."

Macdonald is misleading. At a recent foreign correspondents forum, Macdonald was challenged on this very point that journalists do not admit that Hamas wants to see Israel destroyed. He answered: "I've said specifically that Hamas believes that Israel is all occupied territory." But in his June 18 report, Macdonald gives the impression that Rantisi is referring only to the West Bank and Gaza, implying that if only Israelis would leave these areas, Hamas terrorism would end.

We are not quibbling with words here. The distinctions made and the implications drawn from them have profound significance. Macdonald and most seasoned foreign correspondents know that Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and even elements of Fatah, consider the entire state of Israel "occupied territory." The problem is that they rarely, if ever, convey this to their audiences.

Journalists should clearly state that Islamic extremists refuse to accept the legitimacy of Israel. They seek its destruction and want to replace it with a pan-Islamic state in all of Palestine. The Hamas charter spells it out in several places: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it... [Hamas] strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine." The charter also states that it is Hamas's sacred duty not only to destroy Israel, but also to kill Jews.

Whenever there is movement for peace and reconciliation, Islamic fanatics launch terrorist attacks designed to maim and kill as many civilians, including children, as possible. They then seek to justify their horrific acts by claiming "resistance to occupation." It's a sham, but one that is too often uncritically conveyed by much of the media sympathetic to the "underdog" Palestinians.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Mourning Shani

Continued from page 1

After hours of searching, her parents went to Abu-Kabir, Israel's national morgue. It took hours and hours to identify the body. Shani must have been standing right in front of the terrorist because a number of tests had to be conducted in order to make sure it was her. I spent yesterday with my former students (many of them having switched schools in the 10th grade). We got together at Mor's house and sat about, waiting.

There were many questions asked and no answers to give. We sat, talked, cried and waited. Cell phones rang constantly, but no news came through. By nighttime, everyone was exhausted by the endless tension and grief. We decided to go home and meet again for the funeral.

I'm now waiting for information about the funeral. It is hard to believe that someone who was such a dynamic, busy, happy part of our lives is no longer. It's hard being the "grown-up," expected to know what to say and how to act, when all you want to do is go into a room and howl, and scream at the world that it isn't fair! Shani was meant to grow up and become a wonderful, contributing member of society. There are no words to describe the grief. *Shani Avi-Zedek, yehi zichrah baruch.*

* * *

Rivka Bejell is a teacher in Gilo. Shani Avi-Zedek was one of the 19 victims of the Egged 32 bus bombing last Tuesday. The teacher and several of her students were in Toronto for Yom Ha'atzmaut as guests of Holy Blossom Temple. Shani was not part of the group.

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Rights group's stance on Israel opposed

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The termination of Warren Allmand's presidency of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD) has exposed a rift between him and a board member over positions Allmand has taken on the Mideast conflict that put most of the blame on Israel.

Winnipeg lawyer David Matas has sent a letter to Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham registering his dissent from two public letters Allmand wrote to Graham in April in the name of the ICHRDD.

The first Allmand letter, dated April 2, calls for Canada to pressure Israel to respect international law and withdraw from all territories it has occupied since 1967. Allmand urges intervention by a United Nations peacekeeping force to end the "increasingly horrendous attacks on innocent civilians" by both sides "in quite unequal numbers, we should emphasize."

The second letter, dated April 5, rebukes the government for voting against an investigation of reported human rights abuses in the Middle East.

Only Canada and Guatemala opposed a proposal for UN Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson to lead an investigative mission to the region. Allmand wrote Graham that Canada's position was "shameful" and that such a mission "could prove very useful in reducing the tension and exposing the disproportionate use of force by the Israelis."

In an interview, Matas said he hopes the departure of Allmand, a former Liberal MP for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and Trudeau cabinet minister whose five-year term as president ended May 25, will lead the centre to withdraw these "wildly inappropriate" positions that are rife with inaccuracies and "unfounded accusations" against Israel.

Otherwise, the organization's "credibility" will suffer, said Matas, who is senior legal counsel to B'nai Brith Canada and has served on the ICHRDD board for six years.

"When (the ICHRDD) engages in... a one-sided presentation of the facts, misrepresentation of the law, unsourced allegations, assumption of Israeli bad faith, that is unfortunate for [the organization]. It is also unfortunate for the promotion of human rights in Israel and the search for peace in the region," Matas wrote Graham.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien did not renew Allmand for another term nor grant him the 18-month extension he had requested. Allmand told *The Gazette* that he had heard indirectly the Prime Minister's Office was "ticked off" by his criticism of Canada's vote against a UN investigation.

> ***"Wildly inappropriate" positions that are rife with inaccuracies and "unfounded accusations" against Israel***

University of Calgary law professor Kathleen Mahoney, the ICHRDD's chair, has been named acting president until Chrétien appoints a permanent replacement.

Founded in 1988 by the Mulroney government, the Montreal-based ICHRDD is independent and frequently takes positions at odds with government policy, although it has not had as a high a profile in recent years as it did under its first president, former New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent.

The centre has been critical of Israel since the beginning of the intifadah.

In October 2000, it criticized alleged Israeli abuses of Palestinian rights, including military attacks on unarmed civilians. It said "hundreds of thousands" of Palestinians "forced into exile" since 1948 should be allowed to return to Israeli-held territory. And last year, Allmand wrote Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, urging him to end the "cruel" economic blockade against Palestinians, and later condemned the expansion of Jewish settlements.

In his April 2 letter, Allmand, 69, said the government should respect its own policy of "non-recognition" of Israeli control and "explicitly ask Israel to withdraw" from the territories, rather than "pressuring "Palestinians to accept the occupation as "legitimate."

Allmand calls the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza the "root cause of the Palestinian crisis" and calls Jewish settlements a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and revealing of a policy of colonization. He goes so far as to say that ending the occupation will "lead to a reduction in the level of terrorism worldwide."

He continues:"We have watched in horror the carnage suffered by the Palestinian people in the territories occupied militarily by Israel since 1967 and the destruction of infrastructures... destruction that seems more and more to be a systematic and premeditated policy." Israel, he says, has "exceed[ed] the requirements of military necessity."

He further advises Graham to "resist pressure" by the Israeli and American governments and Canadian "lobby groups" to "exempt" Israel from complying with international law and UN resolutions.

Since Allmand left, Matas has written a 19-page letter to Graham – which Matas has released to *The CJN* – in which he excoriates statements by Allmand. He calls it "inappropriate" for a human rights organization to make "unsubstantiated, unsourced, unverifiable allegations [against Israel] of human rights violations. Allegations of human rights violations should be grounded in verifiable fact."

Matas terms other "accusations" against Israel as "gratuitous," "false," and "hostile," and is particularly rankled by the reference to "lobby groups," which, Matas said in an interview, appears to mean Jewish organizations.

"The suggestion that there are lobbies to exempt Israel from complying with international law is... unworthy of [the ICHRDD]," Matas wrote Graham.

Matas' letter rejects the symmetry he says Allmand drew between suicide bombings and Israel's defensive actions against such attacks. Matas says the ICHRDD should not be identifying "root causes."

Matas says Allmand is wrong in his interpretation of the Geneva Convention on all counts. "Anti-Zionists use unfounded allegations of human rights violations against the Jews and the Jewish state as war propaganda. [The ICHRDD] should be sensitive to the abuse of the human rights vocabulary to undermine human rights goals.

"Yet, in these letters, [the ICHRDD] has been oblivious to this risk, pouring fuel on an already raging fire."

Matas also takes issue with the prerogative given to the ICHRDD president to make public statements unilaterally, without consulting the board or its chair, if an issue is deemed to require "urgent action." This was the case with these two letters, he said.

Allmand spent a week in Cairo, Jerusalem and Ramallah in January, accompanied by Egyptian-born Rachad Antonius, who previously served as a consultant to foreign affairs.

They explored the possibility of expanding the ICHRDD's interests to the Middle East, for the first time in its history. Traditionally, the ICHRDD has confined its human rights work to Africa, Asia and Latin America.

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March against anti-Semitism held

Continued from page 3

McGill University history professor Gil Troy said he always felt invulnerable as a member of the post-war generation. "My philosophical world came crashing down... We must respond with facts to all the lies."

Hate, venom and evil are powerful forces, said Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Ottawa's Congregation Machzikei Hadas. It's important to speak out against them, but it's also important to insist to police and government representatives that evil is given "no quarter whatsoever."

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IDF increases presence in West Bank

Ha'aretz Daily Newspape Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The political-security cabinet decided last Friday that Israel Defence Forces (IDF) troops will enter Palestinian cities in the West Bank and operate in them for "as long as it is required." The decision also authorized Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to order a future operation in the Gaza Strip.

The cabinet decided in favour both of the expulsion of families of suicide strikers from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, and of the expulsion of terror operatives from the territories. The implementation of this expulsion policy depends upon the outcome of a legal review.

Another decision authorized the conscription of a reserve brigade slated for activity in the territories under emergency orders. One reserve infantry brigade was called up Sunday.

The language of the decision reached last Friday represented a compromise between a proposal advocated by Sharon calling for IDF presence in the territories for a "prolonged period," and the position upheld by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, which called for the IDF action to continue so long as operational considerations warrant it. Sharon eventually embraced formulations promoted by the senior Labor Party ministers.

Top security officials, led by Shin Bet security service director Avi Dichter, said at last Friday's meeting that there is no substitute for IDF presence in centres of terror, and that encircling Palestinian cities does not suffice.

The prime minister spoke about "changing the rules of the game" in the confrontation with the Palestinians. Sharon stressed that the IDF will operate in the territories without any time constraints.

Security sources said Sunday that the IDF operation on the West Bank is likely to last several weeks. IDF troops now occupy parts of Jenin, Nablus, Bitunya (near Ramallah), Bethlehem and Ramallah; IDF forces also have been moving in and out of Tulkarm and Qalqilyah.

Also at Friday's meeting, Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) did not vote in favour of the IDF operation. He objected that his party's demand for a more forceful decision calling for the "vanquishing" of terror was not accepted.

After originally voting in favour of the operation, Peres then asked to change his vote when he saw that Levy had abstained; Peres, too, asked to abstain. Ben-Eliezer interjected: "He [Peres] is in favour, he's already voted in favour."

Sources close to Peres subsequently explained that the foreign minister opposed the government decision. All the other ministers supported it.

Ben-Eliezer told the ministers that the IDF will operate intensively anywhere it needs to, on the basis of intelligence information. He said: "We must act in response to a changing reality... No action right now will [completely] stop the terror attacks; we face escalation, and the terror organizations are accelerating their activity. We'll deploy our forces within terror focal points; that's where we'll operate."

The ministers did not discuss the expulsion of Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Security officials explained that the expulsion of suicide bombers' families entails legal problems, while expelling terror operatives themselves is less complicated legally.

Minister Without Portfolio David Levy said that Israel is "changing the rules of the game." He explained: "There need not be any limitation on the length of the IDF's presence in [Palestinian] cities. We've already entered them, and we pulled out due to international pressure; and then the terror resumed. We've seen that encircling cities is not enough."

Responding to the government's new expulsion policy, a senior security official said Sunday the "time has come for us to take off our gloves when dealing with suicide strikers."

The source said should terror strikes continue, Arafat could also be deported.

"He's the snake's head, and you can't leave him; it [Arafat's expulsion] is a question of finding the right time," he said.

Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit said Sunday night that the decision to deploy IDF troops in West Bank cities for "as long as is needed" does not violate international law, since Israel has the right to defend its citizens, and prevent terror attacks on its city streets.

In related developments, the United States dismissed Arafat's comments to *Ha'aretz* that he now accepts the proposal of former U.S. president Bill Clinton for a permanent status agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Sources in the administration said this plan is no longer on the agenda and there is no significance to such a statement.

The continuing wave of violence in the region that prompted U.S. President George W. Bush to postpone his much anticipated speech on plans for the Middle East has also led to a renewed debate within the administration over the content of the speech and there could now be an even further delay.

According to various reports, the president and his aides are debating the value of advocating an interim Palestinian state in the speech.

According to *The New York Times*, Vice President Dick Cheney, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and their close aides have expressed skepticism about proposing anything that could be seen as rewarding Palestinian terrorism.

Quoting sources in the administration, even Secretary of State Colin Powell, who pushed hardest for the plan to be published and for an interim state, has been discouraged and is no longer trying to convince Bush to make the speech as soon as possible. Lawyers and advisers are also reportedly divided over the status of an interim state and what sort of institutions it would have.

It was hoped that Bush would give the speech at the G-8 summit in Canada that opened this Tuesday, but this was looking unlikely at press time.

Speaking in Florida last Friday, Bush was blunt. "If you're talking about the speech," he told reporters, "I'll give the speech when I'm ready to give the speech. But I strongly condemn the series of attacks," he said.

— With files from Nathan Guttman

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Israel announces new 'land for terror' policy

By LESLIE SUSSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM – Just 36 hours after a bus bombing in southern Jerusalem that killed 19 Israelis – and before another bombing in the northern part of the city killed at least seven – Israeli soldiers were digging in around the Palestinian city of Jenin.

It was obvious they were planning a long stay.

The mobile homes, water pipes and electricity lines the soldiers brought with them were harbingers of a radical new policy.

In recent weeks, the Israel Defence Forces has moved rapidly in and out of Palestinian cities and villages on the basis of pinpoint intelligence.

Following Tuesday's bus bombing, however, the government announced that the IDF will take over large swathes of Palestinian-ruled territory, for relatively long periods of time, in a renewed effort to stop Palestinian terrorism.

Analysis

The move came as U.S. President George W. Bush was putting the finishing touches on a major speech on Middle East policy that was expected to spell out the American vision of a "provisional" Palestinian state whose borders would be defined at a later date. In addition, Bush was expected to send U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to the region to try to gather momentum toward an international peace conference some time this summer.

The key question is how Israel's new policy will affect any prospects for peace. If Israel indeed seizes Palestinian land, how will that mesh with Bush's anticipated support for a Palestinian state in those areas?

So far, the Americans are showing considerable understanding for the Israeli move.

Even before Tuesday's attack was followed by another bombing Wednesday at a hitchhiking post, the White House had put out a strong statement condemning the outrages and supporting Israel's right to defend itself.

At the same time, however, the Bush administration gently urged Israel "to remember to take into account the consequences of its actions, and keep open the path to peace, the political path."

That, in a nutshell, is the dilemma Israel faces: how to defend its citizens, while retaining international support and not closing the door to peace.

Though Israel has American backing for now, its new policy of holding Palestinian-ruled areas for long periods may soon put it back in the international doghouse.

The idea of seizing land first was mooted several weeks ago by Shin Bet director Avi Dichter, who argued that the Palestinian Authority was not doing anything to fight terror in the areas under its control.

The West Bank is divided into three areas called A, B and C, with Israel responsible for security in Areas B and C. The Palestinians are nominally responsible for A, which is made up of all the Palestinian cities and their immediate surroundings, and includes some 97 per cent of the Palestinian population.

According to the Oslo accords, Israeli forces can move freely in Areas B and C, but are not supposed to enter Area A – except in hot pursuit of suspected terrorists. Dichter, however, says that since the Palestinians are doing nothing about terror attacks coming from Area A, Israel must take charge there to protect Israeli lives.

Last week, Israel began work on a security fence along its former border with the West Bank. But until the fence is built, Dichter told the government, the only effective way to fight terror is to combat it at its source in Area A.

Dichter's plan is not meant to replace the fence but to complement it, especially during the scheduled yearlong construction process. Once the fence is in place, Dichter says, the army won't have to stay in Area A any longer.

The government initially rejected the Dichter plan, but the new wave of suicide bombings and the imperative of saving Israeli lives overcame earlier reservations.

Some may have hoped, too, that the policy would have a deterrent effect, showing Palestinians that each new terror attack would cost them control of additional land.

Cabinet ministers had been concerned about world reaction, expecting to be accused of subverting peace prospects if Israel reoccupies some Palestinian-ruled areas.

They were also worried that Israel might be sucked into a creeping reoccupation of the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip, which would entail responsibility for civilian life for three million Palestinians.

The government wants to avoid this scenario at all costs. Former military governors of the West Bank shudder at the thought of dealing with everyday Palestinian life – from food supplies to health, education and welfare, to town planning and housing permits.

Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer is adamant that Israel has absolutely no intention of reoccupying the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Only the most hawkish members of the cabinet, like National Religious Party leader Efraim Eitam, favour total reoccupation.

But that was not what the cabinet voted for. The idea rather is to hold different parts of Area A at different times without taking on civil functions.

Nevertheless, even this is a radical departure from previous Israeli policy – and, significantly, it was supported by Labor Party members of the cabinet, including party leader Ben-Eliezer.

Leslie Susser is the diplomatic correspondent for Jerusalem Report *magazine.*

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The Week in Israel

June 17

• The 34th Zionist Congress, the highest body of the World Zionist Organization, opened in Jerusalem with 1,200 delegates from 34 countries.

• The army shot dead Walid Sbeh, 30, a key member of the Al-Aqsa Brigades terror group, in a village near Bethlehem.

• An Israeli court extended Palestinian militia head Marwan Barghouti's detention by 22 days. He's being held without charges after the army arrested him in April in the West Bank.

June 18

• At least 19 Israelis were killed and 70 wounded in a suicide bombing on a full rush hour bus in Jerusalem. Hamas claimed responsibility.

• Out of 628 Palestinian terror suspects arrested in May, 250 gave information that helped stop attacks, the army said.

June 19

• Israel said it will seize and hold Palestinian land in response to terror attacks until attacks stop. It later launched raids in several West Bank towns.

• Seven people were killed and 38 injured in a suicide bombing at a Jerusalem hitchhiking post. The Al-Aqsa Brigades took responsibility.

• An ad in the *Al-Quds* newspaper, signed by 55 prominent Palestinians, called for an end to terror attacks inside Israel.

June 20

• Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat cancelled an expected address appealing for an end to suicide attacks. Instead, his news agency issued his earlier statement about recent attacks, saying they hurt Palestinian interests.

June 21

• The Supreme Court placed Kach party activist Noam Federman under house arrest until the end of proceedings against him. It said there was no proof of his connection to an alleged plot to attack an Arab school, but there was evidence he had possessed explosives.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Goldberg helped bring Canada Centre to northern Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Yossi Goldberg, the Israeli visionary behind the Canada Centre recreation facility and president of the Israel Ice Skating Federation (IISF), died recently after a long battle with cancer. He was 60 years old.

Obituary

Goldberg served for 20 years as mayor of the northern border town of Metulla and one term as a Likud member in the Knesset. He is widely credited with pushing for a Canadian-financed recreation centre in Metulla, one of the more remote areas in Israel.

Yossi Goldberg

The centre, which has two skating rinks, one of which is Olympic size, helped revitalize the region's economy and provided a much-needed recreational outlet for Metulla and nearby communities. It also became the home rink of the nascent Israeli figure skating and hockey programs and helped bring the Israeli winter sports programs onto the international stage. Israel recently won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Japan.

"Yossi was a dynamic, terrific guy," said Dr. Gerald Halbert, former head of UIA Canada, now UIA Federations Canada. "He was the best partner UIA Federations had in Israel. He worked closely with us and his vision put Canada Centre in Metulla when everybody else thought it was crazy."

Judith Javor remembered Goldberg as a "person who set himself goals and was determined to reach those goals and wouldn't take no for an answer."

Javor, who worked with Goldberg as general secretary of the Israel Ice Skating Federation for seven years, said, "Almost everything he did was done to improve conditions in Metulla and life in Metulla... He fervently believed in this area."

Speaking from Israel, Javor said Goldberg, a third generation resident of the town, "actually took Metulla out of the dark ages and put it on the map."

A tireless worker, Goldberg fought hard for government funding for the community. His initiatives led to street paving, lighting systems, public flower boxes and enhanced civic services.

Jeff Budd, who volunteered at the Canada Centre rink from 1993-98, said Goldberg was also a peacemaker. As mayor of Metulla, he was instrumental in opening the Good Fence that divided Israel from Lebanon. Goldberg also found jobs for hundreds of south Lebanese, and he arranged for visits by Lebanese Christian and Muslim youngsters to Israeli schools and the Canada Centre.

"It was genuine. There was a real bond between the peoples," Budd said.

In recent years, Goldberg left civic politics and devoted himself to the skating program. He represented the IISF at the Salt Lake Olympics and the World Championships in Japan.

Goldberg kept news of his illness quiet. He underwent surgery for lung cancer 15 years ago and was battling a recurrence in recent years. In his last days, his breathing was aided by an ever-present oxygen tank, which was by his side when he attended his daughter's wedding only 10 days before he died.

Goldberg is survived by his wife, Dalia, and three children.

Panel approves narrower right of return for Jews

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The ministerial committee on legislation approved a proposed revision to the Law of Return on Sunday. The proposal was backed by four ministers from Shas, and the National Religious Party. Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit opposed the proposed amendment.

The revision, proposed by MK Michael Kleiner (Herut), holds that a person who has a Jewish grandparent can enjoy rights afforded under the Law of Return only if he or she immigrates to Israel together with the grandparent. In a case in which the grandparent is not alive, the grandchild would have to prove they were persecuted due to his or her Jewish ancestry.

Kleiner said Sunday that his proposal aims to reduce as much as possible the number of non-Jews from the former Soviet republics who immigrate to Israel in order to benefit from privileges conferred under the right of return.

Sheetrit said he opposed the bill since the issue it raised was complex and should be discussed thoroughly by the cabinet. He expressed consternation that most of the secular members of the ministerial panel on legislation were absent from the meeting and had not cast ballots on the bill.

The OU/RCA Bein Hametzarim Program, 5762

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The Three Weeks (*Bein Hametzarim*), between the fasts of the 17th of Tammuz (June 27) and the 9th of Av (July 18), is the saddest period in the Jewish year, when we mourn the destruction of the first and second sacred temples in Jerusalem, and our exile.

Join with the Orthodox Union at 9:30am (Eastern DST) on the morning of Tisha b'Av (July 18) in a live web broadcast of *Kinot*, with introductions and explanations by Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb. Visit www.ou.org for details.

Call your local Orthodox synagogue for the date and time of their program.
For more information, please call 212.613.8126 or visit www.ou.org.

Organized by the Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America

Israel halts aid to territories from Iran and Iraq

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel recently decided to stop the flow of aid – food and medicine – from Iran and Iraq to Palestinians in the territories.

During the first months of the conflict in the territories, Iraq and Iran began sending humanitarian assistance to the territories, and Israel did not obstruct it.

Trucks from Iraq delivered humanitarian aid and Iraqi hospitals took in and treated Palestinians wounded by Israeli gunfire. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government also supplied financial aid to families of suicide bombers and Palestinian fighters killed in clashes with Israeli troops.

Explaining the decision to ban all forms of aid from Iran and Iraq, a top Israeli security official said "there is no such thing as 'humanitarian aid' from these two countries."

Aid given by them has a wider objective of supporting terror groups, the source said. He said enough aid reaches the territories from other sources – moderate Arab states, the European Union, international organizations – and further shipments from Iran and Iraq are not required.

Parallel with the assistance, both Iran and Iraq have helped to build up terror networks on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the security official said. Iran was particularly active in this respect, delivering large supplies of firearms, often using Hezbollah as a conduit for this export of weapons to terror organizations in the territories.

In some cases Israel intercepted weapons before they reached terror groups – the capture of the Karine A weapons ship being the best known example.

Israel is also trying to disrupt the transfer of money from Iraq to families of suicide bombers, but it has yet to track down the channels along which these transfers flow.

Documents confiscated by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) during Operation Defensive Shield show that Palestinian Authority officials paid several visits to Iraq to organize the transfer of donations.

Last March, a delegate from the Iraqi Ba'ath party in the territories told *Al-Quds* newspaper in an interview that Iraq had until then transferred $12 million (US) to families of fighters who had been killed or wounded.

On at least three occasions this year, Saddam praised suicide bombers and called on Arab states to help smuggle weapons into the territories – anti-tank weapons in particular.

IDF intelligence analysts believe Iraqi support for terrorist activity in the territories has several goals. These include deflecting attention from events in the Gulf, inciting the Arab world against Israel, and deferring possible American action against Saddam.

THE DINING GUIDE
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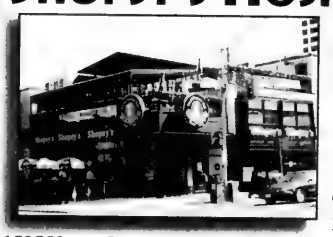

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Women with disabilities celebrate bat mitzvahs

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — "It is a lifetime goal for people with disabilities to know that we can achieve our goals just like our brothers and sisters in the community," Debby Applebaum said in an address to Agudath Israel Synagogue's congregation after reaching a very special milestone.

Applebaum and her friends Shirley Harris and Debbie Waserman recently celebrated their joint bat mitzvah, which is always a special occasion for any young woman.

But the three are no longer teenagers. They are the first group of women to become b'not mitzvah as part of a study program with Cantor Daniel Benlolo through the Tamir Foundation's Judaic outreach programs, designed to help people with developmental and other disabilities learn about, practice and celebrate Jewish life.

In addition to reciting their blessing over the Torah, the women, who had studied with Benlolo for seven months, each gave a dvar Torah.

The Tamir Foundation, founded in 1980, provides residential care for Jewish adults with developmental disabilities.

Zelda Shore, president of the Tamir Foundation's board of directors, congratulated the women and thanked them for "providing us with the privilege of sharing in their accomplishments... There will be others who will celebrate their b'not mitzvah in the future, but you are the first and you are a model for others to come."

Rabbi Arnold Fine, spiritual leader of Agudath Israel Congregation, spoke of both the synagogue's longstanding relationship with Tamir and of his own family's ties.

Because of the proximity of a Tamir group home to the shul, its residents and staff have become a part of the Agudath Israel "family" and have worshipped there for many years, Rabbi Fine said. He recalled that one of his daughters was the first to institute Judaic programming at Tamir and he therefore felt a special closeness to the bat mitzvah celebration.

The current Judaic program co-ordinator, Leah Smith, sat proudly on the bimah as the women recited their blessings and gave their dvar Torahs. Smith and volunteer Gittel Sheffield helped the three women prepare for their big day.

"Many people told me that I would not be able to get a good job or live by myself," said Waserman. "My positive thoughts have allowed me to do things I never thought possible, like getting my own apartment and my fantastic job at Viva Pizza [a kosher pizzeria here]. I have been able to overcome my challenges."

Each woman spoke of performing a special mitzvah as part of their preparations for the big day.

Waserman worked with children at Ganon Preschool, while Applebaum has been visiting a young woman who had a stroke, and Harris, who said she has "always felt close to the elderly," has started making an afghan for the local Jewish seniors' lodge.

After the women were given framed certificates, Tamir executive director Mark Palmer was presented with a program as a record of the event.

REENA DINNER: A Reena Foundation dinner to honour John Bitove Jr., a founding co-owner of the Toronto Raptors and head of Toronto's bid for the 2008 Summer Olympics, was held June 11 at the Sheraton Centre. More than 1,000 people came to honour Bitove's commitment to the foundation's Answering the Challenge campaign in support of a new ElderHome for seniors with developmental disabilities. Here, Sheree Raphael (right) presents flowers to dinner and campaign co-chairs Marilyn and Bert Raphael.
[Barry Shainbaum photo]

Hadassah Hospital treats Israeli, Palestinian victims of attacks

A 22-year-old Israeli man who suffered brain damage and lost sight in one eye from a nail-studded bomb blast in Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall last December, a Palestinian security official needing a bone marrow transplant for his leukemia, and a 12-year old Palestinian boy donating bone marrow to his brother have all been treated at Israel's Hadassah Hospital.

Since September 2000, the Hadassah Medical Center at Ein Karem and Hadassah Hospital at Mount Scopus, both in Jerusalem, have treated 1,700 victims of terrorist attacks – both Israeli and Palestinian.

The hospital provides cutting-edge medical services to Jews and Arabs from across the Middle East, particularly at the Mount Scopus campus, which serves a large percentage of Israeli Arabs and Palestinians.

Obstetrical care, including neonatal intensive care facilities, is offered to Jews and Muslims alike, as are such services as bone marrow transplants and cancer treatments.

But the 19-month-old intifadah has strained the hospitals' facilities to the limit. Although most of the victims treated have been lightly injured, in that their lives or major organs were not considered to be in danger, many suffered burns, broken limbs and severe bruising.

The hospital's emergency trauma services aren't the only ones feeling the strain. Many patients must remain or weeks or months to be fitted with prostheses or to undergo further surgeries.

As well, thousands of terror victims receive post-traumatic stress counselling at the hospital. The psychiatry department recently set up four-person psychiatric emergency response teams, which "immediately intervene with emotionally distressed survivors and their loved ones," according to a release from Canadian Hadassah-WIZO.

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO is the sole representative of Hadassah Hospital in Canada.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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Sharing the same humanity at a concert

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

On a day when five Israelis – all civilians – were killed by Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank settlement of Itamar, David Buchbinder and Roula Said were holding hands on a steamy stage.

Buchbinder, the trumpeter of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band and the former artistic director of the Ashkenaz festival of Yiddish culture, is a Jew. Said, the founder of the Middle Eastern band Maza Meze, is a Palestinian Christian.

They are also married.

On this warm night, at The Great Hall in downtown Toronto, Buchbinder and Said were keeping the troubles of the Arab-Israeli conflict at bay.

Along with their Arab, Jewish and Christian friends, Buchbinder and Said had organized an ecumenical evening of music, poetry and dance. They called it: Imagine the Sound of Peace.

It brought together pianists such as Marilyn Lerner and John Farah, medieval Arabic music authority George Sawa, guitarist Levon Ichkanian and vocalist David Wall.

As they clasped each other's hands, Buchbinder and Said chanted a soft, repetitious Arabic melody.

When they finished, soaking in the waves of applause from an appreciative audience, Buchbinder described the concert – the first of its kind in Toronto– as "a somewhat unusual, wonderful party."

Given the deteriorating situation in Israel and the territories, this was certainly an understatement.

Shortly after Buchbinder spoke, about a half dozen young women in long white dresses walked down the aisle, throwing red flower petals at the musicians and vocalists and then at the men, women and children in the crowd.

It was that kind of a concert, an outpouring of hope piercing the darkness, if only for two fleeting hours.

After Buchbinder and Said had warmed up the audience, Sawa, on 'ud, and Nabil Qtami, on guitar, appeared. Before launching into the number, Sawa, a tall, dignified man, alluded to the deadly struggle that pits Arabs against Jews in the Mideast.

His 'ud, he disclosed, had been made in 1905, "before there was any conflict between us."

The next set piece, written by Nadia Habib, featured, among others, Maryem and Ernie Tollar.

It was an ode to peace in which the phrase, "There is no peace without recognition," was repeated again and again, and during which the words "enough" and "peace" were uttered in English, Hebrew and Arabic.

David Buchbinder and Roula Said

Then, accompanied by Lerner, Buchbinder belted out a sweet, explosive klezmer favourite about the manifold joys of whisky.

The first half of the concert, an unbridled celebration of multiculturalism, set the tone for the second part.

Imagine the Sound of Peace, dedicated to the proposition that Arabs and Jews have lived and can live together in coexistence, will not bring harmony to the fractured Middle East, or stop the suicide bombers who wreak havoc on Israel.

But if nothing else, it showed us that we all share the same humanity.

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Guitarist resurrects lively jazz of the past

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Jazz lovers with a penchant for the past appreciated what Martin Loomer played at this year's Du Maurier Downtown Jazz Festival in Toronto.

As rhythm guitarist and arranger with Jim Galloway and his Wee Big Band, Loomer revives the music of jazz legends such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Fletcher Henderson. Although he was not born in the 1930s, the Toronto native feels a need to focus on the classics.

"I'd rather play something really good, something proven to be worthwhile, than create something mediocre," says Loomer, 47.

His 17-piece band recently played at Nathan Phillips Square, where they showcased the timeless tunes that leave the audience tapping their toes.

He also arranges compositions for a 22-piece band called The Canadian Tribute to Glenn Miller, which Loomer has been with its inception in 1990. Loomer is responsible for the band arrangements, often laboriously listening to Miller tunes and transcribing the notes on ledger lines.

When he first heard The Doors and other rock bands in Grade 7, Loomer says, he knew he wanted to be a musician. After graduating from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), he studied music at York University, where he played in small combos.

Specializing in guitar, he found he was more satisfied writing music than playing it. Since then, Loomer has arranged hundreds of songs for the Galloway band and also works as a music copyist – he writes out the notes for separate instrument parts, a musician's technical support.

He worked for the Charlottetown Festival for 14 years and transcribed music for hundreds of commercials.

"I'm not concerned with being creative," he says. "I like to hear an alto saxophonist twist notes in an old melody, and offer himself to the audience." He adds that he is comfortable playing rhythm guitar, plucking quarter-notes as he watches "the groove cookin' on."

Loomer says that when 1990s jazz shifted to darker moods, he wanted to turn away from that and instil joy into the tunes."It sounds cliché, but I want people to forget their worries."

And Martin is not the only Loomer to be spreading the musical wealth. His brother Marshall is the cantor at Beth David-B'nai Israel-Beth Am Synagogue.

"My brother [Marshall] has raw musical talent," Loomer says. "When we were young, he would sing with the great [late Cantor Mordechai] Herschman on record."

Both brothers have succeeded in a common mission: to resurrect the beautiful music of a time long ago, with respect, energy and flair.

By his own choice, Martin Loomer continues to repeat the past – as long as it's got a swingin' beat.

Film profiles woman's dedication to Third World children

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Montrealer Naomi Bronstein is a Jewish Mother Teresa, having saved the lives of countless orphans from Cambodia to Guatemala.

As one of the founders of Healing the Children and Canada House, organizations that care for abandoned children, she has made a name for herself in international humanitarian circles.

She and her former husband, Herb, also adopted a number of children, forming something of a unique multicultural household.

Judy Jackson's sympathetic profile of Bronstein, *A Moment in Time: The United Colours of Bronstein*, will be aired by Vision TV on Thursday, July 4 at 9 pm and again at 11 pm.

This one-hour documentary traces Bronstein's dedication to, and involvement in, this just and worthy cause.

The daughter of a garment manufacturer, she had the benefit of a comfortable upbringing. Her mother, Tillie Segal, says she was always thinking of others, even as a child.

At 18, she got married, and she and her husband had three children. In 1969, she broke with conventional norms and went to South Vietnam to work as a volunteer at an orphanage. Then she helped establish Canada House, an adoption agency.

Jackson doesn't bother telling us how her husband felt about her solo trip to Vietnam. Did he support her move? Was he unhappy about it? It's a regrettable omission.

Bronstein was devastated when a group of Vietnamese orphans she had assembled for new lives in North America were killed in an airplane crash soon after takeoff.

"My soul was shattered," she says.

After Vietnam, Bronstein found herself in Cambodia, a nation wracked by civil war. There she formed Canada House. Thanks to her efforts, the Canadian government accepted 65 new-born Cambodian orphans.

In 1976, Bronstein opened a branch of Canada House in Guatemala, then ravaged by civil war. She witnessed severe malnutrition in the divided Central American country that was worse than anything she had seen in Asia.

She described the malnourished children in Guatemala as "walking and crawling cadavers."

Before she left, she formed Healing the Children, which brings children to Canada for life-saving surgery.

By this point, she and Herb had 12 children, five of their own and seven adopted ones. The Bronstein brood, encompassing the colours of the universe, was quite a sight in suburban Montreal.

Bronstein's varied activities must have taken a toll on her marriage. After 33 years, she divorced her husband.

But again, Jackson offers no explanations, leaving us in the dark.

The last minutes of *A Moment in Time* revolve around the marriage of one of Bronstein's adopted children, her return to Guatemala in 2000 and the reunion – the "mother of all reunions" – she has with the Cambodian orphans, now fully grown.

"Every child has a right to live their life," Bronstein observes as the film closes.

It's a fitting end to a poignant film.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

AL WAXMAN COLLECTION AT TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY

A collection of original **Al Waxman** memorabilia, including scripts, scrapbooks, correspondence, clippings and photographs, is now being housed in the Performing Arts Centre of the Toronto Reference Library.

Best known for his television roles in *King of Kensington* and *Cagney & Lacey*, the Toronto-based actor died last year of complications following heart surgery.

Waxman first approached the library in 1994, offering his personal collection for archiving. Following his death his widow, **Sara Waxman**, donated additional materials, including videotapes of his early work, photographs and awards.

"He said he chose the public library because he wanted the collection to be available to everyone since his most popular roles were portrayals of ordinary people," she said.

The Performing Arts Centre is located on the fifth floor of the Toronto Reference Library. For more information, visit the web site www.tpl.toronto.on.ca or call the Answerline, 416-393-7131.

* * *

Israeli Film Wins at Banff: *Poker Face*, one of two Israeli-made entries in the recent Banff Television Festival, has won an award in the short dramas category.

Produced by Reshet and Donna Productions of Israel, the film premiered at the Jerusalem International Film Festival last year, where it an award won for best director.

"I am very proud of [director] **Eitan Anner** and the creative team that produced *Poker Face* for winning this award," said **Meir Romem**, consul general of Israel to Western Canada. "This great achievement not only recognizes the presence of Israeli culture on the world stage, it acknowledges Israel's flourishing television industry."

Poker Face focuses on Alex, a man not yet 60, whose worsening memory forces his friends to decide whether he and his wife can continue playing poker with them as they have done weekly for 16 years.

Another Israeli television show, *Mother V*, competed in the same category, as did films from Finland, Zimbabwe/Tunisia and South Africa. The festival web site is www.banff2002.com

* * *

Peretz and Bialik: The Yiddish Culture Council of Toronto presents **Dr. Abraham Novershtern**, a lecturer on Yiddish literature at Hebrew University and director of Shalom Aleichem House, Tel Aviv, speaking on the topic, Between Two Giants: I.L. Peretz and Chaim N. Bialik. **Workmen's Circle**, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Admission $3. Sunday June 30, 8 p.m.

* * *

Fringe Festival: Eye on Arts has received notice of three productions in Toronto's Fringe Theatre Festival of special interest. All are performed at the Tarragon Theatre Extraspace, 30 Bridgman Ave., with tickets costing $8. For times, call 416-924-6886.

• *Max Fishbaum's Theories On Love*, a romantic comedy written and directed by **Eric Lunsky**. July 4 to 14.

• *The Death of My Dentist*, by **Gideon Forman**, directed by **Robert Kennedy**. This lament about isolation, fluoridation and proper brushing runs July 3 to 14.

• *Dance Like A Butterfly*, a one-woman play by **Aviva Ravel**, featuring actor **Lisa Hurd**. Performed more than 50 times since its Peterborough debut in 1997, the play introduces Tillie Rheinblatt, who ruminates with humour and insight from her wheelchair. July 5 to 10.

* * *

Chai Folk Ensemble: The Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble, which performs at Winnipeg's Centennial Concert Hall on June 25, has been widely acclaimed as North America's oldest and largest Israeli folk dance troupe.

The Winnipeg-based troupe started in 1946 and now has more than 40 dancers, singers and musicians. It has received ovations in Canada, United States, Mexico and Israel.

The group is due to represent Israeli and Jewish music from around the world at the Mondial des Cultures festival in Drummondville, Que. July 4 to 14.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Brampton's Heritage Theatre is returning to its cinematic roots and showing movies this summer. For a list of titles, visit the web site www.city.brampton.on.ca or phone 905-874-2800.

•The musical *Grease* is currently in previews and runs June 29 to Aug. 31 at the Atlantis Theatre, Ontario Place. Tickets 416-872-1212.

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Russian, French films now on video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

A little known Russian film, *We Are Going To America*, based on the Sholom Aleichem short story *Boy Motl*, was recently released on video.

This tragi-comedy tells of the trials and hardships of a Jewish family leaving its Russian shtetl in search of a better life in America.

The voyage is shown through the eyes of 11-year-old Motl and opens symbolically in the shtetl cemetery with the boy yelling out his goodbyes to past generations. Motl is then attacked by a group of local children who hold him down and force some lard into his mouth.

During the trip, Motl meets many people, including an orphan girl, a madwoman and a number of other intriguing and unusual characters.

The film, produced in 1992 and directed by Efim Gribov, is mainly in Russian, with a small sprinkling of Yiddish, and with English subtitles. It is filled with symbolism and mysticism.

One such symbol is the huge bag of belongings wrapped in a sheet that the family takes with it on its trip. The bag is so big that several members of the family must help carry it. It's almost as if the family is trying to bring their way of life and all their traditions with them.

Motl is a curious young boy whose inquisitiveness leads him to explore the train on which they are travelling, where he meets a host of strangers. The director uses reflections in widows and mirrors and steam from the locomotive in order to obtain an otherworldliness effect.

We Are Going To America is a fascinating film. It is available through Facets Video and can be purchased for $29.95 (US) from www.facets.org or by calling 1-773-281-9075.

For those of us who have been waiting impatiently for the French farce *The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob* to arrive on video, or who saw the film at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last April and would like to get their own copy, here is some good news. The movie can be purchased at a Web site that specializes in French videos, www.francevision.com. The price is $39.95 (US), plus a shipping charge and is available in the VHS format only. You can also order by calling 1-800-835-7537 or faxing 1-301-656-1658.

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CORRECTION

In the CJN Party Planner on June 6, the article *Party decor: anything goes as long as it's tasteful* (page B32) gave an incorrect phone number for Tammy Heisel's Artistic Creations. The correct number is 416-630-8750. *The CJN* apologizes for the error.

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45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
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55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS WANTED
68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT
85 APARTMENT WANTED
87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
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123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
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150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION
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175 ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION WANTED
178 ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION
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185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
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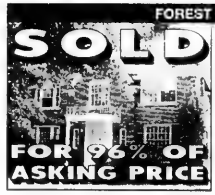

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Bathurst/Wilson – Fabulous custom home on Brooke Ave, approx. 3200 sq. ft., 4 bdrms, 5 baths, finished basement, gourmet kitchen, great finishings throughout, a real gem, asking $990,000.
Bathurst/Lawrence – Custom Home to be built in fall, plans are ready, buy now and save money!! Asking $769,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Antibes – upgraded corner unit, 3 bedrooms, wrap around balcony, approx. 1,650 sq. ft., asking $274,900.
Bathurst/Clark – Conservatory, 2 bdrm, approx. 1,200 sq. ft., split bedrooms, large solarium, asking $296,000.
Bathurst/Lawrence – Crystal Towers, corner unit, 2 bedrooms, hardwood floors, approx. 1,120 sq. ft., asking $314,500.

For more info., call Michael Harari at 416-630-0111 or visit my website: www.hararihomes.com
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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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330 OBITUARIES

CZESLAWA, Strykowski – on May 30, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St..

SMITH, Clara – on May 30, 2002, late of 292 St. Clair Ave. W.

MORNICK, Millie – on May 30, 2002, late of 25 Canyon Ave., #103.

KOZIEROK, Ben – on May 30, 2002, late of 6020 Bathurst St., #809.

TESKA, David – on June 2, 2002, late of Rideau Regional Centre.

FOGEL, Morris – on June 2, 2002, late of 343 Clark Ave. W., #702.

YALOWSKY, Sylvia – on June 2, 2002, late of 7905 Bayview Ave., #514.

JACOBSON, Marty – on June 3, 2002, late of 1 Pinery Lane, Box 680.

SOKOLOFF, Terry – on June 3, 2002, late of 156 Cactus Ave., T.H. #4.

CAYNE, Nathan – on June 3, 2002, late of 85 Skymark Dr., #802.

BLATT, Ephraim – on June 3, 2002, late of 226 Haddington Ave.

GOLDMAN, Barbara – on June 3, 2002, late of 38 Red Rock Dr.

KOMISAR, Alex – on June 3, 2002, late of 97 Miramar Cres.

ANSHELL, Bess – on June 6, 2002, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W., #102.

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BASIL, Becky – on June 7, 2002, late of 501 Glengarry Ave.
GINSBERG, Tommy – on June 6, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
KAZDAN, Norma – on June 7, 2002, late of 154 Forest Hill Rd.
HAHAM, Abraham – on June 8, 2002, late of 16 Elgin St., TH #119.
SOROKIN, Marvin – on June 8, 2002, late of 31 Timberlane Dr.
BAKER, Morton – on June 10, 2002, late of 1121 Steeles Ave. W., #307.
BRENHOUSE, Beatrice – on June 9, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WEINSTEIN, Joseph – on June 10, 2002, late of 3 Terrydale Dr.
HOROWITZ, Sarah – on June 10, 2002, late of 248 Betty Ann Dr.
FISCHLER, Edward – on June 11, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd., #309.
LEVINE, Emma – on June 9, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
LIEBERMAN, Harry – on June 10, 2002, late of 22 Shallmar Blvd., #107.
GOLDBERG, David – on June 12, 2002, late of 64 Carsadden Dr.
POMER, Muriel – on June 13, 2002, late of 65 Skymark Dr., #1607.
KATZ, David – on June 12, 2002, late of 110 Promenade Circle, PH #203.
SHERMAN, Pearl – on June 13, 2002, late of 192 Glen Cedar Rd.
LIS, Basia – on June 4, 2002..
LUBIN, Ashley Goodis – on June 5, 2002.
KARAI, Olga – on June 6, 2002.
WELTMAN, Leon Arie – on June 6, 2002, late of 104 Acton Ave.
GORDON, Nechemie – on June 7, 2002, late of 4866 Bathurst St.
HALBERSTADT, Harry Joel – on June 10, 2002, late of 144 Bannockburn Ave.
GRANEK, Jack – on June 11, 2002, late of 76 Bickerton Cres.
GOLDBERG, Susan – on June 11, 2002.
HECHTMAN, Samuel – on June 12, 2002.
BORNSTEIN, Irving – on June 12, 2002, late of 15 Skipton Crt.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

MARCOVITZ, Harvey – on May 31, 2002, late of 53 Sycamore Dr.
FOREHT, Cecil – on June 4, 2002, late of 19 Lowergate Village, #202.
SINGER, Chesna – on June 8, 2002, late of 40 Pleasant Blvd., #3107.
APPLEBAUM, Violet – on June 11, 2002, late of 2 O'Connor Dr.

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335 UNVEILINGS

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Dufferin St., N. of Major Mackenzie Dr.
Beth David Section
Family and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GERALD BROWNE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 30th, 11:15 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St., N of Major Mackenzie Dr
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PAUL PREIS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 30th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chenstochover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

336 CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late
Pauline Sporn ז"ל
Would like to thank their relatives & friends for their support and donations in memory of our beloved mother.
Sheila & Keith Alexander, Simone & Larry Herman and families

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Arts & Travel

Popular Ashkenaz festival returns to Toronto's Harbourfront Centre

The Ashkenaz Festival is returning to Harbourfront Centre, Toronto's acclaimed lakeside cultural venue, for its fourth incarnation. Ashkenaz, both richly traditional and innovative, is the largest festival of its kind in the world. Over 70,000 people attended the last Festival in 1999.

The festival presents productions and works of art created and performed by world-renowned artists from every discipline - music, theatre, dance, film, visual art, literature, and crafts - who are exploring the traditional forms and imaginative possibilities of Eastern European Yiddish/Jewish culture. Ashkenaz features klezmer ensembles, jazz musicians, poets, singers, filmmakers, actors, dancers, storytellers and others, many of whom are premiering their newest works.

Bridging differences within the Jewish community and the community at large, Ashkenaz draws on the wisdom of the past, and the creativity of the present, in order to create and express a living and breathing Yiddish culture.

"The fourth incarnation of Ashkenaz signifies wholeness bringing together all of the elements in order to put our deep diasporic culture in the spotlight," said artistic director Mitchell Leonard Smolkin.

Reel Ashkenaz, the film program of the Festival, returns with two fabulous musical interpretations of the classic Soviet-era silent feature-length comedy, *Jewish Luck*. Starring the legendary Yiddish actor Simon Mikhoels, the film is an adaptation of the very funny Sholom Aleichem tale, *Mendel the Matchmaker*. *Jewish Luck* will be performed live twice during the Festival, once in a jazzy Sephardi approach by pianist Anthony Coleman and secondly, in sophisticated Ashkenaz style, by the Polish Cracow Klezmer Band.

In honour of the Festival, the Miles S. Nadel Jewish Community Centre will present *Sing-A-Long to Fiddler on the Roof* with host David Gale (*Lovin' Spoonful*). Cabaret veteran Gale will lead the audience in funny but rousing tributes to such classic songs as *Sunrise, Sunset* and *If I Were a Rich Man*.

The screening will take place two days prior to the official Festival opening on August 29 at 8pm on the Harbourfront Centre Concert Stage for $10.

For more information on Ashkenaz: www.ashkenazfestival.com

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Gigi is 34 yrs and from Asia long hair, medium sized brown complexion She's easy going very charming loves dining, travelling dancing, cooking spending time w friends Seeks someone who's understanding honest good hearted friendly, non smoking and between 34-45 yrs **AD#1298**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting but more exciting with a companion to share the way Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit Please leave a message **AD#1095**

NEW IN TOWN
Recently arrived in Toronto, 50's, looks good smart, generous & caring seeking a tall inteligent gentleman between 55-70 yrs Has to be financially secure She enjoys theatre music, movies, long walks & talks, and books Help her enjoy Toronto **AD#1133**

LET'S LIVE IT UP, EH?
Single female with hazel eyes, reddish hair, seeks love & laughter She enjoy ballroom dancing, theatre walks in the park Looking for a non-smoker gentleman, who's 69+ yrs , 5' 8" with similar interests and more **AD#1197**

TOUCH OF CLASS
Single female from Montreal in her 50's. She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservodox She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 50-65 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests **AD#1305**

HOME COOKIN'
Jeanette enjoys the outdoors, sports hiking, swimming, kayaking and travelling She seeks someone with similar interests and can talk to about the situation in Middle East If you enjoy children, dining and Cicily home cooking please leave me a message **AD#1050**

PASSIONATE FEELINGS
Bonnie enjoys music, dining, walking, long drives and anything that has passion attached to it She seeks a male who's interested in fine arts & theatre not so much into sports, and possibly enjoys the outdoors, who has a great smile & sense of humour Leave her message **AD#1371**

SEEKING SOULMATE
Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 6", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good She enjoys dancing & life She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend If you think you're a match please leave her a message **AD#1411**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel Please call **AD#1413**

PERKY WIDOW
Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70s Give her a call **AD#1066**

PLEASURE & OPTIMISM
A self employed Jewish female, 60 yrs, would love to meet someone who greets each day with pleasure & optimism Someone who's not afraid to speak his mind, and loves classical music & the opera Ideally creative and has a deep love for Israel, but is not religiously observant Please call **AD#1437**

HEART OF GOLD
A unique Jewish female, 5' 5", with beautiful brown hair & eyes seeks a Jewish gentleman She's kind, sincere, creative, and lost of fun to be with She seeks a man with strong morals, who's over 45yrs, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent non smoking, and financially stable **AD#1462**

GREEN EYES
She's a pretty 5' 4", blonde w/ green eyes Fun, very positive, caring & sharing She enjoys theatre, music, movies, dancing, swimming, and seeks a sincere, established, non-smoking gentleman, with sense of humour good outlook on life, who's between 60-70, for mutually enjoyable relationship **AD#1471**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Ruth is easy going, a bit naughty, but very nice She loves going out, dancing, dining travelling and romance It is essential that she be able to communicate with her companion If you are as naughty and nice as her, please leave her a message **AD#1133**

ENJOYS LIFE
Single female, 50 yrs, loves to laugh, likes to have fun, is warm friendly, have a child, 2 dogs She's 5' 6", thin, blonde hair, attractive, nice person, likes dining, movies, travelling, reading, quiet walks, and drives in the country **AD#1054**

"C"ALL ME
Single, attractive female, slim, 50 yrs young She seeks a male between 55-70 yrs, someone who is young at heart and not afraid of "C" words, such as card, cuddling compassion and confiding She's looking fo. friendship, fun and to share the wonders of life **AD#1150**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
Single female, interested in meeting a trustworthy, loyal, caring, intelligent, professional Jewish male She's a non smoker, lives in Toronto, has a great sense of humour She has many interests and would like to share them with someone for a friendship first relationship **AD#1366**

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LIFE PARTNER
Attractive Jewish female 5' 5" tall, intelligent sincere good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established male who's over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind honest, responsible, respectable, and over 6 feet **AD#1181**

CALL ME
Single female from Montreal, 50'ish, non smoker classy dynamic, kind, sense of humour conservadox, enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, beach seeks male, 51-65 yrs, non smoker secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests **AD#1034**

LET'S TALK
Loving, warm giving very affectionate, outgoing and friendly She has a great sense of humour and likes to make people laugh Compassionate, passionate and sensuous Loves art galleries, museums, travelling swimming, walks and musicals **AD#1385**

men seeking women

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point **AD#1439**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well Kids are okay Leave him a message **AD#1206**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love If this fits you, please answer this ad **AD#1051**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling **AD#1438**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 2", from Woodbridge He's employed, enjoys walking and running He's interested in conservation, has never been married, is a non-smoker and social drinker, He's also serious & shy, a nice guy, and a seeks female with similar interests Leave him a message **AD#1335**

LOTS OF FUN
Dave is 36 yrs, slim and handsome He's outgoing and enjoys movie going dining, concerts and shopping Looking for a single Jewish female, who is slim 30-37 yrs, tall and reasonably attractive If you like what you hear please leave him a message **AD#1436**

LET'S MEET
Martin, 49 yrs, enjoys dancing, long walks, flea markets, nice restaurants and weekend country drives He looks for a good natured, friendly individual, a nice person to be with and converse with Feel free to reply and he will get back to you **AD#1393**

FUN LOVING LARRY
Larry is 50 yrs and new in town He likes horses and any outdoor activities. He's looking for a nice lady with a good sense of humour and lots of love. If this fits your description, please reply **AD#1397**

LONG WALKS
Single Jewish male, in his mid 40's, is an attractive, intelligent, ambitious, professional gentleman He seeks an attractive Jewish female, 32-44 yrs old for casual dating leading to long term relationship, someone who enjoys dining, movies, good music, dancing, nearby travel and romantic long walks **AD#1254**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys **AD#1179**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

CALL ME
Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive fit, and looking to build a family **AD#1222**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me Let's talk over a cup of coffee **AD#1224**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

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Soccer star represents U.S. at World Cup

By TOM TUGEND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LOS ANGELES — Soccer star Jeff Agoos was so angry when he was the last player cut from the 1994 U.S. World Cup squad that he threw his uniform into a fireplace and burned it.

"I had gone through two years of grueling training and was very disappointed," said the 34-year-old defender for the San Jose Earthquakes of Major League Soccer (MLS).

Agoos made the World Cup team in 1998 when the United States was eliminated in the first round, but he didn't get to play.

He made the roster again this year and was in the starting lineup when the United States played its first match against Portugal on June 5 in Suwon, South Korea, which the Americans won 3-2.

Unfortunately, Agoos suffered a moderate calf strain during the first half of the USA's 3-1 loss to Poland, and did not play in the the team's World Cup-ending 1-0 loss to Germany. Agoos will be sidelined for approximately 4 to 6 weeks.

With 133 caps – one for each time he has played in an international match – Agoos is second on the USA's all-time cap-winners list behind Cobi Jones, and holds the U.S. record for international starts with 123, including all three group matches during this year's World Cup.

"We are very disappointed for Jeff," said U.S. head coach Bruce Arena. "He has made an outstanding contribution to this team, and we will wish him a speedy recovery."

Born in Geneva, Switzerland, Agoos was raised in a "somewhat religious" home, halfway between Reform and Conservative. "I went once a week to Sunday school and we observed the holidays," he said.

Six months after his birth, his parents moved to South Africa and four years later moved again, this time to the United States, settling first in Atlanta and finally in Dallas.

"I started playing soccer when I was eight years old, along with basketball and other sports, but as I got older, I settled on soccer," said Agoos, whose nickname is "Goose."

He started playing professionally in his last year of college at the University of Virginia, and, after a stint in Germany, began playing U.S. professional soccer in 1996 with D.C. United.

In February 2001, he was traded to the Earthquakes and led the team to its first MLS Cup championship, while winning the MLS Defender of the Year award for himself.

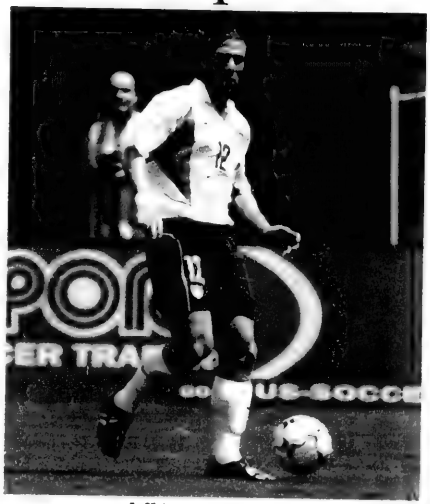
Agoos, who stands 5-10 and weighs 175 pounds, starred on the U.S. team in the 1985 and 1989 Maccabiah Games, both won by the host Israeli team.

He represented the United States again at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, where his team placed fourth, the best American showing ever.

In his personal life, Agoos is a bachelor and said that "I'm not as much Jewishly involved as I would like to be, but I observe some of the holidays."

Agoos' younger brother, Brad, is the assistant soccer coach at the University of California at Berkeley.

During his 14-year playing career, Agoos has seen the level of American soccer "improving greatly, with a much better talent pool. We still have some ways to go, but we can now compete with any country in the world."



Jeff Agoos [ISI photo]

Bridge with Gitelman

Contract bridge reached its height of popularity in North America in the 1950s thanks to Charles Goren's teaching and marketing skills. Sadly, the game has been in decline ever since, but bridge seems to be undergoing a revival in recent years as retiring baby boomers are taking up the game en masse in an attempt to exercise their minds (it works – try it!).

Perhaps you are one of the many millions of people who learned to play bridge according to Goren's teachings. If you have recently tried to relearn the game you will have noticed that some things have changed – not in terms of the rules of bridge itself, but in the language of "standard bidding methods." The purpose of this column is to describe the three most important changes that have taken place in bridge bidding during the past 40 years or so.

1. The point ranges of notrump opening bids.

Goren taught that a 1NT opening bid should be based on a hand with 16 to 18 high card points (HCP) and that a 2NT opening bid should promise between 22 and 24 HCP. Nowadays, almost all bridge teachers recommend ranges of 15 to 17 HCP for 1NT and 20 to 21 HCP for 2NT.

2. 5-card majors

According to Goren's methods, the proper opening bid with this hand:

♠ 62 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ AQ92 ♣ 854

is 1♥. Today you will find that 1♦ would be the nearly universal choice among bridge authorities in North America. The reason is that, in modern standard bidding methods, at least five cards are required to open the bidding in a major suit. The fact that the heart suit in the above hand is stronger than the diamond suit is irrelevant. As hearts is a major suit, your 21st century partner will expect you to hold at least five hearts if you open the bidding with 1♥.

Astute readers might have already considered that by switching the spades and diamonds of the above hand:

♠ AQ92 ♥ AKJ5 ♦ 62 ♣ 854

There is no longer any satisfactory opening bid using five-card majors. Both 1♠ and 1♥ are out since neither of these (major) suits contain the requisite 5-card length. This hand (with 14 HCP) is not quite strong enough for a 1NT opening and it is certainly too strong to pass. The solution is to open 1♣, despite holding only three low cards in that suit.

You may have heard of this principle described as "the short club," "the convenient club", or "the better minor". Whatever name you choose to call it, the practice of opening 1♣ (and occasionally 1♦) with only three cards in the suit is a necessary evil when playing five-card majors. Still, almost all of today's bridge authorities believe that the benefits of five-card majors are more than enough to make up for the downside of sometimes having to bid a non-suit.

3. Weak two bids

Goren taught that all opening bids of two of a suit described powerful hands. This method is called strong two-bids. In today's bidding methods, 2♣ is used as the only strong opening bid while 2♦, 2♥, and 2♠ are used as weak two-bids. A weak two-bid is used to describe a hand with a strong six-card suit and roughly six to 10 HCP. Here is an example of a hand that is suitable for a weak 2♠ opening bid.

♠ KQJ972 ♥ J4 ♦ 9852 ♣ 10

The 2♣ opening is not only strong, but it is also artificial (meaning that opening 2♣ says nothing about clubs). When your partner opens with a strong 2♣ you cannot pass regardless of how weak your hand is. You have to bid something and the opener will show his long suit on the next round (or bid notrump if his hand is balanced and too strong for a 2NT opening bid).

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Questions and comments from readers are welcome.

Goodbye and good luck ... to me

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

On a personal note, uncharacteristic for me, I have good news and bad – or good news and good news, depending on how you feel I have discharged my duties in this space since 1997. First, this is my last column, although I will be returning as a reporter in the fall. I've been pumped by someone half my age, who will reach out to younger readers. It's an indignity many mid-lifers have suffered.

But the good news, at least for me, should counter feelings of graceless aging: It falls to me to tell you that I'm going back to school.

I've got my backpack, a notebook computer and several pens (the rubberized ones. They provide better grip for my old fingers), as well as a $10,000 (US) scholarship to study religion writing at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., just outside Chicago.

The Specialized Reporting Program in Religion, Spirituality and Ethics at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism is unique and world-famous. It's an intensive, summer-long semester that brings together five graduate students and an equal number of "mid-career journalists" (there's that term again) to sharpen skills and expand horizons. Class size is limited, so it was indeed an honour to be chosen.

This program's mere existence amazes me, and reflects the stature in which religion reporting is regarded in the United States, where virtually every large and medium-sized newspaper has a full-time reporter on the religion beat. This is understandable in a country like the U.S., which wears its faith on its sleeve, and where public figures fairly trip over each other to proclaim who loves God most. President George W. Bush's faith-based initiatives, in which religions are expected to take up slack in social services, would never fly here.

It's a different story in Canada, where religion is regarded as a highly personal issue. In all, there are just four full-time and one-part-time religion/ethics/spirituality reporters at secular media outlets in this country, compared to something like 80 full-time sports writers. I've always hoped that was not a gauge of where our priorities are as a society, but I fear it is.

Why don't the media boost their coverage of religion? Simply, because they don't listen. A poll released four years ago at the inaugural Faith and the Media conference in Ottawa showed that six out of 10 Canadians feel religion is a "very important" or "important" part of their lives. At the same time, 65 per cent of those who attend a house of worship regularly feel the media do a "poor" job of covering faith and religion.

For good reason. Religion, noted media columnist John Fraser once, is one of two great "no-go" areas for the media (the other being universities). He noted there are exceptions, "but as a general rule over the past few decades, stories on religion will break into the media only if they are (a) sensational, (b) bizarre, (c) goofy, (d) gee-whiz, or (e) contemptuous."

Now, one could say those epithets apply to everything the media do, but Fraser had a point. Editors – rationalists as they tend to be – are often skittish when it comes to straight stories about religion, perhaps fearing that coverage of the spiritually uplifting will make their product appear "soft," or worse, favour one faith over another. (Strange how that doesn't apply to politics.)

There is one truism in all this: Jews receive coverage well out of proportion to their numbers. That probably won't surprise readers of this space.

Which brings me to: Goodbye. It's been a good ride. Some of you liked what I did; some didn't, and said so. Either way, I still feel the greatest privilege is being read.

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1 cup water	2 tsps. cinnamon
1/3 cup sugar	3 tblsps. canola oil
1 tsp. cinnamon	
1 1/2 tblsp. cornstarch	

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease casserole dish with a little oil. In saucepot over med. heat, combine peaches, blueberries, lemon juice, water, sugar, cinnamon & cornstarch. Cook over med. heat until mixture thickens, about 5-8 mins. Pour hot fruit into casserole dish. In small bowl, mix together flour, oats, sugar & cinnamon for crumb topping. Add oil & mix well with fork. Sprinkle topping over over fruit. Bake 10-15 mins. until bubbly.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

In education, as in the world of fashion, we are constantly challenged (some would say threatened) by the latest fad or trend. After a long bout of "values clarification," one of my favourite professors joked at a conference that clarifying one's values was not a desired virtue. He vowed, there and then, to start a new movement called "values obfuscation!"

The back-to-basics trend has been revived every time some new round of testing reveals deep ignorance in a significant sector of the young population. Recently, we heard that back-to-basics is responsible for the lack of daily physical education in elementary schools, a curricular sine qua non of another period. Suddenly, people are discovering that a sound mind and a sound body are one.

Jewish education has also swung from one extreme to another. Each new technique demonized the preceding method and promised salvation. A story from my Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) past in North Africa illustrates the folly in reacting too quickly to trends. It also demonstrates the value of respecting ancient Jewish models before rushing to change. Before I am branded a reactionary conservative, let me tell you the story.

When I arrived in Casablanca in 1981 as the JDC's pedagogic consultant, the visiting Chabad representative for France and North Africa, Rabbi Benjamin Gorodetsky, *zichrono li'vrachah*, told me a story about his introduction to the region in the early '50s.

On his first visit to the island of Djerba (one of the oldest extant Jewish communities, off the coast of Tunisia, near Libya), he met with the head of a boys' school. He noticed that the children were not in age-segregated classes, and explained that in the west (He was referring to Lubavitch schools in 1950s Brooklyn!), children were taught in classes organized by age. He then moved the children into such an arrangement. The local rav was very impressed, but insisted on moving several children back into the original order. When Rabbi Gorodetsky argued, the Djerban respectfully explained that this particular Yosef had to be with this teacher, Moshe, while this other Yitzchak must study under the tutelage of a certain Messod. Why? Because Yosef's father studied with Moshe's father and Messod's grandfather was the teacher of Yitzchak's grandfather.

Rabbi Gorodetsky looked at me in that Casablanca hotel room, and with a twinkle in his eye, said, "You know, maybe they knew better!"

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish News

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 29.)

Kayitz is a-Cumin' In

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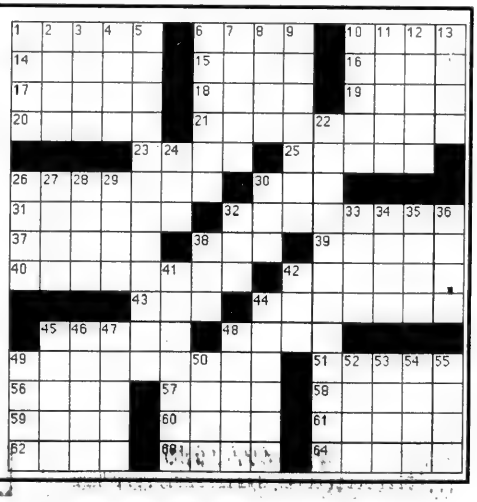
Across

1. Has Israel's coral beaches
6. You might see one leave a ship
10. You can do this on some beaches
14. Beach blanket posture
15. Fine Japanese ware, not for a beach
16. She swam at Alexandria's beaches?
17. Instant message e-transmissions
18. Plant shoot
19. Component of a tribe
20. Large lily-like plant
21. Spiced jellied dish, beach hamper?
23. Railroad ____, a beach dune plant
25. Beach water is this way
26. Mineral often found in beach sand
30. It's like inc., in France
31. You could do this, without the hamper
32. Most beaches are found on them
37. One thing to call a second volume
38. It makes a lot of 17 Across possible
39. He _____ from his beach blanket
40. Find these veggies at many beaches
42. Contracted negatives
43. Uncontracted conjunction
44. Great beach drink, made at home
45. Genus of dune plants, near beach
48. Way out beyond the beaches
49. One fun round thing, for shore play
51. What beaches are
56. A Guthrie
57. She was seduced by a swan
58. Rocket scientists can't find _ ____ for love, Leonard Cohen
59. Demeanor
60. Adam and Eve's place
61. Namo, in Rome
62. Kiss, on a Costa del Sol beach
63. The orange's remains, at the beach
64. What the beach does, in the sun

Down

1. Grand tale, say, of Aliyah Bet beach landings
2. la Douce
3. Borrower's need
4. What the deal maker needs
5. Israeli seaside pleasure place
6. Obscure
7. Elevate, say, the beach umbrella
8. Keystone, in Silents
9. Present-day land colonized by ancient Phoenicians
10. Year 750, in Roman numerals
11. Parcel out
12. Potatoes can get this way
13. Find a tidal ____ behind beach dunes
22. Beach material found near Hadera
24. Suffix meaning a member of
26. Chicago times
27. We've all stubbed _ ___
28. Why, in Yarkona
29. It can sail a boat, or oar a shell
30. Film animation unit
32. Coast Guard will respond to this
33. Ticked off
34. Negative contraction
35. East, in Barcelona
36. Tasty seed (abbrev.)
38. Supplement
41. Expediter
42. Better than eagle
44. Piece of land off the beach
45. Weird
46. Breathes with difficulty
47. Prefix meaning image
48. Pilgrim, landed at Plymouth beach
49. Cute little deer, for short
50. Combining form, vicious mosquito
52. Word root, re: root out, in Rehovot
53. Sleep-word in Hebrew lullaby
54. Suffer, in Scottish
55. Hankerings



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This Week

National

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Toronto Jewish police officers get together. *Page 14*

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A pulsating blend of Manhattan and Chinatown. *Page 30*

Health & Lifestyles

Mental health art contest draws 6,500 kids. *Page 32*

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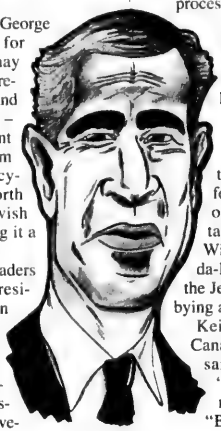
Jewish groups back Bush

Canadian government response inconsistent

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

U.S. President George W. Bush's plan for Mideast peace may be getting critical reviews in Europe and the Arab world – and an inconsistent response from Canadian policy-makers – but North American Jewish leaders are giving it a five-star rating.

Community leaders applauded the president's call for an end to terrorism, a change in Palestinian leadership and the democratization of the Palestinian national movement.



George W. Bush

They urged the Palestinians to act on Bush's offer of financial aid and a provisional Palestinian state within three years of the start of a democratization process.

"If the Palestinians are able to seize the moment, get rid of the present leadership and have free and fair elections, Bush is promising whatever it takes financially to put the Palestinian Authority on its feet. It's a very attractive offer that is there for the taking" said Joseph Wilder, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Jewish community's lobbying arm on Israel.

Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, said Bush has set out a "road map" to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. "Bush is calling for accountability, transparency and for a change in leadership," all before Israel is asked to do anything, he said.

B'nai Brith Canada called the president's address "a realistic assessment of Arafat's rule, which has allowed terrorism to thrive and corruption to flourish."

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith, urged the Canadian government to back Bush's call for an end to Arafat's rule and to line up behind the United States as part of a global coalition against terror.

Jean Chrétien

At the Kananaskis meeting of G8 leaders, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien see-sawed in his response to Bush's proposal. With Bush sitting at his side, the prime minister said "it might be a good thing" if Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was replaced. Later he modified his remarks and brought them into line with earlier comments by Foreign Minister Bill Graham: "It's got to be up to the people of Palestine who will decide who will be the leader. It's premature for me to decide who will be the leader. We have to wait for the elections," Chrétien said.

Jacques Chirac, the president of France, adopted a similar position: "With regard to the head of the Palestinian Authority, it is naturally for the Palestinian people and them alone to choose their leaders," he said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, meanwhile, lent Bush support. Mideast peace talks require people "we can negotiate with, who are serious about negotiating around the issues of security and political reform necessary for the peace process to work," he said.

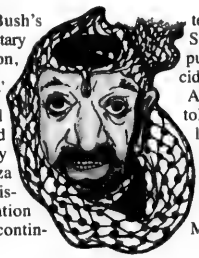
Continued on page 23

Israeli evidence influenced speech

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli intelligence information linking Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat to a $20,000 (US) payment to the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades terrorist organization convinced U.S. President George W. Bush to emphasize the need for new Palestinian leadership before Washington supports an independent Palestinian state.

The incriminating evidence was brought to the White House the Thursday before Bush's speech by Israel's military attaché in Washington, Col. Shlomo Mofaz, brother of Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who delivered it to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. The recently discovered information showed that Arafat continued providing financial support to terrorist groups after Operation Defensive Shield and after having publicly denounced suicide bombings.



Yasser Arafat

[Drawings by Michael Nisimov]

Administration officials told the *New York Times* last week that the information convinced Bush to include a call for new Palestinian leadership.

Israeli Housing Minister Natan Sharansky, a longtime proponent of requiring Palestinian democracy as a precondition for peace negotiations, was in Washington recently to meet with U.S. Vice-President Richard Cheney and Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, the leading hawk in the Pentagon and one of Israel's most vocal allies in the administration. Wolfowitz said the intelligence information was crucial – "not that we needed much persuasion."

The Bush speech went through 24 drafts before being finalized the day it was given.

Continued on page 26

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Mattot-Masei
Candlelighting: 8:43
Havdallah: 9:48

Regional nuclear plans worrisome: Mossad chief — please see page 26

The News in Brief

CANADA

Stiffer Term Sought

EDMONTON — The Crown is appealing the one-year jail sentence given to Yousef Sandouga for firebombing the Beth Shalom Synagogue here in October 2000. Sandouga, who pleaded guilty to one count of arson for throwing the Molotov cocktail, told police he wanted to attack the Jewish community because of his rage against Israel. Sandouga was sentenced after co-operating with police and making voluntary restitution of $1,150 for the minor damage caused. Stephen Scheinberg, chair of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, lauded the Crown's move, saying: "Differences of opinion or even anger over events in the Middle East do not excuse acts of virulent anti-Semitism."

Bombing Unsolved

QUEBEC CITY — Police here are still waiting for forensic tests on bomb fragments from the May 19 pipe-bombing of Beth Israel Ohev Shalom Synagogue and have made little progress in the case, a spokesperson said. Shortly after the early morning incident, which caused minor damage, police detained a man in the vicinity heard making anti-Semitic remarks, but he was released for lack of evidence. Police have since increased patrols near the shul, its president said.

ISRAEL

PR Fund Empty

JERUSALEM — The $8.3 million (US) public relations budget for Israel's Foreign Ministry has run out, Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior said last week. He said budget cuts have harmed efforts by Israeli representatives abroad to explain government policies and improve the country's image.

Treasurer Ousted

JERUSALEM — The treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Chaim Chesler, was ousted by the agency's board of governors after he made controversial remarks at the recently concluded 34th World Zionist Congress. Chesler said he prefers an immigrant from the former Soviet Union who might not be Jewish according to Jewish law than "someone who prays three times a day but stays in Brooklyn."

Rate Hiked Again

JERUSALEM — The governor of the Bank of Israel hiked interest rates by two per cent last week, the third hike in a month. The move aimed to restore confidence in the economy and stability in currency markets amid continuing devaluation of the shekel.

WORLD

Sharon Trial Rejected

BRUSSELS — A Belgian appeals court ruled last week against trying Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for alleged war crimes, saying a defendant needs to be in Belgium for a case to proceed. The ruling dealt with lawsuits filed by Palestinians and Lebanese accusing Sharon of responsibility for the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon, carried out by Lebanese Christian militias allied with Israel. Belgian law enables Belgian courts to judge atrocities committed elsewhere, whether or not they involved Belgians. The ruling may still be appealed to Belgium's supreme court.

Attack Warning

NEW YORK — U.S. Jewish organizations heightened security last week after the FBI warned there is a "significant risk" of attacks against Jewish schools and synagogues. The advisory is not for a specific date, time or city. It also warns police to watch for terrorists who may be planning to use fuel tankers in their attacks.

Al Qaeda Admission

DOHA, Qatar — A spokesperson for the Al Qaeda terror group claimed responsibility last week for the April explosion of a gas truck outside a synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia, that killed 19 people, including 14 German tourists. Sulaiman Abu Ghaith made the claim in an interview with the Arabic satellite news channel Al Jazeera.

Flight Delayed

CAPE CANAVERAL — The 16-day flight of Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, aboard the NASA space shuttle Columbia has been delayed while engineers probe the cause of small cracks in other shuttles' propulsion systems. Columbia's crew had been slated to blast off July 19.

Montrealer Honoured

PARIS — The French government recently named Montreal author Naim Kattan a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, one of its highest honours. In announcing the award, President Jacques Chirac thanked Kattan for his cultural contributions to France and La Francophonie. Born in Baghdad in 1928, Kattan has been writing in Canada for more than 40 years.

CNN News Chief Denies Anti-Israel Bias

JERUSALEM — CNN's chief news executive denied claims of an anti-Israel bias in the network's coverage of the Middle East last week during a trip to the Jewish state.

The network dispatched Eason Jordan to Israel amid threats from cable and satellite television companies to cease broadcasting CNN because of its alleged bias. Jordan said the network seeks to provide fair and balanced coverage, though he admitted that some mistakes had been made. Among them, he said, was the decision to give air time to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers.

CNN was due to begin airing a special series on Israeli victims of terrorism last week. Promos for the series appeared in Israeli newspapers.

The public relations offensive follows a recent apology by Ted Turner, CNN's founder, for saying both Israel and the Palestinians are engaging in terrorism.

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School board to adopt policy on teaching sensitive issues

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A recent meeting between Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) about how to handle sensitive and controversial subjects in the classroom ended on a positive note, says the chair of CJC's community relations committee.

"We are confident that the board fully understands what the challenges are in dealing with such issues as the Arab-Israeli conflict," said Frank Bialystok, an adjunct professor of history at the University of Waterloo.

The meeting came after recent reports that teachers in some Toronto schools were presenting curriculum on Mideast events that Congress and some parents complained was biased against Israel.

Gerry Connelly, associate director of the TDSB, said she is finalizing a policy on teaching controversial issues and will take it to the board in August. "We plan on asking major community groups such as CJC for their input."

She said the board intends to work with administrators and new teachers this summer, and will offer professional development sessions to staff on the new policy.

The board has also developed resource material and sample issues, she said.

"We need to be sensitive to students and to the community, and make sure all [educational] material is balanced and factual. Our concern is about teachers using non-factual material, or teaching lessons that are not age appropriate or are from only one perspective. We realize that with the large diversity of students, issues can be quite complex.

"We have spoken to teachers and administrators and we have agreed to try and ensure that no inappropriate lessons and material are being taught. If something does come to the attention of CJC, however, they will contact me immediately. Our strategy is to be proactive," she said.

Bialystok said that he has faith in the board that it will do all it can to implement the policy.

"They have reviewed old documents, some of which, coincidentally, I had helped draft when I was a high school teacher with the board."

He said, however, that the board has "real money problems" and this could affect how it implements the policy.

"It does not even have the basics to keep up with infrastructure such as buildings and staffing, but it is [dedicated to dealing with sensitive issues] and [representatives] at the meeting seemed quite receptive. They are also open to working with us; they want our input," said Bialystok.

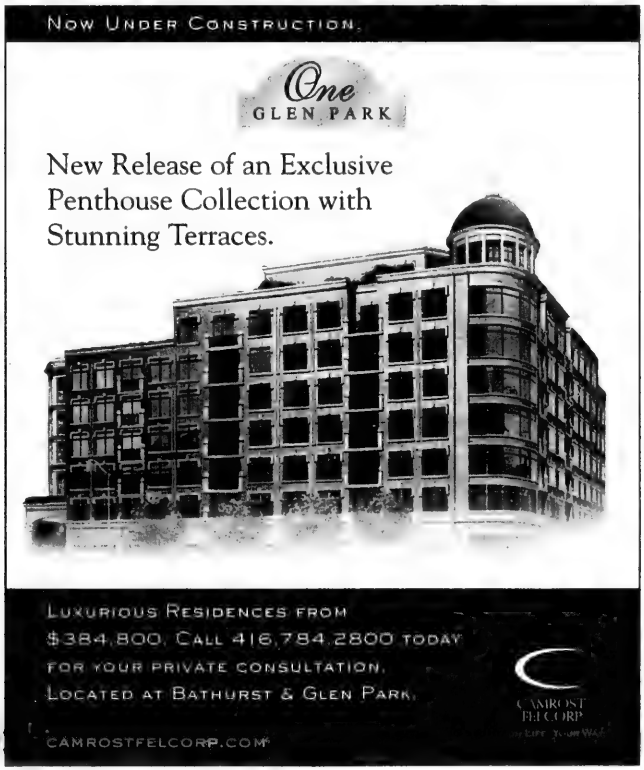
The big issue, he said, is not forming a policy about teaching sensitive issues, but how the board is going to engage in professional development with the teachers.

"The board needs to know how it will deal with an issue such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, whether it is brought into the classroom by a teacher or by a student.

"Teachers need sufficient ammunition to deal with all issues. A policy can be in place, but teachers need to implement it."

He said CJC offered to help the board execute the policy and "they were open to that."

YEAR'S END: The senior kindergarten students at Leo Baeck Day School, Holy Blossom campus, celebrated their year's learning in song, story and dance in three languages, French, Hebrew and English in front of their "special relatives."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Greater Toronto Area

Culture of hate

From the editor desk

The photo that accompanies this column was found by an Israeli army patrol last week in a home in Hebron. It is grotesque, shocking and frightening.

A young infant, not more than six-to-eight months old, is dressed in the macabre uniform of a suicide murderer, replete with a mock explosives belt, a bandalero of bullets across the baby's shoulders and a religious inscription on a forehead bandana.

Stomach-wrenching and stomach-turning, it encapsulates in the most explicit way, the horrible distancing between right and wrong that seems to have taken root in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian society.

An affront to our sensibilities, the content of the photo violates at least two key values that help form the foundation of our western way of life: the sanctity of life and the innocence of our young children.

The family of the baby said the costume was nothing more than a "joke," intended no doubt as a tickling memento for posterity in a family album or perhaps a playgroup point of pride.

In truth, though, it is both an indictment of jarring persuasiveness and a blood-red warning: the moral compass of Palestinian society is dysfunctional.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, points out elsewhere in this issue that "under Yasser Arafat, Palestinian children are indoctrinated from a young age to hate and kill Israelis." He cites, for example, a Hamas Web site that recently "celebrated" kindergarten graduation by parading five-year-olds in military fatigues carrying plastic guns and that re-enacted the Ramallah lynching in which a mob tore apart two Israeli reservists and reveled in dipping their hands in the murdered Israelis' blood.

Each day the evidence mounts of this deadly transmogrification of Palestinian society.

The *Wall Street Journal* recently recorded the following item. "This is the best day of my life," said Naima al Obeid, in a home video with her 19-year-old son Mahmoud that was made just before Mahmoud left for, and was killed on, a suicide murder mission against Israeli soldiers. "God willing," Naima implored of her son, "you will become a martyr and you will be successful."

In the *New York Times*, a week later, James Bennet wrote a story about the rash of new suicide bombers, young and secular, "rising up" with increasing frequency from within Palestinian society.

[Israel Sun photo]

The results of a poll conducted by the Palestinian Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre at the end of May showed that 68 per cent of the individuals questioned either "strongly support" or "somewhat" support suicide bombing operations against Israeli civilians.

It is thus a statement of the anguished and painful fact that the increasing resort by the Palestinians to violence against Israelis is a direct outcropping of the poisonous "culture of hate," as MP Irwin Cotler calls it, that Arafat has cultivated.

Cotler recently spoke about that culture of hate at a meeting of the American Jewish Press Association in Chicago. It is a message he has delivered to countless audiences ever since the UN-sponsored Durban conference against hatred nearly one year ago.

Cotler points out that Palestinian society under Arafat is like a fetid hot-house in which all manner of anti-Semitism and violent acts against Israel and Jews are encouraged and flourish. He refers to the phenomenon of the suicide bomber as a form of genocidal anti-Semitism, responding to the public call by Palestinian leaders to "destroy Israel and the Jewish people."

Genocidal anti-Semitism, Cotler suggests, is the most virulent and lethal expression of a new, escalating, global anti-Semitism. The outrages committed by Islamist and secular Muslim terrorists against the people of Israel are of a piece with the terrorism aimed at the western world and the many, diverse outposts of western culture – of which Israel is the most irritating to pan-Islamic and other Arab radicals – throughout the world.

The suicide bombers, anarchists and thugs whom Arafat let loose upon Israel after September 2000, and has increasingly relied upon ever since, are fellow travellers with the militant radical forces such as Al Qaeda and even nation states such as Iran, Iraq and Syria, who plot against the West. They are tied together philosophically, operationally and financially.

U.S. President George W. Bush understands this linkage and that is why he has finally decided to speak truth to Arafat's chimerical power.

The image of the "infant-bomber" is heartbreaking and terrifying, yet also, alas, more proof that the society Arafat has built for his people is a danger to Israel, the West and ultimately to itself.

MBD

SeeJN

SALUTE TO THE KING: **A life-size bronze statue of the late actor Al Waxman, best known for his role on the CBC sitcom *King of Kensington*, was recently unveiled in Bellevue Square Park near Kensington Market. The statue was commissioned by the Al Waxman Kensington Memorial Committee headed by Tom Mihalik, owner of clothing store Tom's Place in Kensington Market, with support from MPP Mike Colle, Toronto mayor Mel Lastman and city councillor Olivia Chow. Seen beneath the statue, created by artist Ruth Abernethy, are Waxman's widow Sara and his son Adam.**

[Carolyn Blackman photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Russia undergoing major changes, says rabbi

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Berel Lazar's schedule didn't allow for too much time to meet the public on his recent visit to Canada. The Russian republic's chief rabbi had been booked at two community events during his one-day stop in Toronto: in the afternoon, he was to speak to a small group of business and community leaders; in the evening, he was scheduled to address a broader community gathering.

Unfortunately, the rabbi was forced to cancel the evening affair due to pressing business back home. In an unexpected development, but one which is no longer a rarity, he was invited to the Russian autonomous republic of Bashkortostan by its president, Murtaza Rakhimov, to receive the return of a building that will be turned into a Jewish school, as well as a parcel of land for a new community centre.

The invitation was unexpected because Bashkortostan, situated in the Ural Mountains, is mostly Muslim and because Rakhimov had been resisting the Jewish community's requests to return its communal property. But pressure from Russian president Vladimir Putin changed Rakhimov's mind.

A few months before, Gov. Konstantin Titov of the Samara Oblast had done something similar. He returned to the local Jewish community a decrepit old bakery that prior to the Communist revolution had been an elegant synagogue. Titov had told reporters that the government would join with the Jewish community in rebuilding the house of worship, rejecting reporters' suggestions that the regional government should first address other priorities.

For Rabbi Lazar, the incidents are good news. They illustrate the dawn of a new Russia, one which is much friendlier to Jews and which has abandoned the state-sponsored anti-Semitism of the past.

At a luncheon hosted by Canadian businessman Nathan Jacobson and the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC), Rabbi Lazar said Putin deserves much of the credit for the improvement in attitudes towards the country's Jews. Putin attended the opening of a seven-storey community centre in Moscow, he invited several Russian rabbis to the Kremlin just before Passover and he has pushed for the return of community property that had been seized by the Communists.

Rabbi Berel Lazar

"He has spoken out against anti-Semitism more than once," Rabbi Lazar said. While much of Europe has seen an explosion of attacks against Jews, "Russia has been an incredible exception."

That's a dramatic shift from the Yeltsin era, when the community's entreaties to end public anti-Semitism "fell on deaf ears."

Rabbi Lazar suggested divine providence may have played a role in recent developments. As a boy in St. Petersburg, Putin grew up in a communal apartment with Jewish neighbours. He was practically raised by a neighbouring couple, who fed him and took care of him when his parents were away earning a living.

Not only has the Russian leader become a connoisseur of gefilte fish, he came to appreciate the tranquility and peace of the family's home. Perhaps God put the young Putin there with an eye on the future, Rabbi Lazar said.

Rabbi Lazar believes the changes Putin introduced are irreversible. The Jewish community will not be expected to give up the properties it has received, and what's more, society as a whole is changing. Other important decision makers, including mayors and governors, have changed their attitudes to Jews and a human rights culture is evolving in Russia. Even Israel, vilified in the past by official sources, is getting support in its conflict with the Palestinians, the rabbi said.

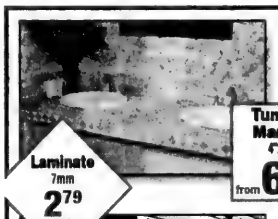
A recent incident illustrates the changes in Russian society, Rabbi Lazar said.

A gentile woman driving near Moscow on the road to Kiev was confronted by a sign that said, "Death to the Jews." When she stopped her car and attempted to pull the sign out of the ground, she triggered a bomb explosion that blinded her. The Jewish community responded by flying the woman to Israel's Tel Hashomer hospital for eye surgery. The operation was successful and the woman has regained her vision, said Rabbi Lazar, who accompanied her on her trip to Israel.

The changes in Russia, along with growing confidence in the country's economic prospects, have led to a dramatic drop in aliyah, which he predicted "won't pass the 40,000 level" this year.

At the same time, the Lubavitch movement, of which Rabbi Lazar is a representative, continues to develop Jewish life across Russia. In recent years, the country has seen a rapid growth in synagogues, weekend and day schools, summer camps, soup kitchens and other programs to serve the community. People who hid their Jewish heritage are now proudly identifying themselves as Jews.

"They don't feel they're second class citizens any more," Rabbi Lazar said.



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We wish all members of the class a happy, and peaceful summer, and success in their future studies.

Monthly paper to serve Russian community

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

July 1 is a pretty auspicious day for a birthday in Canada and so what could be more Canadian than to date a publication's premiere issue on Canada Day.

Approximately 5,000 homes in and around Toronto were recently treated to the first issue of *Exodus*, an English-language magazine aimed at Russian Jews and those with an interest in the Russian community.

Published by the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC), the paper the periodical will cover current events, international news and "areas of Jewish interest, Jewish thought," said Izzy Greenberg, the paper's editor.

"It will be a hip take on Jewish community magazines, but keeping within the boundaries of the rebbe's vision... We want to be hip, we want to be cool, but we want to be traditional."

The rebbe Greenberg was referring to is Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn, the late spiritual leader of the Lubavitch movement.

The rebbe, when he was alive, advocated a program of outreach to Jews around the world.

Greenberg said Toronto is home to a substantial number of Russian Jews who no longer speak Russian but who want to remain connected to that community. Given Russians' penchant for intellectual exchanges, the paper will be "somewhat highbrow, somewhat intellectual, but [we will] keep it warm and not make it into a kitschy kind of community paper," Greenberg said.

Although he has no previous editing experience, Greenberg believes he can deliver a formula that will attract local Russian Jews.

"These people are not being reached" and are not particularly connected to the Jewish community, he said.

"Nothing is attracting them and we want to reach out to them."

In addition to its coverage of Israeli news and other contemporary events, the paper will offer a column on women's spirituality, viewpoints of local rabbis, articles by Internet columnist Joseph Farah and reports from Arutz 7, an Israeli news service.

Greenberg, a graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, will remain the only full-time staffer for now, with most articles submitted by freelancers and news services. The targeted audience of 5,000 was obtained from the JRCC's mailing list of English-speaking Russian emigres.

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Conservative, Reform shuls unite for study mission to Jerusalem

Two Toronto synagogues, one Conservative and one Reform, are providing members of the Jewish community with a new reason to visit Israel by collaborating on a study mission to Jerusalem.

The trip, from July 5 to July 11, is being conducted in conjunction with Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, which promotes understanding and tolerance among all segments of Israeli society. Both Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, the spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation, and Rabbi John Moscowitz of Holy Blossom Temple, the two organizing rabbis, have studied at the institute.

Designed to promote tolerance

The program consists of four-and-a-half study hours each morning, which includes both seminars and small group learning, followed by a free afternoon, another hour-and-a-half of studying, and dinner. Evenings will offer programs in which political figures, journalists, and others will speak and encourage discussions with mission participants.

Rabbi Moscowitz, who has participated in many similar projects, feels that study missions serve to strengthen bonds with Israel in ways that traditional trips cannot.

"The more depth, the more learning," he says, "[and] the more learning, the more attachment."

Although Rabbi Frydman-Kohl has never organized such an undertaking, he sees the mission as an opportunity for congregants to broaden their minds and to bridge the generation gap.

The project, he says, "promises to be intellectually exciting as well as an opportunity for people of all ages to learn together." The twenty congregants participating range in age from their late 30s into their 60s.

The mission marks the first time the two synagogues have collaborated on such a project and Rabbi Frydman-Kohl hopes this trip will be a model for future journeys that "also reach into the Orthodox community."

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Life of rabbinic scholar examined at Kelman lecture

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

When the funeral procession for the great scholar Rabbi Yechiel Yaakov Weinberg was ready to set out for his burial, escorted by his followers and disciples, it was waylaid by a delegation from his former yeshiva, insisting that only they had the right to bury him.

That proponents of modern Orthodoxy and those of the yeshiva world could both claim the same person as their own, is dramatic evidence of the uniqueness of Rabbi Weinberg, says historian Marc Shapiro, holder of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg chair in Judaic studies at the University of Scranton.

He was presenting the third annual Ruth Kelman memorial lecture, held at Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz congregation.

Shapiro's doctoral thesis at Harvard University has been published as a book, *Between the Yeshiva World and Modern Orthodoxy: the life and works of Rabbi Jehiel Jacob Weinberg*.

Shapiro said Rabbi Weinberg, who lived from 1884 to1966, was educated at prominent yeshivot in Poland, including the Mir yeshiva. He was considered a brilliant student and scholar.

However, to the concern of his teachers, he became attracted to literature of the *Haskalah*, the Enlightenment. This was at a time when there was no middle path, Shapiro said. "You had to choose either the [world of] the *Haskalah* or the [world of] the yeshiva."

Perhaps to "save" Rabbi Weinberg, Shapiro posited, his rosh yeshiva arranged a shidduch for him, with the daughter of a rabbi who had just passed away, leaving a vacant position. Unfortunately, he added, she had been educated, or rather not educated, to be only a housewife, and in no way an intellectual partner.

Rabbi Weinberg was miserable. Stranded in Germany by the outbreak of World War I, he elected to stay there even after Russia made peace with Germany in 1917.

He became fascinated by German Orthodoxy, with its belief in *Torah im derech eretz*, the merger and legitimacy of Torah and secular knowledge, Shapiro said. Although Rabbi Weinberg acknowledged in his writings that this philosophy would not be acceptable in the yeshiva world of eastern Europe, nevertheless he himself supported that stance.

Returning to Russia only to divorce his wife (he never remarried, although she did), he went back to Germany, earned a doctorate at the University of Berlin and became a respected and authoritative halachic authority.

He survived the Nazis, and after the war, moved to Switzerland, where he retired to private life.

As a private citizen, he was free to expound his intellectual beliefs. Shapiro noted that "he knew the sociological realities. If he had remained in Germany, he would have had to make a choice between the yeshiva world and what might be called modern Orthodoxy."

However, he felt that because he had friends in both camps, Shapiro said, "he would be especially acceptable to decide on issues with sociological ramifications."

He believed that in order to make proper halachic decisions, Shapiro said, a rabbi must know and understand the modern world and modern realities. For example, Shapiro said, Rabbi Weinberg ruled that even though the idea comes from Christian confirmation, bat mitzvah is acceptable for young girls. "Not everything that comes from [non-Jews] is forbidden," he noted.

His rationale, said Shapiro, was that not to allow the bat mitzvah would be discrimination.

However, he agreed with Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, an American halachic sage, that the bat mitzvah should be held in a house, rather than a shul.

It's interesting, Shapiro said wryly, that that part of the ruling is ignored today.

In the past, rabbis would look hard for leniencies when ruling on Halachah. A classic example is a poor woman bringing a chicken to a rabbi to determine if it was kosher or not. To rule it unkosher and thus unusable would have been a considerable financial hardship, and the rabbi would try desperately to find a way to rule in her favour.

Shapiro said Rabbi Weinberg did not regard his views as applicable to all groups for all time. A ruling for the United States might not be valid for B'nai Brak, a haredi area of Jerusalem, for instance.

His emphasis was on "bringing Torah to the modern world," Shapiro said. He asserted that decisions "have to be made in terms of modern sensibilities." Slavery, for instance, was allowed in the Torah, but now is unacceptable.

Rabbi Weinberg opposed the use of "halachic tricks," said Shapiro, such as dealing with the shmittah year, when Jews are forbidden to farm in Israel, by symbolically selling the land to non-Jews. "We don't build a state [Israel] on legal tricks. It shows the non-religious that we don't value Torah."

Rabbi Weinberg considered it "immoral" to believe that one does not have the obligation to save gentile lives on Shabbat, but "only someone who lives in the real world can understand the moral conflicts." Many problems facing the Jewish people could be solved if only halachic authorities would have the courage to use lenient and minority opinions, Rabbi Weinberg believed. Sadly, the rabbi acknowledged that he did not have that strength either, Shapiro concluded.

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Honesty and the courage to express it

History may very well record the speech last week by U.S. President George W. Bush in the White House Rose Garden as a watershed in the raging, bloody torrent that is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It will certainly record it as a remarkably bold statement of foreign policy and inner conviction.

The United States will fully support the establishment of an independent state of Palestine, the president said, but only if it includes "new leaders, new institutions and new security arrangements." In particular, Bush emphasized, to the stunned surprise of virtually the entire world, that the Palestinian people must elect "new leaders not compromised by terror," if they want U.S. backing in their march toward national and political independence. Although Bush did not specifically refer to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat by name, there was absolutely no ambiguity and no doubt that Bush wants Arafat to step down and away.

Bush called upon the Palestinian people to undertake sweeping reforms of their method of self-governance, the most important of which would be to reject the continued involvement of Arafat in running Palestinian affairs.

Not surprisingly, reaction to Bush's plea to the Palestinian people has been mixed. Supporters of the Arafat regime dislike its forthright bluntness. But their chief criticism of the president's message is disingenuous. They accuse Bush of trying to "dictate" who the Palestinian leader should be, of not allowing Palestinians the right to choose their own leader. These accusations, however, are false.

Bush chose his words carefully and deliberately. Palestinians, of course, have the right and the obligation to choose their own leaders – although to date, neither they nor any of the people in any of the Arab states in the region have ever had the true opportunity to do so. But they – the Palestinian people – should know that the American government has the equal right to choose with which foreign leaders it will enter into relations and conduct affairs of state. And in his speech, Bush explicitly said his government will no longer countenance Arafat as a partner with whom to enter into bilateral, or any other, relations. That is because, by his brazenly duplicitous and lying behaviour, Arafat has placed himself too far outside the norms of conduct that Bush can personally accept.

Bush is to be commended for his radically honest assessment of Arafat and for the courage to express it. Other western leaders, including our own here in Canada, have tended to ignore Arafat's planning and direction of the terror against Israel, preferring instead to recoil into craven, obsequious rationalizations. Though the Palestinian people are deserving and needy of their own state, the American people will not help them achieve it as long as Arafat leads them.

That was the bold, historic and laudable gravamen of Bush's remarkable speech last week.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones
I AM READY TO GIVE MY LIFE FOR THE CAUSE!
NAME ONE SACRIFICE WHICH I HAVE NOT MADE FOR PALESTINE AND I WILL MAKE IT NOW!
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Help needed for small communities

I have heard that small Jewish communities are in need of competent Torah readers. We hear a lot about the need to preserve our heritage. This would be a good place to start. Could not the Jewish community, through its major organizations, pay for students to visit these communities to help out so that our traditions do not become diluted?

This would be a job for competent people with a knowledge of correct *trop* rather than well-meaning, but unskilled individuals who do not have this knowledge.

Charles Heller
Toronto

* * *

Readers react to the CLC resolution

Regarding "CLC criticizes Israel" (*CJN*, June 20), I have been a union member since the 1950s and my father was in the printers' union as far back as the 1920s. We have seen great union leaders who supported freedom and opposed totalitarianism, but there was another breed who supported fascism, National Socialism, Soviet socialism and gangsterism. It saddened me to learn that the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC) slammed Israel – the only country in the Middle East that has a free trade union movement. The 23 members of the Arab League do not permit unions to organize, strike and freely pursue better conditions for working people. Indeed, it condones slavery in the Sudan and the denial of women's basic working rights in Saudi Arabia. The Canadian labour bosses have earned a new name: union sheikhs.

Marvin Maurer
Toronto

* * *

I would think the CLC, CUPE, etc. have enough to do obtaining higher wages, pensions, better standards and safety conditions of work for their members without getting involved in world affairs.

J. Brown
Toronto

* * *

How depressingly ignorant are the resolutions against Israel that were recently passed by both the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Canadian Labour Congress. Do these union members have any idea about the incredibly wretched positions of unions within the Arab world, and in particular, in the Palestinian Authority (PA)?

There are no democratic unions under the rule of the PA. In fact, union leadership positions are appointed by the PA and are divided by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat as plum positions to satisfy various warlords within Gaza and West Bank. Union dues are siphoned off to fill the pockets of those appointees, with Arafat taking his required cut.

The Democracy and Workers' Rights Centre (DWRC) was established in 1993 following the Oslo accords. It's comprised of Palestinians who have sought to seek changes within the struggling union movement in the territories. Here is part of their own assessment of the situation of unions under Arafat:

"Poor labour legislation reinforces the weakness of the trade union movement, and keeps the trade unions under the hegemony of political factions. Political factions appoint union representatives. Democratic elections are not allowed. The representatives are appointed as a result of their political power, far removed from workers' demands and the realities of work conditions. The 'kings' of the trade union movement are appointed from political factions and their positions are dependent upon the relative strength of each faction and agreements between them. This weakens trade unions, as workers refuse to join. They feel like strangers, denied of their right to elect their own representatives. Since 1982, no elections have been held in the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions."

Now compare this to the flourishing and well-entrenched union movement in Israel, and one can only wonder what exactly were the real motivations behind these political statements by two of Canada's largest labour groups.

Ted Sokolsky
Toronto

* * *

Israel, Jews and the left

I have read and reread Jordy Cumming's letter (*CJN*, June 20).

In my earlier correspondence (*CJN*, June 6), I pointed out the anti-Semitism in the Arab world and in particular, the Palestinians with whom the Israelis are to make peace. How do you make peace with people who teach their children that the Jews are the vermin of the world and are to be destroyed? Palestinian mothers are proud of their children when they strap on explosives to kill themselves and as many Jewish women and children as possible.

Israel is surrounded by more than 200 million Arabs who seek to destroy all the Jews who live there. I am not dreaming; the Arabs have said so themselves. Cummings is looking for the "progressive, liberal elements of the Arab world." Where is the Palestinian left? There are no Palestinian peace movements. Arab marchers everywhere seem to be chanting "Death to Jews."

In the past 21 months, more than 500 Israelis have been killed and thousands have been wounded, many of them maimed for life. Israel has to contend with suicide bombers, drive-by shootings and terrorist attacks on settlements. Unlike Cummings, I believe Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has shown remarkable restraint in the face of Arab attacks on the civilian population. Cummings is 6,000 miles away. What does he know of the terror Israelis have to live with every day?

Cummings and I can agree and call for a two-state solution. But to me, a two-state solution with murderers is no solution at all.

Harold Pomerantz
Dundas, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Dispelling myths about Jews in Muslim Lands

By SARAH TAIEB CARLEN

In Islam, there are three categories of human beings: first Muslims; then Jews and Christians – called *ahl al-dhimma* or *dhimmis* (people who are granted the protection of the Muslim ruler) and *ahl al-kittab* (people of the Book) because they received a divine revelation through the Torah and the New Testament, respectively; and, finally, people who do not believe in God.

As well, there are two political divisions. One is between the Dar al-Islam (House of Islam) and the Dar al-Harb (House of War), which, according to Islamic belief, are doomed to wage war against each other, with the final victory of Islam. The other is between the Muslims and the dhimmis.

The dhimmis' life was regulated by the Covenant of Omar according to the Qur'an's instruction: "fight those who do not practise the religion of truth from among those to whom the Book has been brought, until they pay the tribute by their hands, and be reduced low."

Jewish children learning Hebrew in Fez, in the early 20th century.

As Albert Memmi, a Tunisian-born philosopher and historian wrote: "the supposedly 'idyllic' life led by the Jews in Arab countries is all a myth!... Never... have the Jews lived in Moslem countries otherwise than as diminished people in an exposed position, periodically overcome and massacred so that they would be acutely conscious of their position... If we leave out the crematoria and the murders committed in Russia ... *the sum total of the Jewish victims of the Christian world is probably no greater than the total number of victims of the successive pogroms, both big and small, perpetrated in the Moslem countries*" (italics in the original).

Sometimes, the masses were incited to violence against the Jews by writings such as ibn-Azim's: "Let any prince upon whom Allah has bestowed some of His bounty take heed... Let him get away from this filthy, stinking, dirty crew beset with Allah's anger and malediction, with humiliation and wretchedness, misfortune, filth, and dirt, as no other people has ever been."

The Covenant stipulates that, on pain of death, dhimmis are forbidden to revile the Qur'an, Islam or Mohammed (because "it is not in order that they should behave that way that we most kindly granted them the dhimma"); to marry or live in concubinage with Muslim women; to injure Muslims in life or property; to assist the enemy or to harbour spies.

Dhimmis were also, and with slightly less grievous penalties attached, forbidden to build houses higher than those of the Muslims, to drink wine in public, or to proselytize among Muslims. This would be dangerous for the Muslims too, since apostasy was punished by death, because, according to Islamic belief, we were all born in a "natural state of religion," Islam, and it is our parents who made us Jews, Christians, animists, etc. This is why conversion to Islam usually attracts no particular attention on the part of the Muslims, because they see it as normal in the sense that the whole world will one day be Muslim. Similarly, people who embrace Islam do not say they converted, but instead believe that they have reverted to it, since they were "born into it."

Moreover, dhimmis were forbidden to pray, mourn or bury their dead in a way which might be offensive to Muslims, to use the same public baths as Muslims, to bear arms or to ride horses, (and when they were allowed to ride mules, they had to ride them sideways). They were forbidden to set foot on the soil of Mecca, because as the Qur'an stipulates: "Believers, know that the unbelievers are unclean. Let them not approach the Sacred Mosque."

A dhimmi's oath was invalidated by a Muslim's and the blood price demanded for the death of a dhimmi was less than that of a Muslim. Dhimmis had to talk in a lower voice than Muslims, to shelter Muslim travellers for at least three days, and their tombs had to be lower than those of Muslims. They had to pay special taxes, usually very high, and their inferior status was made even more humiliating because of the way they had to pay them: the dhimmi had to walk to where the tax collector was sitting and stand and wait. The tax collector would grab his collar and scream: "Pay the *jizya* [one of the taxes]." Once he received the *jizya*, the collector would give the dhimmi a *shteke*, or slap in the face.

By paying the *jizya*, the dhimmis guaranteed the safety of their lives and property. A Jewish family chronicle informs us that, in the ninth century, the caliph al-Mutahdid offered a wealthy Jewish banker from Baghdad, whom he had befriended, the elimination of all Jewish taxes. The banker begged him not to do so: "Through the tax, the Jew insures his existence. By eliminating it, you would give free rein to the populace to shed Jewish blood." This indicates that non-Muslims were tolerated on Muslim soil partly because they were economically useful, and this is why Muslim rulers sometimes discouraged conversion to Islam – so as not to lose a guaranteed source of income.

Dhimmis had to give right of way to Muslims, to wear distinctive clothing, distinguishing coloured patches and, sometimes, shoes of different colours. Slaves and dhimmi women were not allowed to wear a veil because it was a symbol of respectability. No violation of these rules was ever forgiven, even by the most liberal ruler.

Although it is commonly believed that the yellow badge originated in Christian Europe, in fact, it was first imposed in Muslim lands. Bernard Lewis and other scholars assert that a caliph in Baghdad was the first to force it on the Jews in the ninth century and that the practice spread from there to the West during the Middle Ages.

When they died, the dhimmis' property was confiscated by the ruler unless their relatives were able to convince him that they were the rightful heirs according to Islamic law. When this was not possible, or when the deceased left no heir, the estate was confiscated.

However, there was a positive aspect to the status of dhimmi: it was a contract between the state and the dhimmis which, in peaceful times, provided safety for the dhimmis' life and property. The leader of the Jewish community was obligated to ensure that all of the dhimmi rules and restrictions were observed. The Jews who abode by the covenant were, in theory if not always in practice, granted the right to practise their religion and to organize their community freely.

The Muslims, for their part, were obligated to remind the dhimmis, by any means, of their inferior status because it was assigned to them by law and because, if the Muslims did not, the dhimmis' behaviour would upset the social structure of Islamic society.

Jews and Christians were usually treated in the same way, but the Qur'an is much less hostile to the Christians than to the Jews. This was partly because the Jews of Mecca and Medina adamantly refused to convert to Islam, whereas the Christians, being so far from those places, did not cause bitterness and anger in Mohammed and among the early Muslims: "You will find that the most implacable of men in their enmity to the Faithful are the Jews and the pagans, and that the nearest in affection to them are those who say: 'we are Christians.' That is because there are priests and monks among them; and because they are free from pride."

Yemenite Jews (ca. 1910)
[Photos from *The Dhimmi: Jews and Christians under Islam* by Bat Ye'or, Associated University Presses]

Muslims considered the Jew the lowest being imaginable. An Arabic expression states that: "[If I am lying], may I become a Jew." But Mohammed, who was fiercely monotheistic, despised the Christian religion far more than he did Judaism because of the dogmas of the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus.

It has often been assumed that the Jews' rejection of Mohammed was the most painful disappointment of his life, because it jeopardized his religious status considerably. He had adopted several Jewish practices such as the dietary laws, the *kibla* (orientation at the time of prayer) towards Jerusalem, the Shabbat rest, and the fast of Yom Kippur. But not only did the Jews not convert, they also tended to argue with Mohammed as they corrected his misquotations of the Bible and the Mishnah.

> 'Muslims considered the Jew the lowest being imaginable'

Disappointed, Mohammed replaced the fast of Yom Kippur with the fast of Ramadan, the Shabbat rest with Friday rest, the *kibla* towards Jerusalem with prayer towards Mecca, and he significantly modified the dietary laws.

Furthermore, he wrote very insulting and sometimes cruel verses, as well as positive ones, in the Qur'an about the Jews.

Mohammed's anger and dismay at the Jews motivated him to fight them from 624 to 628 in order to expropriate their property and kill them. However, what was more damaging in the longer term is that he included reports of these fights in the most spiteful terms in the Qur'an, the Holy Book of more than one billion people throughout the world, which every Muslim is supposed to memorize from an early age and which most pious Muslims believe was dictated to Mohammed by God.

Sarah Taieb Carlen teaches at York University.

Visit to Washington

My recent journey to Washington, D.C., made me aware of the many memorable aspects of the American capital.

It houses, of course, some of the world's most recognizable structures, like the White House and the Washington Monument. It also prides itself on the Library of Congress and famous galleries, and my latest journey made me aware of its stunning parks and lovely environs.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

On my trip, I had the privilege of lecturing at one of the city's synagogues, and was able to visit with friends of long-standing.

Not surprisingly, social encounters are likely to have a political colouration, but no more so than I remembered from previous visits. International crises and gossip about well-known figures were rarely discussed. Instead, issues such as American policy regarding Israel were prominent, since I found myself in exclusively Jewish company.

Roosevelt Memorial

Most memorable was my visit to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial – a stunning combination of rocks, waterfalls, sculptures and engravings of significant citations from his speeches, all of which are also readable in braille letters engraved in the granite.

The leisurely walk through the several sections of the memorial and back along the shores of the Tidal Basin, fringed in ancient Japanese cherry trees, afforded me yet another vista of this remarkable city.

Thus, to me, Washington represents, in a very special way, the many varied aspects of not only the United States itself, but also of the opportunities the nation offers its citizens.

I could not help but remember that, back in 1935, I came to the shores of North America as a refugee, one of the many millions who had preceded me and who, like me, retained a deep sense of gratitude for having been able to make it their home.

As well, during this visit, I was once again struck with the degree of admiration that Americans have for their political heroes, something that is sadly lacking in Canada.

Summer from both sides

The most fascinating aspect of the summer is that we allow the beautiful weather and sunshine to overshadow the bad that might be taking place in the world. In my case, instead of spending much of May and June reading the newspaper or sitting in front of the television, I was busy preparing programs for camp. This meant that, for a brief period of time, the goings-on in Israel were closer to the back of my mind while I rejoiced about finishing university and making this summer a fantastic one.

Darcie Richler in Halifax

Sadly, I was abruptly brought back to reality when I read an article about Moshe Eini in this very newspaper.

For those who do not know, Moshe Eini was an Israeli soldier who was tragically killed in February while on duty in the West Bank. For most, Moshe is like the rest of the casualties of the intifadah: a son to parents, a brother to siblings and one dearly missed by many. For me, Moshe represents the essence of my frustrations, and the epitome of my nightmares.

Moshe's father Ezra had a memorable impact on my siblings and me. For a few weeks in late December 1988, Ezra took my family all over the land of Israel. In that time, we saw the country through the eyes of someone who had an obvious love for the land. Ezra showed more enthusiasm and knowledge about each new place we visited than he did about the one before.

At the same time, Ezra also let us into his personal life. He told us about his children, who were around the same ages as the three children in our family. He explained Israel's mandatory conscription policy. He spoke about his own experiences in the Israel Defence Forces in an upfront and honest tone that children usually don't get to hear.

I still remember sitting in total awe as Ezra explained that, one day in the future, his children would protect the land they love so much.

I also remember sitting at a function in Halifax, ironically on Yom Ha'atzmaut, when I learned about the tragic fate of Moshe Eini.

At that moment, I comprehended even more deeply the grief that Israel has felt as a nation. While I did not know Moshe personally, I felt the loss as though he was someone close to me. Even though I doubted that Ezra would ever remember me – since he has interacted with literally thousands of North Americans through his work – I still felt that it was important to e-mail him my condolences.

CBC, CTV and CNN would have you believe that when a tragedy occurs in Israel, families and friends simply need a reassuring phone call from their loved ones. Ezra's experience enlightened me about how Israel functions socially. When a tragedy happens, the country grieves together as a nation – irrespective of one's stream of Judaism, political beliefs or anything else. Israelis have come to live and know that when a suicide bomber strikes, or a soldier gets killed, it could have just as easily been their own son or daughter, or mother or father. And then, together, as a nation, they take a breath, accept the reality and move on to the next day, knowing that again, that day might bring about the beginning of the same process.

This summer, let us all promise ourselves that we will keep supporting Israel in any way we can. While it is human nature to embrace the season, we must remember that just a 12-hour plane ride away, a country is in despair and a huge portion of its tourism industry – a key sector of the economy – is virtually non-existent because we are not there supporting it.

Let us also not forget about families like Moshe's who have an empty seat at their Shabbat tables because they see the existence of the State of Israel being more crucial than any single life.

Until next month, have a safe and healthy summer.

* * *

Thank you to all those who have responded about the Jewish singles issue. Stay tuned for more thoughts on it.

Dealing with anti-Israel propaganda

I recently ventured to Toronto to look for an apartment and to visit Ryerson University before I make the big move to that city at the end of August. I have been anticipating my departure from Winnipeg and my migration to Ryerson for a couple years now, and I am very excited about what lies ahead, but this article is not about the expectations I have for my journalism career.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

I visited Ryerson hoping to acquire some information about my coming year, but my journey to Dundas and Yonge streets ended with feelings of guilt, confusion and anger.

As I walked toward Ryerson's main building, I noticed two men on a street corner distributing a small booklet. Something stopped me. I couldn't make out what the men were saying, but I felt pulled in their direction. I approached one of the men and without any dialogue, he handed me a paper filled with anti-Israel articles. My heart stopped. What was I going to do? I was confronted with something directly related to my connection with Israel and Judaism.

I have been faced with anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian propaganda on only two occasions in my life, and both times I did not know how to react. My initial thought in this instance was to yell at the men and express my outrage at what they were doing. But I thought that wouldn't get me anywhere. So I decided to do what I was needed to do at Ryerson and think of something to say when I crossed their paths again.

But as I exited Ryerson's main building, I realized I did not have the confidence to confront them. What would I say? Do I know enough about events in the Middle East to defend my position? The two men were Arabs, so I figured that they must have some knowledge of what is going on. So I walked past them, still trying to gather the courage to confront them. The further I walked the guiltier I felt. I should have done something, I should have said something. I have to represent the Jewish people.

I have strong suspicions that many readers out there have felt these same feelings. When confronted with anti-Semitism, or anti-Israel statements, it is difficult to know what to do. Confronting these people might lead to a heated argument at best, or possibly something more troubling. I feel that if I do confront these people, I need to know my facts or my argument will be fruitless. How do we approach these one-on-one situations?

I don't have the answer – as you can clearly see – but I think dealing with these encounters are just as important as holding large rallies. Jews have the confidence to gather at the legislative building and support Israel, but do we have the confidence and knowledge to speak up against Palestinian supporters, or even misguided peers?

For me, I think the confidence will come. I feel much more knowledgeable about the Arab-Israeli conflict than I did a few months ago, but I think I need to learn more before I can present a clear and accurate argument. This will come from paying attention to current events and learning more about Jewish culture and history, something that doesn't happen overnight.

This incident has led me to worry somewhat about my upcoming year at Ryerson. This past year, I have read about a number of anti-Semitic events at my future school and this makes me wonder about the environment I will be entering and what I would do if my Judaism is challenged again. There was no anti-Semitism at the University of Winnipeg while I was there, and as a result, I am largely unfamiliar with personal challenges to my core values. I am hoping that, if confronted with a similar situation in the future, that I will take a stand. And although I hope this kind of thing doesn't happen frequently, the more I am confronted personally, the more confidence I will have to react and do something about it.

E-mail: cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

The Passing Parade...

They died recently, leaving footprints in time...

Max Ferdinand Perutz, the 1962 Nobel Prize laureate in chemistry, was the father of molecular biology.

Cesar Milstein, the joint winner of the 1984 Nobel Prize in medicine, pioneered the production of anti-cancer cells.

James Tobin, the 1981 winner of the Nobel Prize in economics, analyzed the relationship between financial markets, expenditures, employment and prices.

Alvin Radkowsky, a nuclear engineer, headed the design team that built the United States' first commercial nuclear power plant.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Stephen Jay Gould, a Harvard professor of zoology and geology, popularized evolutionary biology and paleontology through books, articles and lectures.

Robert Berliner – an authority on renal physiology – and his team demonstrated the mechanism by which the kidney regulates the body's balance of salt and water.

Hans Neurath, a biochemist, was among the first to apply modern physical and chemical techniques in examining the composition and function of proteins.

Walter Alter Rosenblith, a biophysicist, was one of the first scientists to use computer models to emulate the brain's behaviour.

Victor Weisskopf, a nuclear physicist, worked on the Manhattan Project, which produced the first atomic bomb.

Burton Edelson directed two major programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration – the Hubble Space Telescope and the Mars Explorer mission.

David Reisman was a sociologist whose 1950 work, *The Lonely Crowd: A Study of the Changing American Character*, became a perennial best-seller and standard text.

Robert Nozick, a Harvard philosopher, explored the social welfare system in *Anarchy State and Utopia* and the nature of knowledge in *Philosophical Explanations*.

Mandel Sprachman, an architect, restored Toronto's legendary Elgin and Winter Garden theatres and designed the first multiplex cinema theatre.

Lew Wasserman was chief executive of the Music Corporation of America, a top Hollywood agent whose clients included Bette Davis and Gregory Peck and a film and television producer (*Jaws* and *Jurassic Park* and *Miami Vice* and *Marcus Welby, M.D.*).

Billy Wilder won six Academy Awards as a movie director, and his films included *Double Indemnity*, *The Lost Weekend*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Some Like It Hot*.

George Sidney was a film director of musicals whose credits ran the gamut from *Show Boat* to *Till the Clouds Roll By*.

Herman Cohen, a Hollywood producer and writer, churned out camp cult classics like *I Was a Teenage Werewolf* and *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein*.

Richard Sylbert, a movie production designer, won Academy Awards for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *Dick Tracy* and was nominated for Oscars for *Chinatown*, *Shampoo*, *Reds* and *The Cotton Club*.

Julia Phillips, a film producer of classics (*Taxi Driver, Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *The Sting*), set tongues wagging with *You'll Never Eat Lunch in This Town Again*, a gossipy, best-selling book about Hollywood.

Otto Lowy was the host of CBC Radio's popular classical musical show, *The Transcontinental*, for 22 years.

Zypora Spaisman was one of the guiding forces of the Folksbiene (People's Stage) in New York City, the oldest continually active Yiddish theatre in the world.

Murray Adaskin was a violinist and composer whose 130 works were broadcast by the CBC and a teacher who headed the music faculty at the University of Saskatoon.

Martin Esslin, a drama critic and author, wrote *The Theatre of the Absurd*, a seminal book, and *Brecht: The Man and His Work*.

Jack Kruschen, a character actor, played Papa Papadapolis in the television series *Webster* and did radio voiceovers for *The Danny Thomas Show* and *Dragnet*.

Sheldon Allman, a songwriter, was the singing voice of *Mr. Ed*, the sitcom, and wrote the theme music for *Let's Make a Deal*.

Seymour Reit, an illustrator, created Casper the Friendly Ghost, one of the world's most recognized cartoon characters.

Dave Berg spoofed the human condition for 40 years in a comic strip in *Mad* magazine known as The Lighter Side of.

Holly Solomon, an art dealer, was the subject of an iconic Andy Warhol portrait.

Tommy Gould, a British soldier, won the Victoria Cross in 1942, the only Jewish recipient of that award in World War II.

Stefan Heym, one of Germany's stellar writers (*Hostages* and *The Crusaders*), was a dissident in East Germany, a member of parliament in the reformed East German Communist party and a cultural ambassador.

Wallace Markfield wrote *To an Early Grave*, the novel made into a 1968 film, *Bye Bye Braverman*, directed by Sidney Lumet and starring George Segal.

Lois Gould, a novelist who portrayed the emotional complexities of women's lives, wrote *Such Good Friends* and *Mommy Dressing: A Love Story*.

Ann Landers (Esther Friedman Lederer) wrote a syndicated advice column read by more than 90 million readers daily in about 1,200 newspapers. Her twin sister, Pauline, writes the widely circulated Dear Abby column.

Flora Lewis, a seasoned journalist who worked for the Associated Press, wrote the foreign affairs column in *The New York Times* from 1980 to 1990.

Dick Schaap, the host of *The Sports Reporters* for 12 years, wrote two best-selling books, *Instant Replay* and *Bo Knows Bo*, and ghost-wrote autobiographies of Hank Aaron, Joe Montana, Tom Seaver and Joe Namath.

Leon Mandel was editor-in-chief and publisher of *Autoweek*, the largest weekly consumer car magazine in the United States, in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dan Daniels, a Montreal storyteller, playwright and union activist, wrote *Paranoia and Dirty Feet* and *The Curse of Gutenberg*, and helped found the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and the Montreal Peace Centre.

Harry Rankin, a Vancouver lawyer, alderman and political activist, was instrumental in establishing British Columbia's first legal aid system.

Alan Kranowitz worked as former U.S. president Ronald Reagan's chief congressional point man and as an aide to Dick Cheney, the current vice-president, when Cheney was a member of the House of Representatives.

Louis Melzack parlayed Montreal's Classics Bookstore into a national chain of 85 stores that was absorbed by Chapters.

Paul Gottlieb was editor and publisher of Harry N. Abrams, the dominant art book publisher in the United States.

Stanley Marcus was president of Neiman Marcus, the Texas-based department store chain renowned for quality and luxury.

Ruth Handler, co-founder of the Mattel toy company, created the world-famous Barbie doll, now sold in 150 countries.

Joseph Steiner, co-founder of Kenner Products, manufactured toys like Easy-Bake Oven, Bubble Rocket and the Close'n Play phonograph.

Pauline Trigere was a Paris-born fashion designer whose clothes were worn by America's creme de la creme.

David Cohen founded John's Bargain Stores, a discount chain with 527 outlets in the eastern United States and Puerto Rico.

Ira Waldbaum turned Waldbaum's into America's 12th largest supermarket chain.

David Mintz was president of Global Television and brought such shows as *60 Minutes* and *Cheers* to Canadian viewers.

Morris Wosk founded Furniture Fashion in Vancouver and built the Blue Horizon Hotel, once Vancouver's tallest building.

Victor Posner controlled companies such as Arby's restaurants and Royal Crown Cola and, through The Security Management Corporation, amassed a real estate empire in Florida.

Peter Kriendler transformed 21, a club, into one of Manhattan's most beloved restaurants.

Haim Cohen, an Israeli Supreme Court justice, was the first president of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel.

Marvin Frankel, a U.S. judge, wrote *Criminal Sentences, Law Without Order*, a treatise that established federal sentencing guidelines.

Howard Squadron, former president of the American Jewish Committee, headed the Conference of Presidents of Major American Organizations from 1980 until 1982.

Avraham Tory, a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor, penned *Surviving the Holocaust: The Kovno Ghetto Diary*.

Chaike Spiegel of Montreal was one of the last surviving combatants of the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Israel Miller, a rabbi, was president of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany from 1982 to 2002.

Walter Wurzburger, also a rabbi, was president of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Ida Milgrom, an economist, helped free her son, the Soviet dissident Anatoly (Natan) Sharansky, now deputy prime minister of Israel.

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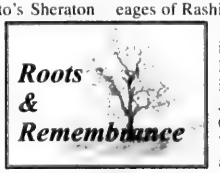
Director, Mediawatch International
recognized among the 50 most influential Jews in America
with
Cantor Moshe Ginz

Toronto hosting international genealogy conference

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

One month from now, Jewish genealogists from around the world will converge on Toronto's Sheraton Hotel for what promises to be one of the most exciting international conferences on Jewish genealogy since the annual event began in New York City more than 20 years ago.



The period from Sunday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 9, will see a whirlwind of activities. More than 150 talks and meetings have been scheduled, with at least five taking place at any given time. Distinguished participants from the United States will include genealogist Miriam Weiner, rabbinic genealogist Neil Rosenstein, and Antony Polansky, the Poland specialist from Brandeis. Also expected, to name only a few more, are specialist Alexander Beider from Paris; Yale Reisner of the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw; and Batya Unterschatz-Landsman, former director of the Israeli Search Bureau for Missing Persons, Jerusalem.

These and many others will make expert presentations on the major lands of the Diaspora and Israel – all the places "where once we walked." Minor threads in our rich historic tapestry will also be explored in talks on the Jews of Philadelphia, China, Muslim lands and other places. Other topics include the Khazars, the Oppenheimer banking family, JewishGen and the Internet, the Ellis Island database, genetics and DNA research, and the much-debated lineages of Rashi and King David.

For those interested in Canadian genealogy, Harold Troper is speaking on Toronto's Jewish community and Canadian Jews in World War II. There's also Ruth and Stanley Diamond on Jewish vital records in Quebec, Gladys Friedman Paulin on the Jewish farm colonies of Saskatchewan and Marie-Louise Perron on the National Archives of Canada and the Canadian Genealogy Centre. (For full details of all talks, visit the Web site at www.jgstoronto2002.ca.)

As at previous conferences, the proceedings will begin with a beginner's workshop and end with a closing kosher banquet. Birds of a Feather (groups that share common research interests) will flock together and special interest groups (SIGs) will congregate for diverse topical discussions. Family trees will be exhibited, computer genealogy programs will be displayed and vendor tables will be piled high with intriguing wares for sale.

A resource room will provide access to many essential resources such as the Drouin indexing project. Newly compiled from various sources by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, this index lists 75,000 Jewish vital and other records in Quebec between 1841 and 1942.

As if all this isn't enough, a mini-film festival of roots-related documentaries has been arranged for the hotel's two screening rooms. Tours of Jewish Toronto, the city and major research facilities like the Robarts Library and the Ontario Archives are also being offered.

While the conference syllabus will likely run to hundreds of pages, the number of attendees may actually exceed 1,000, the majority coming from the United States. Each will wear a conference badge listing surnames and ancestral towns they are researching. Predictably, there will be astonished encounters of newfound cousins in elevators, and a dense thicket of notes and announcements will sprout daily on the conference bulletin board.

Not surprisingly, word of this major conference has been buzzing around the genealogical community for months. Having attended about seven of the last 10 conferences, I still find it hard to describe the wondrous synergy that the event always generates.

Considering recent advances of the Internet and the growth of a critical mass of researchers worldwide, there's no better time than now to research your Jewish family tree – and no better opportunity for it than the upcoming conference. Register online at www.jgstoronto2002.ca or call 905-882-2259. I hope to see you there.

Jews, Gypsies and Jewpsies

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

I suppose that 3,000 years ago, in the land of Israel, there existed a true form of Jewish music. With a Temple service whose functions were accompanied by the instruments and vocals of the Levites – indeed, with a gifted young king who both played and composed – there must have been such a thing as indigenous Jewish music. No more.

Since those days, though we may consider some types of music to be Jewish, in reality, they are anything but, however we may insist that they are. In the same way I would argue that there is no such thing as Jewish food, I say there is no such thing as Jewish music. Both are cultural adaptations, souvenirs of our long travels of the past 2,000 years in the Diaspora.

Yes, we may lay claim to klezmer music as being something quintessentially Jewish. The fact remains, however, that klezmer is nothing more than an adaptation of Gypsy tunes. We may play klezmer at our weddings and bar mitzvahs and even give a Jewish name to this music (*kli zemer*), but its origin remains the same.

Music, of course, is paramount to the Sephardi experience, but here too it is not of Jewish origin.

The Pyrenees mountain range geographically divides Spain from France and the rest of Europe. The historical result of that separation has been the development of a completely different culture. The name of the region is called Andalusia, and hence the term Andalusian music.

The music of Andulus contains in it echoes of Hindu, Greek, Roman and Moorish tunes. As well, it is influenced by those wizards of music, the Gypsies. That part of Andalusian music is called flamenco. The origins of the word are as much a mystery as are the origins of those Gypsies who first sang it.

After the Expulsion, this unique and colourful style was carried mainly into North Africa. Culture is not static and it is always changing. The music of the North African or Maghrebi Jew is also very influenced by Arabic music and as of the last 200 years, Turkish tunes and a few French marches have been thrown in as well.

If klezmer music is boisterously loud and joyful, flamenco is soulful. It expresses an intensely deep sentimentality, even tragedy. A flamenco tune is typically long and drawn out. It is usually first preceded by a wholly different tune that serves as an introduction or inspiration to the actual song. It is sung solo with minor instrumental accompaniment and it invites a response from its listeners, but more than that, it demands their utmost attention.

Flamenco has been incorporated into the prayers and chants of Sephardi rituals. It is quite possible today to hear the most solemn of prayers in the flamenco style. From the tunes of the *Kedushah* on Shabbat morning to those of the *Havdalah* on Saturday night and those of Tisha b'Av, flamenco is an integral part of prayer.

Jewish Life

Did the Kushites save Judea?

***The Rescue of Jerusalem*, by Henry Aubin, Random House, 2002, $39.95**

Books
Bernard Baskin

In 701 BCE, King Sennacherib and his mighty Assyrian army laid siege to Jerusalem. All seemed lost. As the Assyrian battering rams shattered the walls that surrounded the city, and food became scarce, surrender seemed inevitable. King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah were almost bereft of hope.

Then, one of the enduring mysteries of history occurred. Abruptly, the invaders abandoned their siege and fled Judea. The one-sentence biblical account from Kings II is terse and cryptic. "That night an angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the Assyrian camp, and the following morning they were all dead corpses."

This inexplicable event preserved Judaism and made possible the eventual emergence of Christianity and Islam. What happened? The usual explanation is that plague, the dread scourge of antiquity, providentially struck the enemy camp with rapid and disastrous results.

Henry Aubin, a long-time journalist who is now an investigative reporter for the *The Gazette* in Montreal, confides that his adopted son is of African descent. In searching for suitable material for him about black heroes and positive events in African history, Aubin stumbled on information about the civilization of the Kushites. That serendipitous discovery led to years of research and to a different and original explanation of what happened that night in 701 BCE. Aubin's thesis is that the Judeans were saved by the army of the Kushite Pharaoh of Egypt, made up largely of black Africans from what is now Sudan.

Impressively, and with wide knowledge of Egyptian and Near-Eastern history and culture, the author postulates that the renowned General Taharqa overwhelmed the Assyrian forces. He argues that racism on the part of scholars has kept the true story from being taught. The influential scholar Archibald Henry Sayce (1845-1933), for instance, dismissed the possibility that a "negro dynasty" could have defeated the Assyrian army.

Aubin writes that "in the late 19th century when the Western imperialist adventure in Africa got under way, it relied heavily on the idea that if one's own civilization dominates other peoples, they must be inherently inferior. Their history, accordingly, must be worthless." Aubin believes that this disdainful outlook has stuck despite all evidence to the contrary. As a result, most leading biblical scholars and Egyptologists claim to this day that the Hebrew Bible is contemptuous of Kushites and that their foreign policy and military performance were pitiable.

Interestingly, the author indicates that important rabbinic commentators of past centuries credit Taharqa with a vital role in causing Sennacherib's departure. These include Radak (1160-1235), Malbim (1809-1879) and Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise (1819-1900).

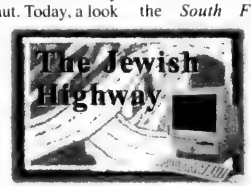
Although the author is concerned with complex matters of history, archeology, biblical interpretation, etc, he manages to write about them with a light hand. His literary skill is first rate and the evidence he presents is carefully marshalled and well argued.

Readers who are intrigued by one of the major unanswered biblical questions or are drawn to the many-sided world of the Near East 2,700 years ago will find this a fascinating work.

Jews in space – part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Later this month, Ilan Ramon is scheduled to liftoff as part of the crew of NASA's space shuttle Columbia. When he does, he will ride into history as Israel's first astronaut. Today, a look at the astronaut and his historic mission.



Ilan Ramon was born in Tel Aviv and raised in Ramat Gan and Be'er Sheva. He joined the Israeli Air Force in 1972 and has flown various jets including the F-16 Falcon. In a profile in *The CJN*, he wouldn't disclose what sort of missions he has flown but Ramon did command an F-16 squadron. **[http://www.cjnews.com/pastissues/99/june24-99/front5.htm]**.

While aboard the space shuttle, payload specialist Ramon will be responsible for investigating the role that desert dust could play in affecting global weather patterns. His project is being run jointly by NASA and the Israel Space Agency. You can read about the project, details about Columbia's mission and crew biographies at the official NASA Web site **[http://Spa... Research.nasa.gov/sts-107/]**.

Although Ramon will be out of Earth's atmosphere, he still won't be far from the planet's conflicts. Security for all NASA missions has been increased since Sept. 11. And although Ramon says he does not fear for his safety, Associated Press reports that NASA has been in contact with the U.S. State Department and that additional security is planned for Ramon's launch **[http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/israeli_astronaut_020517.html]**.

Once Ramon is safely in zero gravity, one of his first questions is bound to be, "What's to eat?" According to the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Ramon is the first Jewish astronaut to request kosher meals. Here is what will be waiting for him: Florentine lasagna, beef stew, chicken Mediterranean, My Kind of Chicken and Old World Stew (beef with brown rice, zucchini, pinto beans and flavours of the Middle East) **[http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/sfl-koshernasa.story]**.

If you are curious what kosher space food tastes like, you don't have to go through rigorous NASA training to find out. You can order the same "thermostabilized" kosher food that Ilan Ramon will be dining on from My Own Meals of Deerfield, Ill. **[http://www.myownmeals.com/]**.

Now that it is becoming more common for Jews to travel into space, the once theoretical and even humorous debates over halachah in space have now become much more practical. In a series titled Stars of David, Miryam Wahrman examines the implications of halachah observance in space. She quotes from Deuteronomy 12:1, which says that we must perform mitzvot "all the days which you are alive on the Earth." Some rabbis have said Jews are exempt from some mitzvot when they leave the Earth because those mitzvot are meant to be practised "on the earth." Others argue that the artificially created living conditions in a spacecraft are akin to bringing the earth with you – and the obligation to perform mitzvot.

There is also a discussion about the implications of observing Shabbat in space – when you experience sunrise and sunset every 90 minutes. Wahrman repeats the classic joke about the Jewish astronaut who returns to Earth and is asked about his experience in space: "Oy, am I tired! Shacharis, Mincha, Maariv, Shacharis, Mincha, Maariv..." **[http://www.jewish.com/news/columnists/miryam.html]**.

Astronauts often take a souvenir or other memento into space. Last time, I mentioned astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman, who took a Torah into orbit. Ramon, whose mother survived Auschwitz, contacted the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem and requested a Holocaust-related item to take into space. Yad Vashem chose the drawing *Moon Landscape*, which was created by Petr Ginz, a 14-year-old Jewish boy, during his incarceration in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Petr Ginz died in Auschwitz in 1944. You can see his artwork at the Yad Vashem Web site **[http://www.yadvashem.org.il/about_yad/press_room/temp_index_press_room_ramon.html]**.

Ramon explained the importance of taking Ginz' art into space. "I feel that my journey fulfills the dream of Petr Ginz 58 years on. A dream that is ultimate proof of the greatness of the soul of a boy imprisoned within the ghetto walls, the walls of which could not conquer his spirit. Ginz's drawings, stored at Yad Vashem, are a testimony to the triumph of the spirit."

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Toronto Jewish police officers get together

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It's safe to say that among the many honourable professions Jewish parents might wish their children to pursue, law enforcement would not be among the first choices.

That's something that has always struck Peel Regional Police officer Claude Gelbard as odd, considering that almost all Israeli police officers are Jews and in American cities like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, there are thousands of Jews serving on the thin blue line.

But in the Greater Toronto Area, there is only a handful of Jewish officers walking the beat, performing administrative duties and training new recruits.

Recently, about a dozen Jewish officers from four Toronto-area police forces gathered for an informal evening of shmoozing and noshing in the Lipa Green Building. Several others who had been invited but who were on duty could not attend.

OPP Staff Sgt. Alan Zunder had wondered for some time just how many Jewish cops were out there. He had talked about it with his boyhood friend, Bernie Farber, who serves as executive-director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Both knew of a handful of Jewish police officers, and over the course of time, they discussed the possibility of bringing them together.

Zunder and Farber made a few phone calls and through word of mouth, one contact led to the other. Eventually, a list was assembled of about 25 Jewish officers serving on the Toronto, Peel, York and Durham forces, as well as with the OPP. Most were quite receptive to the idea of an informal meeting and the inaugural dinner followed, hosted by Farber.

"It's not a big group, obviously," Zunder said. "We're a pretty small minority in policing. I thought it'd be good to hear their experiences in police work."

Canadian Jewish Congress official Bernie Farber (second row, far right) recently hosted an informal gathering of Jewish police officers at the Lipa Green Building. The officers, who serve in and around Toronto, are also scheduled to get together for a summertime barbecue.

Gelbard, who serves in the recruiting bureau with the Peel police, said the evening was an informal get-together – an opportunity to socialize rather than to create a permanent organization.

"It was more of an opportunity to say, hey, you're not alone. There are other Jewish cops out there."

Aaron Groskopf, a front line officer in Peel, was intrigued at the prospect of meeting other Jewish officers. Groskopf, who at 25 is one of the youngest in the group, said he was surprised there were as many Jewish cops as attended: "It's definitely more than I would've thought."

Gelbard, whose wife Sherry is an auxiliary officer (she volunteers at community events), always realized police work was not a typical job for young Jews. In fact, his own parents had wondered why he chose the profession.

He believes Jewish police officers should take the opportunity to get into the community and show there is nothing wrong with being a Jewish cop. It's an honourable profession."

Zunder has come up against some skeptics in his own life. "When I tell people that I'm a Jewish cop, people thought I was adopted or half Jewish," he said.

Even visitors to Toronto are sometimes surprised there are Jewish cops in the city. Zunder recounts one occasion early in his career when he stopped a car full of Israelis for a traffic violation. He overheard their comments, in Hebrew, about his work, and when they departed, he shocked them with a greeting in Hebrew.

Like Zunder, Groskopf attended Jewish day school as a youth – in Groskopf's case, Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto. Even then he wanted to be a police officer. His mother recently unearthed a family time capsule in which Groskopf expressed the wish, at age 10, to be a cop.

When Groskopf finally joined the Peel force, it didn't exactly shock his parents. They had already been treated to a surprise regarding their son's career choices a few years earlier when he had announced he was moving to Israel and would join the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

Groskopf served for just under two years in the IDF's Golani Brigade before returning to Toronto. He credits a strong desire to help others for his career decisions.

Zunder, who attended Hebrew day school in Ottawa, said his family "did not receive with favour" his decision to become a police officer. But "Jewish cops want, I think, a little more adventure, a little less nine to five.

"I wanted to see how things were and not just read about it in the newspaper… We see it as it is, not as it should be. There's a draw to it, a kind of a tonic.

"We're usually type A personalities. You hear about it, you want to do something about it."

Norm Gardner, chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, was unable to attend the dinner, but he supports the effort to bring together Jewish police officers. There are currently associations of Black and South Asian officers in Toronto, he noted.

Gardner, whose nephew is a police officer, believes Jews are under-represented in Toronto-area police forces, based on their percentage of the GTA's population. In recent years, he said, a few more Jewish recruits have joined the Toronto force and he knows of three Jewish women serving in GTA police units.

In New York, Gardner said, a Jewish police association called Shomrim boasts more than 3,000 members.

As for the local Jewish police group, he said "it's good to get to know each other and help each other in terms of their profession and to encourage young people to get into policing."

Farber, who is planning a follow-up barbecue, called the get-together a wonderful experience.

"We talked about the need to urge Jews to look at law enforcement as a career… to demystify law enforcement among Jews. A lot of people have misconceptions that it's not a job for a Jewish boy or girl."

The current crop of Jewish officers can serve as mentors to the up and coming recruits, he said.

Farber said the officers report that they have experienced almost no anti-Semitic incidents or prejudice while on duty, Farber said.

"I think that speaks well for the police force."

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Greater Toronto Area

Heschel students are seen in Halifax with the first Jewish lieutenant-governor in Canada, Myra Freeman.

Heschel students visit Halifax

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

A four-day trip to Halifax that brought together everything students have been studying was part of the excitement of graduating, said the principal of the Toronto Heschel school Gail Baker.

This trip made "a real experience of what students are studying, both generally and Judaically," said Baker. "It gave a reality and realism [that was] more than looking in a book."

The 11 Grade 8 students are the first class to graduate from Heschel, a Jewish day school that uses multi-sensory activities to present different approaches to learning in an arts-integrated environment.

Part of the Toronto Heschel School curriculum is a study of civilizations. For three years, among other topics, students study world civilizations, including the Judaic history of the period they are learning about. This year, their final year, they focused on Canadian history and had a unit on Jewish immigration to Canada.

Their four-day trip to Halifax, allowed them to see first hand what they had studied.

The focal point was a visit to Pier 21, the port where, between 1921 and 1971, one million immigrants first set foot in Canada.

"It was really interesting to see all the pictures and boats. [The immigrants] didn't know where they were going or what they were coming to," said Ayla Mandel, 13, whose bubbie came to Canada through Pier 21.

Mitchell Bank, 13, added that "it was [great] to learn about your family and where they came from and how they got to Toronto."

The students also met with the first Jewish lieutenant-governor in Canada, Myra Freeman.

"It was really cool, because she was Jewish. She told us all about her job," said Mitchell of the visit with Freeman, who is also the first female to serve as lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia.

Freeman's message was that students can do anything they want, and they shouldn't be afraid to have courage, said Judy Leitner, the students' teacher. The speech was "the best part of the trip," she added.

The students also had the opportunity to meet with people their own age, by speaking with members of the Zionist youth group, Young Judaea.

"I always wondered what it was like being Jewish in Halifax," Ayla said. "[I] learned how hard it was and how much they cared to be Jewish. [Also] about being Jewish and what it means."

Leitner stressed that the trip was important because it echoed the school's mandate.

"It really ties into our philosophy of how we teach and what we have been studying," she said. "[The trip] allows them to have history come alive, so it's not passive but active learning. We need to have more trips like this to have meaning and understanding."

The students also braved cold weather and rain to go whale watching and were surprised at the airport to see two stretch limousines waiting for them. Both experiences, Mandel said, were "really fun."

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Coast to Coast

Owen Sound Jews save their synagogue

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

OWEN SOUND, Ont. — In a tiny Jewish community tucked into an inlet off Georgian Bay, 13 Jewish families have saved their synagogue.

With the help of a local artist, they also decorated the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue with stained glass windows that tell the stories of some of the Jewish people in the town. All 15 windows were dedicated at a recent ceremony. Each was sponsored by a family and shows personal tales of life, love, courage, devotion and tradition through various symbols.

Last year, a large supporting beam collapsed inside the shul building. The repairs demanded a massive financial investment from the congregation, which for a small Jewish community was almost crippling.

L'Chaim (to life)

"We faced some pretty hard decisions as to what to do," said Jeff Elie, who moved to Owen Sound from Toronto in 1989. "Should we just leave it? Save it? Sell the land? These are questions we faced."

But the congregation managed to collect $35,000 from a variety of sources, including 19 years of bingo revenue.

"For a community that is so small, we can do so big. We are very proud," said Alisa Van Wyck, the Israeli born president of the shul. "[The windows] brighten up the synagogue and make people feel comfortable."

Elie said, "The windows played a part in [making us] work through the renovation project. [They] really pulled it together to save this synagogue."

He added that they gave people a reason to continue believing in the synagogue and its future.

One of those family histories is of the Levinsons. After surviving Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass) in Germany in November 1938, the Levinsons were given train tickets to England by an elderly couple who opted to sacrifice their own fate to help the young couple. They made their way to China, then travelled to Canada and eventually came to Owen Sound, where Manfred Levinson took the job of rabbi of the local shul. His daughter, Miriam, married the grandson of one of the shul's founding members, Isaac Ezekiel Cadesky. Their daughter, Goldie Ronald, and her family live in the town today.

The Journey

"By putting this window up, the story [of her family] is there forever. It's a way of documenting it," said Ronald, adding that the shul means everything to her and her family.

Her window, called *The Journey*, features a picture of a boat at the end of a train track. At the top, jagged shards of glass symbolize Kristallnacht; at the bottom, grapes represent the ripening of life in Owen Sound.

Elie's family, whose window is called *L'Chaim (To Life)*, was struck by tragedy just over a year ago with the loss of his 46-year-old brother Jack. The window contains three butterflies, two in the centre representing him and his sister Shelley, and one at the top, separated from the others, representing his brother. The loss has taught Elie the importance of family and life.

"Family is ultimately the most important thing in anyone's life," he said, adding that there wasn't a dry eye at the dedication ceremony as he recounted the story behind his window.

The event, according to Elie, was so joyous and emotional that the crowd of 100 people suddenly erupted into a horah through the synagogue.

"It was something," Elie said.

Leigh Greaves, the owner of Artemisia, the Owen Sound-based company that made each window, was also moved by the project.

"Every window is special," Greaves said. "[It's] very touching for me, to see people in our town, with such history and families. It really opened my eyes."

Greaves, a non-Jewish, 19-year Owen Sound resident, worked for over a year on the windows, learning about the town's Jewish roots.

"It has been very rewarding on many levels," she said. "I know so many of these people. I didn't know they were Jewish and now I understand where their drive for community evolves from."

The first synagogue in Owen Sound was established in 1904 in a small space above a store. After it had grown beyond that space, the congregation purchased a church and converted it into a synagogue in 1947, which was named in honour of Cadesky. Levinson, the full-time rabbi, lived with his family in the shul and held regular services. The synagogue's membership began to decline as the economy deteriorated in the '80s, but it persevered and in 1991, the building was designated a heritage site.

Today, the synagogue offers Hebrew education twice a month to six children and hosts services for their members. The community is small and close-knit.

"We're like a big family, helping each other," said Van Wyck. "We feel very comfortable, everyone knows everyone. It is a great feeling."

On Campus

McGill student spearheads international AIDS project

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

McGill University student Aaron Levenstadt will be one of the few presenters at this week's International AIDS Conference in Barcelona who doesn't have an MD or a PhD after his name.

In fact, the well-spoken 20-year-old biochemistry major has only just finished his first year of undergraduate studies. At McGill, Levenstadt devoted much of his time to establishing a campus AIDS coalition and organizing its main research project, to be conducted next month in Guyana, with a planned follow-up next year in Zimbabwe.

As a high school student at Thornlea Secondary School, where he graduated as valedictorian, Levenstadt volunteered in the lab of Toronto AIDS specialist Dr. Michael Silverman, developing a computerized tracking system for drugs that were being taken on missions to the developing world.

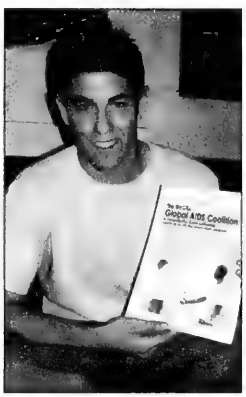
Last summer, Levenstadt studied at Harvard University where he became involved with the school's AIDS coalition, but it was his experience as a grandchild of Holocaust survivors that moved to take action against the disease.

The similarities between the AIDS crisis in Africa and the Holocaust are uncanny, Levenstadt said in an interview last week at his Thornhill home, recalling that he first heard the analogy at a conference at which Silverman spoke.

"Twenty million people have died. Another 20 to 25 million will die. We have the resources to help them, but they're not being mobilized."

When he entered McGill, Levenstadt discovered, to his dismay, that there was no AIDS coalition among the school's many clubs and activities. He decided to start one himself and thought he would be lucky to attract 20 people. Instead, 150 students showed up for a preliminary meeting. Seventy-one signed up.

When Levenstadt travels to Guyana next month as part of the McGill Global AIDS Coalition team, he and seven other students will study the effectiveness of AIDS education using different combinations of presenters, both North American and local. They will also take thousands of condoms to distribute.



Aaron Levenstadt

Silverman will accompany the group, and Ve'ahavta, the Toronto-based Jewish humanitarian organization, is also involved in the project.

The Guyana research, which Levenstadt will discuss in Barcelona, aims to find an educational method that is equally effective in different cultures. This would be more cost-effective than developing different approaches for different cultures, he explained. Students will also compare the effectiveness of less costly group presentations to one-on-one counselling.

The McGill coalition's activities over the year included AIDS education and events like bake sales and dances to fund its research project.

If every university in North America had an AIDS coalition with a similar link to a community in the developing world, Levenstadt said, each one could "knock a little piece off the iceberg [and] you could possibly start having some kind of melting effect."

Although his activities at McGill meant a lot of work and a lot of lost sleep – he was also president of McGill's Freshman Undergraduate Science Society (FUSS) and finished the year with a cumulative GPA of 3.94 – Levenstadt said he had a fun year.

Will he be one of the medical doctors at a future conference? Not if he follows through on his plan to study law. He hopes to become involved eventually with the ethical and law-making aspects of genetic research. Medicine, however, is "still a thought."

ש'שאר פ'נ'נ

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

לאיש אין פיתרון. לא ליפון ולא לשמאל, לא לדתיים ולא לחילונים, כשמאות אנשים מחכים לפקודה לחתפוצץ עם יהודים- שום מוח בעולם לא יכול לשנות זאת. אין ספק שרק משהו מאוד חזק, מאוד לא שיגרתי יוכל להביא לשינוי. פגיעה ישירה בבשפרוחיהם של המתפוצצים היא דוגמה אפשרית. מערכת חביטחון מחכה לתשובת בתי המשפט האם צעד כזה יעמוד במבחן בג"ץ. אני אישית איני תושב שהגליית המשפחות לעזה הוא צעד מספיק. שם הם יתפכו לגיבורים. צריך לפגוע בהם בצורה שתרתיע מתאבדים בפוטנציאל. זה נשמע אולי נוראי, זה נשמע מאוד לא דמוקרטי, אבל שום פיתרון דמוקרטי לא יביא לדיכוי המפלצות האלה.

האם הגדר תעזור? קשה לדעת, אבל חייבים לנסות. העובדה ששמונים אחוז ישראלים יהודים רוצים גדר אומרת שהרוב היחתרי בישראל רוצה הפרדה ואינו רואה את עצמו מתעסק, שותף, או שולט בפלשתינאים.

ביניהיים ניזוקה כלכלת ישראל נוק שיהיה קשה לתקן, אף שלא מדברים על זה, נראה שקבוצה די רצינית של ישראלים שורשיים מחפשת דרך לעזוב את חבית. בשבוע שבו עשרים ישראלים נהרגים בירושלים קשה אפילו לתאר את מה שעובר על משפחותיהן וחבריהן שם. הם צריכים אותנו יותר מתמיד. צריך לנסוע לשם, להוציא שם כספים, לתמוך במי שאפשר. אבל שישאר ביניהו.

חדשות טובות

איש נסע ברכבת התחתית וראה מישהו יושב וקורא עיתון ואני. מסתכל עליו היחודי בעיניים זועמות ופתאום חוא מגלח שחקורא חוא לא אחר מאשר חברו הטוב מבית חספר.

"משה, חשתגעת? -חוא לחש- אתה לא מפחד שיראו אותך?".

מחייך משה ואומר: "תראה, מי כמוך יודע שקראתי עיתון יחודי כל חשנים. ומה כתוב שסו איך שיחודים סובלים, מתפוצצים, בתי כנסת נחרסים, ישראל מתקפת. אֵ בְּרוּך. וחינה אני פותח את העיתון חזח וקורא שהיחודים שולטים בעולם, ובכל חבנקים ובעסקי חשעשועים....חחדשות כל כך יותר טובות- ממש תעוגי'...."

תגביה השולחני

לא, לא לדאוג, אני לא מתכוון לדבר ולהתווכח למי תגיע לזכות בגביע חרבה יותר עניינה אותי תופעת חלאומיות חשידים שחיא בגביע חרבה יותר עניינה אותי תופעת חלאומיות חשידים שחיא מוציאה מן חקופסה. ברוסיה חיו מחומות אחרי החפסד ליפן- אבל פי אלף יותר חמור- קבוצה של חילקנים חיכתה בתיירים יפנים חטרי ישע.

באיטליה פיטר מנחל קבוצת פרוניה את חשחקן חקוריאני שמשחק בקבוצתו; משום שחגיל חיה להבקיע את שער חניצחון נגד נבחרת איטליה. ובאומו חודש חחלאה חזה ש"חקוריאני משחק טוב רק נגד נבחרת איטליה- עובדה שבקבוצה שלי חוא יושב על חספסל כשחקן מילואים...."

אולי אם היו נותנים לו לשחק- היו גם רואים שחוא שחקן מחונן. חכדורגל חוא משחק מדליק למי שגדל עליו, חשום משחק אחר לא יקח את מקומו. אבל עם יד על חלב- חכדורגל מביא למגרש או לטלביזיה חרבה אספסוף- שמתנחג כראוי לאספסוף. וחבל. אבל שישאר ביניהו.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM:

Toronto teenagers (from left) Gila Grenman, Ahron Train, Eden Weil and Kyle Weltman were recently honoured by Laniado Hospital for donating their bar/bat mitzvah money to the hospital's newest project. The hospital has undertaken to build a new state-of-the-art children's hospital in Netanya. If you would like to participate in this bar/bat mitzvah program call the local office of Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital at 416-785-8946.

The OU/RCA Bein Hametzarim Program, 5762

Three weeks to show how much you feel.

Visit Israel Now!

Nothing you can do for Israel right now will mean more than traveling there and showing your sisters and brothers that you care.

Join the next OU/RCA week-long Solidarity Mission for shul groups and individuals leaving Sunday, July 21st. Full details are available at www.ou.org, or by calling Richard Starashevsky at the Orthodox Union Israel Missions Desk, 212.613.8171, e-mail: richard@ou.org.

Call the OU to coordinate customized trips for your community.

This year in Jerusalem.

not just a resolve, make it a reality!

One hour to show how much you care

With Israel on our minds and in our hearts, let's use the Three Weeks to redouble our efforts for her future. Let's come together in our shuls for a one hour program to hear a stirring message on video from Israel Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, *shlita*, with a call to action by leaders of the North American Jewish community. Come to say *Tehillim* and to learn what positive steps you can take to advocate for, support and visit Israel.

You have these Three Weeks to show how sad you feel about Israel's past and Israel's present. Take one hour to show how much you care for Israel's future.

The Three Weeks (*Bein Hametzarim*), between the fasts of the 17th of Tammuz (June 27) and the 9th of Av (July 18), is the saddest period in the Jewish year, when we mourn the destruction of the first and second sacred temples in Jerusalem, and our exile.

Join with the Orthodox Union at 9:30am (Eastern DST) on the morning of Tisha b'Av (July 18) in a live web broadcast of *Kinot*, with introductions and explanations by Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb. Visit www.ou.org for details.

Call your local Orthodox synagogue for the date and time of their program.

For more information, please call 212.613.8126 or visit www.ou.org.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Please note: As there will be no July 18 issue the July 11 issue will include items that would ordinarily appear in the July 18 column.

Monday, July 15 is deadline for July 25 issue and Monday, July 22 is deadline for Aug. 1. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Call 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, July 7

A HEALING SERVICE

Presented by Toronto Jewish Healing Project, led by **Rabbi Ronald Weiss** and music therapist **Mary Rykov**, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

INDOOR GARAGE SALE

Beth Sholom Sisterhood annual indoor garage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1445 Eglinton Ave. W. Antiques and collectibles, jewelry, household items, pictures, books, toys, gently used clothing.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Fat Woman by **Leon Rooke** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, at 1:45 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

Tuesday, July 9

TRAINING SESSION

The Canadian Cancer Society North York Unit training session, 2-4 p.m. for volunteers interested in making Lunch 'N Learn presentations. To register or for more information, call 416-638-0771. Registration deadline July 5.

Wednesday, July 10

FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Parenting and Communicating: How to have great communication with your kids without losing your hair or your mind! Award-winning speaker, author and educator **Michael Brandwein**, from Chicago, discusses strategies to help you talk and listen to your family with skill and confidence. 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-886-3810.

And What Else Is New

ISRAELI SONG

The Anne Strom Memorial Summer Concert-in-the-Round at Temple Sinai features A Century of Israeli Song, presented by **Cantor Tzvi Taub**, who was born and raised in Israel. The event, which will celebrate the extensive and popular songs of Israel, will include performances by soloists and instrumentalists. Audience participation encouraged. Friday, July 12. Service begins 8:15 p.m. with program following.

TEARS OF SORROW, JOY

The Jewish Russian Community Centre Institute of Torah Study presents Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy: The Keys to Transformation, a 2-part series exploring the Essence of Jewish Survival, Pain and Healing. Learn the relevance of the "three weeks" and Tisha b'Av. Sunday and Monday, July 14-15 from 8-10 p.m. at 18 Rockford Rd. Men and women welcome. Call **Chana Weisberg** to register. 416-222-7015, ext 30.

CASINO RAMA

Adath Shalom Sisterhood's fun-filled trip to Casino Rama Thursday, June 25. Luxury bus leaves Adath Shalom, 864 Sheppard Ave. W., at 9 a.m. sharp. Cost includes buffet lunch. Call 416-635-0131 to reserve and prepay.

PLACEMENT PROCESS

Cummer Lodge and the North York Community Care Access Centre present a community session on Placement Process and In-Home Services, Wednesday, July 31, 6 p.m., 205 Cummer Ave. 416-392-9500.

BAYSVILLE SYNAGOGUE

B'nai Isaac Synagogue in Baysville is now open for the summer. Saturday services are at 9:45 a.m. For

Continued on page 19

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Thursday, July 11th, 2002 at 7 p.m.
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For information or reservations call 416 631 9395

THE KABBALAH CENTRE
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What's New

Continued from page 18

other service times, call Baysville 705-767-3084 or 705-767-2442 or call Toronto 416-636-2223.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave. Registration is now open for fall courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Courses run Tuesday mornings, Sept. 10-Dec. 10; Wednesday mornings, Sept. 11-Dec. 11; Thursdays, Sept. 12-Dec. 12 mornings and evenings; and Fridays, Sept. 13-Dec. 13 mornings. Call **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Special note: A Valentine's party July 20. Regular programs: July 4, video Israeli movie; July 11, sing-along; July 18, bingo; July 20, Valentine's party; July 25, out for dinner. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Casino Rama, July 17, 31, Aug. 14, 2; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., July 6, 13, 20, 27; Sunday dance with live band, every Sunday, 7-10 p.m. during July and August. Ballroom dance lessons by **Irving Naftolin** Thursday, July 4, 10-11 a.m. Call 416-395-7991.

LZA Seniors cultural club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call the office at 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W, 416-225-2112.

Summer Learning Series for Seniors, Communication, with gerontologist **Rheta Rosen** continues Wednesday, July 10, topic: Dealing with Conflict, 10 a.m. to noon.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 110.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

New dance school opening! The Koffler Centre of the Arts announces the opening of the Academy of Ballet & Jazz at the Bathurst Community Centre. New artistic director, **Nadia Veselova-Tencer**, is a graduate of the Kirov Ballet and will bring with her a cadre of the top dance teachers in Toronto. Fall registration is now open. Registration office: Room 106. For information, call ext. 258.

Classes offered: Master ballet classes with Nadia, modern dance, hip hop, jazz, tap, pointe, classical ballet repertoire (ages 12 +), classical character dance, ballet floor stretch (for adults) and ballroom dancing.

Thursday, July 11: A new show at the Koffler Gallery! **W. Mark Sutherland's** Scratch, a solo show of his performance, sculptural works, sonic poems, book works, videos and audio visual installations. Artist talk July 11 at 6 p.m. Opening reception, July 11, 6-8 p.m. Show runs to Sept. 27. Call ext. 380 for information.

JVS conference a chance to 'share insights'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (AIJVS) held recently in Toronto was a forum to build on one another's successes, says the executive director of JVS of Greater Toronto.

"Each JVS started out as a group of volunteers that came together to respond to the needs of Jewish immigrants, and each has evolved into a significant organization. We find it helpful to share our insights," said Karen Goldenberg, who was awarded the Bernie Rosenthal Executive Director Award.

About 25 cities were represented at the conference, which was held in Canada for only the second time in 25 years.

Workshop topics dealing with the conference's theme of responding to a rapidly changing world included: Responding to Disaster: Lessons Learned from Sept. 11; Job Prospects Through 2003; Serving People with Special Needs in the Jewish Community; Refugee Settlement; and an in-depth look at the situation in Argentina.

Goldenberg said because Canada has a more liberal immigration policy than the United States, JVS and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) plan to collaborate with their American counterparts to ensure "a smooth [journey] for those Argentinian Jews who do not elect to go to Israel.

"The Americans will help us because they realize it is easier to come here. They have staff in Argentina who will encourage people to come to Canada," Goldenberg said.

In another workshop, James Frank, vice-president and chief economist of the Conference Board of Canada, painted a bright economic picture.

In Canada, he said, although labour costs are rising and recruiting is "tough", unemployment rates are very low and youth are well-educated and eager to work.

Consumer confidence is on the rise, Frank said, but it is volatile. "People can change their minds very fast. Fears for jobs, a jump in interest rates, a drop in stock markets, a rise in terrorism, even rising gas prices can affect consumers at all income levels.

"Confidence affects willingness to borrow and/or spend from current income."

The inflation risk this year is a key business issue for banks and credit grantors, and automobile sales and financing will be under strain this year and next, Frank said.

"Housing costs are increasing, and a rise in interest rates starts raising affordability questions for first-time buyers."

A major social policy issue, he said, is how much public money should be spent on health and education, "never mind social welfare, public housing, or public transit and other public intrastructure. Health is a key underpinning of quality of life. Education, in general, is the key underpinning of a high income society."

The bottom economic line, said Frank, is that moving through 2002 and into 2003, "people can plan on the mood improving slowly. Disposable income growth is still good; business investment is improving a bit overall... and employment conditions are vastly improved."

AUTHOR'S LECTURE: Holy Blossom Temple recently hosted Leon Weiseltier, literary editor of the *New Republic*, for the Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg Spring Author's Lecture. Weiseltier spoke about the need for Jewish literacy among all Jews regardless of affiliation or obervance. Standing, from left, are: Debra Hendler, Holy Blossom Temple Foundation's director of development; Wendy Eisen, president, Holy Blossom Temple Foundation; Rabbi John Moscowitz; and Holy Blossom Temple president Sheila Smolkin. Seated, from left, are: Frances Bloomberg, Weiseltier and Lawrence Bloomberg.

NA'AMAT HONOURS RONA MAYNARD: Na'amat Toronto honoured Rona Maynard, editor of *Chatelaine* magazine, at the annual Growing Up With Na'amat (GUWN) evening held recently at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Pictured, from left, are: Judy Ross, GUWN chair; Marilyn Myers, national president, Na'amat Canada; Maynard; and Vivian Silverberg, president, Na'amat Toronto. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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Our Mission is

"We were thrust into the reality of Jerusalem the first morning when we heard about the bus bombing. ... We could really understand what Israelis feel every day of their life."

— RONNIE APPLEBY, Chair of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003

"Israelis need us to come and visit. ... I'd go back in a minute."

— HOWARD SOKOLOWSKI, Chair of UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003

"This mission was about showing the people of Israel that they are not alone."

— STEPHEN GOLDHAR, Chair of UJA Federation Campaign 2003 Major Gifts Division

Material supplied by UJA Federation

Israel's stark reality experienced by Torontonians on UJA Federation Prime Minister's Mission

MEMBERS OF UJA FEDERATION'S week-long Prime Minister's Mission to Israel were recently dealt a harsh example of the reality faced by Israelis on an almost-daily basis.

Eighty members of the Toronto contingent were in their nearby Jerusalem hotel rooms when that day's vicious suicide bombing occurred early in the morning on a bus from Gilo. They were also in Israel when another suicide bomber struck at a bus stop in French Hill the next day and the following day when a Palestinian murdered members of a family in Itamar.

Understandably, mission participants were stunned, while at the same time, impressed with how the people of Israel handled the situation.

Carole Sterling, Vice Chair with **Harvey Naglie** of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, and a participant on the mission, said, "It puts it all into perspective. Israelis do not want to be victimized and simply wish to be comfortable in the State of Israel. People here are making great sacrifices and we need to continue to show our support."

Sterling added that Israelis feel the need to continue living their lives as best they can. "They live in the moment despite the sadness surrounding events such as these. You go home at the end of the day and realize how important support for Israel is, both financially and otherwise."

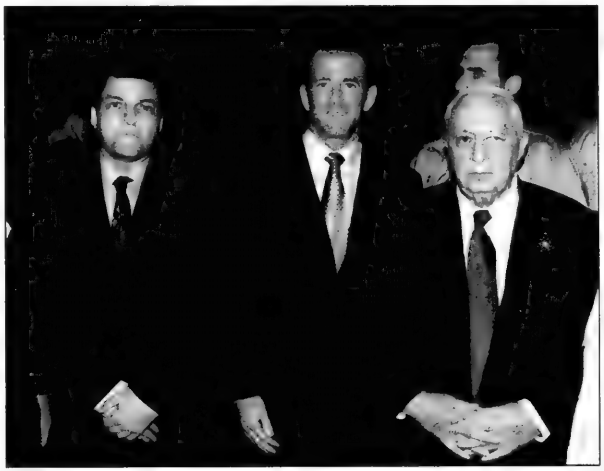
Also on the mission were UJA Federation Campaign 2002 Chairs, **Michael Bregman** and **David Koschitzky,** who received this year's Keren Hayesod Yakir Award, presented to Jewish leaders for their outstanding contributions to Israel.

Keren Hayesod is the fundraising arm of the Jewish Agency, UJA Federation's overseas partner.

"The violence that occurred during our mission really brought home the reality of Israel's situation – the stress and anguish that Israelis live under each and every day. That's why these missions are so critical – to show our support," said Koschitzky.

Koschitzky's spirits were somewhat buoyed by the reception given to **Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.**

"I was definitely touched by the warmth and respect everybody there directed toward



PHOTOS BY BEVERLEY ABRAMSON PHOTOGRAPHY

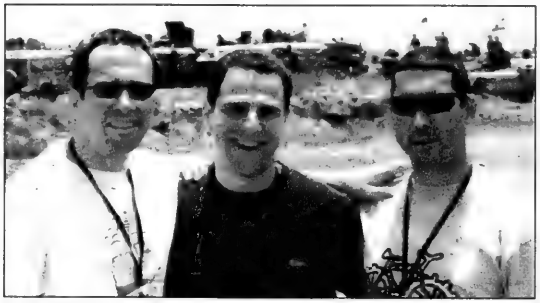
David Koschitzky (l) and Michael Bregman, meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as they receive their Yakir Awards at a ceremony on an IDF anti-terrorism base.

IDF soldiers take a moment out of their rigorous schedules for a photo-op.

Miri Eisen, a spokesperson for IDF intelligence, addresses mission participants.

ISRAEL!

Ronnie Appleby and Howard Sokolowski meet with Shimon Ohana, an IDF soldier once pronounced dead, but revived at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital Trauma Centre.



UJA Federation's Israel Emissary, Yossi Tanuri (centre), is flanked by Campaign 2003 Major Gifts Chairs, Michael Buckstein (l) and Stephen Goldhar.

"Going to Israel is not really a choice — it's more of an obligation!"

— KAREN BASIAN, Mission participant

UJA FEDERATION

No one gift changes more lives.

Sarah and Morris Perlis

"One of our tour guides told me that the Israelis get their strength from visits like ours, from the Diaspora. He said that we give Israelis the strength they need to go on. They feel so completely isolated otherwise."

— SARAH PERLIS, Mission participant

Sharon. It was truly wonderful to see this man being held in such high regard by everybody present," Koschitzky said.

Bregman spent much time speaking with Israelis on the street, and those conversations left their mark.

"I was struck by the enormous impact of terrorism on ordinary Israeli citizens," said Bregman. "Speaking with shopkeepers and taxi drivers usually left me with a lump in my throat, hearing of the daily life they were enduring. I can imagine nothing worse than having the lives of innocent loved ones, especially children, stolen by crazed suicide murderers. At the same time, there is an enormous sense of unity and commitment to survive."

The Prime Minister's Mission – chaired by **Ronnie Appleby, Michael Buckstein, Stephen Goldhar** and **Howard Sokolowski** — was one of UJA Federation's monthly solidarity trips to Israel.

Activities for this year's participants included a meeting with **David Horovitz,** editor of the *Jerusalem Report,* a visit to the Hadassah Hospital Trauma Centre just hours after the Gilo bus bombing, as well as breakfast with **Rabbi Michael Melchior,** Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister.

Participants also joined a strategic tour with senior military officials and visited an anti-terror IDF base where they met with Prime Minister Sharon during the Yakir Award ceremonies.

Eli and Renee Rubinstein (l) join Hinda and Alan Silber as they find their way in Israel.

Upcoming UJA Federation Israel Solidarity Missions

- **JULY 21-25, 2002 — UJA Federation Solidarity Mission**
- **OCTOBER 13-20, 2002 — Medical-Dental Mission**
- **OCTOBER 20-24, 2002 — Solidarity Mission**
- **NOVEMBER 19-26, 2002 — UJA Federation / Mizrachi Mission**
- **DECEMBER, 2002 — Family Mission, dates to be announced**

For information regarding UJA Federation Missions to Israel, please contact Elana Barrett at (416) 635-2883 Ext. 177.

Everyone wishing to pray for physical, emotional or spiritual healing is invited to join in

A JEWISH SERVICE FOR HEALING

This service will provide sustenance and healing in a safe and respectful community.It will include prayer, music, chanting, silent reflection and meditation.

Sunday, July 7th, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street, 4th floor

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Rabbi Ronald Weiss Chaplancy Service, JF&CS
and **Mary Rykov,** music therapist MTA

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Coast to Coast

Where's the coverage of Syria?

According to Reports

By **PAUL MICHAELS**

With so much attention understandably focused on Israeli-Palestinian affairs, there has been a dearth of coverage of a potentially more explosive and destabilizing source of tension in the Mideast: Syria's increasingly provocative behaviour on Israel's northern border with Lebanon.

Syria, which controls Lebanon as a vassal state, has been aiding and abetting Hezbollah's escalating artillery attacks over the UN-certified border with Israel. And it does so in flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for all states to recognize Lebanon's territorial integrity and independence, and for the Lebanese government to exercise its sovereign control of its southern region.

Here Hezbollah operates with impunity. Armed with approximately 800,000 rockets supplied by Iran, it poses a direct threat to Israel's major urban centres, occasionally fires upon Israel's northern communities, and frequently attacks Israeli aircraft flying within Israel's own airspace.

Syria's violation of Resolution 425 is even more blatant for one additionally compelling reason: Syria sits on the UN Security Council for a two-year term as a non-permanent member. In June, it even held the office of Security Council president.

Irony is too weak a word to describe this farcical situation. Syria remains on the U.S. State Department list as one of seven state sponsors of terrorism. The Syrian government harbours more than 10 terrorist organizations, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and backs their bombing attacks in Israel and in the territories.

In the meantime, Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass has authored a grossly anti-Semitic book *Matzah of Zion*, which claims that Jews used the blood of gentiles in preparing matzah. An Egyptian producer is currently planning to turn this blood libel into a movie. Syrian foreign minister Farouk Sharaa applauds Hezbollah for its "high sense of responsibility." And Syria's president Bashar Assad, who reportedly spends much of his day playing computer games, remains apparently oblivious to the dangers his country faces as he allows Hezbollah to act as it pleases.

Why hasn't there been more media coverage about Syria, Hezbollah and the dangers on the Lebanese-Israeli border? As the famous 18th-century philosopher Bishop Berkeley remarked, "To be is to be perceived." In modern media lingo, we might translate this as "Out of sight, out of mind." In short, if TV cameras aren't there to capture the story, for all intents and purposes, it just isn't happening. Contrast this lack of coverage with the incessant flood of images from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nothing prevents journalists from travelling to northern Israel to report on what is happening at the border. Similarly, nothing prevents editorial writers and columnists from paying attention to this region as it sits on the brink of conflict. Such conflict will only be averted if Syria (and Iran) change course and rein in Hezbollah, which they do not seem inclined to do.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

TOP HONOURS: Harvey M. Haber (left) recently received the Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Upper Canada. The award, the society's top honour, was presented to eight lawyers for their outstanding contributions to the legal community and to the people of Ontario. As part of the ceremony, the law society also made the first ever presentation of its Lincoln Alexander Award to Metis lawyer, Jean Teillet, of Toronto, who is the great grandniece of Louis Riel, for her work as a mentor and teacher, and for her commitment to advancing aboriginal issues. Seen (on right is former Ontario lieutenant governor Lincoln M. Alexander.

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AJC pulls out of Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Concern for the security of its staff and volunteers led the Atlantic Jewish Council to pull out of this year's Nova Scotia Multicultural Festival after festival officials denied council's request for dedicated security at the AJC booth.

AJC executive director Jon Goldberg said world events and recent anti-Semitic acts in Canada and elsewhere made him fear for the safety of people who would have staffed the booth at the 18-year-old, three-day fête, held in Halifax June 21 to 23.

He also told the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* that material displayed last year by the Palestine Social Association (PSA) was unsuitable for the event's easygoing, harmonious theme, which celebrates ethnic diversity and promotes cultural awareness.

An AJC report produced after last year's festival said much of the information at the PSA table was "anti-Israel propaganda and some was even anti-Jewish, bordering on anti-Semitic," and said some Palestinian Canadians harassed a council representative.

"In good conscience, I couldn't put my staff and volunteers in the booth where I couldn't offer them security," Goldberg said.

Barbara Campbell, executive director of the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia, said security was increased throughout the festival area, but posting a separate guard at, or behind, the CJC booth was not desirable. "That would give the wrong impression to everyone. This is our 18th year and we've never had so much as a fight."

Goldberg said he wasn't asking for an armed guard, a police officer or even a security guard. "There's a zillion volunteers around here who could have been enlisted."

He said "the AJC still supports the festival, but I'm saddened arrangements couldn't have been made to accommodate Jewish concerns.

"I'm quite upset we [weren't] there. We should be there."

Jawad Al-Nabulsi, an Acadia University student who worked at the PSA booth this year and last, told the *Chronicle-Herald* recently that last year someone affiliated with the Jewish pavilion raised the spectre of suicide bombings in the Middle East while Palestinian Canadians were answering visitors' questions about history and politics.

He said it's unfortunate the AJC decided to stay away this year and that if the Jewish community returns next year, perhaps the two groups' booths should be side by side.

"We're in Canada. We shouldn't be having these issues here," he said.

Goldberg said the AJC paid the festival's $150 entry fee for 2002 but pulled out after consulting with Canadian Jewish Congress in Ottawa. He said he received a refund and short letter of regret.

"I was having second thoughts. You know, you get a little nervous [about recent anti-Semitic episodes in Canada, plus world events]. I didn't want to put people [at the festival] in harm's way."

Goldberg said he checked out the PSA display on the festival's opening day. "I wasn't totally satisfied with their current display, with political buttons selling for $2 to promote the Palestinian cause."

The organizers issued an addendum to the festival's rules last May that warns exhibitors against "any derogatory activity. All cultural materials must be approved by festival staff prior to setup."

It said the festival reserves the right to remove offensive materials that run contrary to the spirit of its multicultural objectives.

Festival chair Mukhtyar Tomar said the addendum wasn't connected to last year's festival or relations between the AJC and the PSA. "It's just improvements."

Goldberg said the AJC isn't yet sure what it will do about next year's festival.

Jewish leaders back U.S. president's proposals

Continued from page 1

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi called on Arafat to resign as Palestinian leader.

"Many people are convinced that Arafat...should make a generous gesture and move aside. If I were President Arafat, I would make a grand gesture that would enable him to go down forever in history as the man who gave everything for the freedom of his country."

Berlusconi said that with a change in regime, "a huge line up of world forces [is] ready to help concretely and in a massive fashion."

On the domestic front, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, lined up squarely behind Bush's plan. He said a regime change was necessary to provide Israel with a trustworthy party with whom to negotiate.

Under Arafat, Palestinian children are indoctrinated from a young age to hate and kill Israelis, he said.

He pointed to a Hamas Web site (www.jislamia.org/news/new04.htm) that recently celebrated kindergarten graduation by parading five-year-olds in military fatigues carrying plastic guns. One photo showed a youngster re-enacting the Ramallah lynching in which a mob tore apart Israeli reservists and proudly displayed the blood of their victims.

"This is the face of the future of the Palestinian people, unless they have enough guts to say, enough of the madness," Rabbi Cooper said.

Rabbi Cooper said the Bush plan was directed as much at G8 leaders and at the wider Arab world as it was at the Palestinians. It asks the Europeans to re-think their strategic views of the conflict. "Right now the Europeans are providing a blank cheque [to the Palestinian Authority], never mind political and moral cover," he said.

Rabbi Cooper said Canada could play a role in bridging the gap between the U.S. and European views and help bring the EU on board the American plan.

Wilder suggested Bush's plan would not have any impact on Arafat unless a united front lines up behind it.

"If Canada wants to be onside the United States and Israel,which I hope they will be, it's up to Canada to try to convince its Western European allies of the efficacy of this plan."

"The EU has been calling on America to do more, exercise its influence. Well this is it," Landy said. "Now they have to buy into it."

"Now that the road map has been set out, Canada has a role in building the consensus that is needed among the European and Arab nations," he added.

In the United States, meanwhile, the Conservative and Reform movements applauded the president's speech while other Jewish organizations also backed his peace plan.

"None of the Jewish community's anxieties [that Bush would unconditionally recommend formation of a Palestinian state] were realized," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, described Bush's call to oust Arafat as "historic."

"For the leader of the world's leading superpower to explicitly call for the Palestinian people to change their leadership is almost unprecedented," Harris said.

"He has essentially created a post-Oslo framework," said David Makovsky, senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "He is making it clear that Palestinian aspirations for statehood are intertwined with reform and security."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and others could no longer accuse the United States of not playing a leadership role, and blame Israel for the plight of Palestinians.

"It's not a reward for terrorism but a reward for the end of terrorism," Hoenlein said. "It's holding out hopes for a provisional arrangement and the ultimate possibility of a state, but conditioned on performance and meeting requirements."

Stephen Cohen, a national scholar for the Israel Policy Forum, said the three-year time frame that Bush envisioned to reach a Palestinian state is a "good goal line."

"We need far more direct American engagement in order to meet that goal," said Cohen, who joined Arab American leaders in calling for a more active U.S. role in resolving the conflict.

Despite the widespread support for the speech, some Jewish officials and analysts were concerned.

Bush's speech was "foolish" and "dead on arrival," Middle East analyst Daniel Pipes said.

Pipes said he did not believe the notion that Arafat is the cause of all of the Palestinians' problems and that reforming the Palestinian Authority would lead to peace.

He also called backing for a Palestinian state a "reward for terrorism."

David Zwiebel, the executive vice-president for government and public affairs for Agudath Israel of America, welcomed Bush's speech, but noted it did not address the "culture of hatred" that the Palestinian Authority has cultivated in Palestinian society.

Letty Cottin Pogrebin, author and past chair of Americans for Peace Now, said she believed the speech did not place enough pressure on Israel to relieve the hardships of the Palestinian people.

"I don't see where, if you were a Palestinian living with the barrel of an Israeli gun in front of you and tanks all around you, that you would see the light at the end of the tunnel here," she said.

With files from JTA

Strike prompts kids' program

As a result of the CUPE 416 strike, the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre will provide a half-day afternoon recreational program for children ages 5 to 10.

Children will have the opportunity to swim every day and participate in organized gym activities. The professional staff will supervise children involved in these activities at all times.

The program is 12:30 to 4:30 daily.

Registration is for at least one week (five days) at a time, at $60 per week.

Parents are asked to register at the front desk of the Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. (Bloor and Spadina), or by calling 416-924-6211.

For more information, contact Roona Maloney-Lee or Gillian Levene, early childhood program manager, Miles Nadal JCC, at the above number.

SPORTING FUN: Students in junior and senior kindergarden recently participated in a "structure building" activity, led by Grade 7 volunteers, as part of Bialik Hebrew Day School's annual Yom Sport for students in junior kindergaten to Grade 8.

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Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

LOTTERY OF LIFE

Moshe ben Maimon, known in more recent times as the Rambam or Maimonides, was a rabbi, physician and philosopher who lived from 1135 to 1204. He served as the court doctor to the sultan of Egypt. The Rambam was both brilliant and successful. Sadly, sometimes when someone is successful, others become jealous. The grand vizier of Egypt poisoned the mind of the sultan with hatred for Jews, and the Rambam's life was in danger…

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon stood in front of the Egyptian sultan, flanked by royal guards. The grand vizier, seated at the ruler's side, arose and slowly walked toward the Rambam. In his hand was a small, ornate box containing two folded slips of paper. "One of these papers says 'LIFE' on it, and the other says 'DEATH,'" declared the sultan. "Choose one, and let your God decide your fate."

The Rambam looked at the grand vizier, who leered evilly at him, and realized what the Vizier's evil plan must be. He had written "DEATH" on both pieces of paper! What could he do? He thought for a moment, and an idea struck him.

As the courtiers silently watched, he picked one of the folded papers out of the box. Suddenly he announced, "I'm famished!"

He popped the paper into his mouth, chewed it up, and swallowed it.

Pandemonium broke loose. Everybody in the room began shouting in confusion. The Sultan looked utterly shocked. The vizier hissed, "What in the world do you think you're doing?"

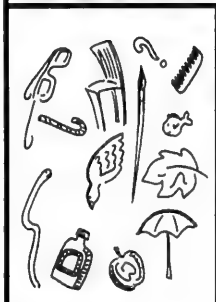
"I'm sorry, I forgot to eat breakfast this morning. But if you want to know which slip I chose, just look at the other one!"

He reached into the box, and unfolded the remaining piece of paper. In its centre lay the word "DEATH." He held it up for everyone to see. "This one says 'DEATH.' The one I picked must have said 'LIFE!'"

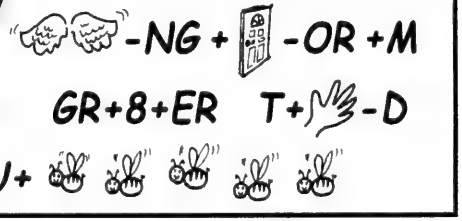
And so the Rambam was saved… for now.

HIDDEN PICTURES

How many of these hidden objects can you find?



REBUS



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Palestinian schoolbooks 'fanning the flames of hatred'

Analysis

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

In the first years after the Oslo accords, discussions about Palestinian incitement against Israel were considered as borderline annoying, and the press did not take much interest in the subject. Bearing in mind Shimon Peres' prophecy of "a new Middle East," picking through Palestinian schoolbooks and listening to declarations made by senior Palestinian officials seemed an exhausting, if not completely irrelevant act.

However, the wave of violence seen in the last two years apparently proves otherwise. The suicide bomber does not reach Netanya and Hadera just because of the occupation and the people's desperation. Social ambience, some of it directed by the Palestinian Authority (PA) itself, some of it by Islamic organizations, also dictates his actions.

With this in mind, it might be worthwhile to examine the contents of Palestinian schoolbooks. According to an investigative report conducted recently by the IDF's West Bank and Gaza Strip liaison office, it appears that the main theme in the books is militant and nationalistic, far from recognizing the State of Israel as the partner for a "peace of the brave," as it was called by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat during the Oslo process.

The PA curriculum in the West Bank is based on Jordanian schoolbooks, while in the Gaza Strip, schoolbooks from Egypt are used. The Jordanian ones, which include many anti-Semitic and inciting expressions, were actually written by Palestinians solely for use in the West Bank education system. Since the start of the 2000 school year, the Palestinian education ministry has handed out its own books for the first and second grades, as well as for the fifth and sixth grades.

The investigation, led by Noah Meridor from the liaison office, examined 23 such books. It revealed "systematic education to delegitimize the existence of the State of Israel, fanning the flames of hatred and violent revenge to destroy the country."

The books express a lack of recognition of Israel, not even according to the 1967 borders, alongside adamant claims to Palestinian rule of all the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Palestinians, the books claim, have first rights to the country. The "Arab Canaanites" were here before the Jews; therefore, the Zionist claims of rights to the land by virtue of their forefathers are a lie. Zionism is described as a movement in which the seizing of land is foremost among its tenets. The act of populating Israel, including inside the Green Line, is considered "settlement."

The adoption of the term "settlement" in this context, the liaison investigators state, means a total de-legitimization of Jewish cities in Israel, and as a result, Palestinian public opinion enthusiastically supports harming all settlers.

Israel is described as an evil country that exploits and degrades, where soldiers shoot merciful nurses, and Jews build scaffoldings. The exploitation and degradation are also accomplished by changing the names of Arab villages and cities, and by defacing and stealing Arab manuscripts.

The name Israel is missing from many maps of the region, which is termed entirely "Palestine" by the books. Cities such as Haifa, Afula and Jaffa are described as belonging to Palestine, while statistics regarding the size of Palestine use those relevant to Israel.

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Israel must foil regional nuclear arms plans, Mossad chief says

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel cannot spare any effort to foil, prevent or delay the attainment of weapons of mass destruction by countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria and Lybia, the head of Israel's Mossad said last week.

Speaking to a meeting of NATO's North Atlantic Council in Brussels, Mossad director, Ephraim Halevy, warned that radical Islamic terrorism as a whole, and suicide attacks in particular, pose a "formidable threat" to NATO member states whose "Muslim communities are rapidly developing and increasing in numbers and influence."

Halevy took the opportunity to harshly criticize Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who he says signs "an agreement with a view to violating it the moment circumstances would permit." The Palestinian leader is also maintaining his "traditional link" with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, said Halevy.

The head of Israel's secret intelligence agency urges "appropriate behaviour" be a condition for any entity aspiring to nationhood and sovereignty.

The meeting took place behind closed doors and lasted for some three hours, beyond its allocated time. U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Nicholas Burns, quoted from U.S. President George W. Bush's speech last week, reiterating American support for Israel's right to defend itself, and speaking of the U.S. administration's duty to its ally.

The European ambassadors also spoke with sympathy for the Israeli victims of terror and demonstrated understanding for Israel's operation against terrorism, though they also spoke of the need for a political solution.

Participants at the meeting said it was an important opportunity for Israel to present its position, to convince foreign governments of the pressing need for global co-operation in the fight against terror, as well as understanding European opinions.

The most senior participant at the meeting was NATO's secretary-general, Lord George Robertson, with the chairman of the military committee, Italian Admiral Guido Venturoni, also in attendance. Israel's contingent was headed by its envoy to NATO and the European Union, Harry Kney-Tal. After Halevy's presentation, Brig.-Gen. Eival Gilady of the General Staff's planning branch presented the military aspects to battling terrorism.

Last week's meeting was part of NATO's annual round of political consultations with seven Mediterranean and North African countries, with this year's talks focusing on terrorism.

Halevy told the council the Mossad believes that Iran, despite denials by its defence minister, is investing heavily in developing long-range missiles with a range even beyond that of its Shihab-3, which is believed to have a range of 3,000 kilometres. He said Iran is researching and developing "missiles with longer ranges, which could reach Europe and in the future, even North America." He said he had "no reason to offer for this entry into such long-range development," nor did he know who and what the potential targets would be.

In addition, said Halevy, Iran is developing "weapon-grade nuclear capabilities" and pointed out that this activity, coupled with Iran's investment in delivery systems, "should be a subject of constant attention of everyone of us in this hall."

Ephraim Halevy

Iran's adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Halevy believes, is nothing more than "a cover for the construction of a dual purpose civilian infrastructure which could be converted very speedily into production capabilities of large quantities of VX [gas]." In addition, Tehran is also carrying out research and development on biological warfare, according to the Mossad chief.

As to the dangers posed by Saddam Hussein, Halevy said one must assume Iraq had been trying to acquire nuclear capabilities ever since the United Nations' monitoring team was expelled in 1998.

"As you know, on the eve of the Gulf War, Iraq was on the verge of obtaining nuclear capability. They were months away from producing fissile material," he told the officials.

"We have clear indications that this has been and is their unswerving desire... We have partial evidence that they have renewed their production of VX and possibly anthrax. As to delivery systems, we have sufficient evidence to affirm that they are sparing no effort to preserve their residuary capabilities and to augment them with new ones."

Turning to Syria, Halevy said Israel had been "following [Syria's] acquisition and subsequent production of North Korean type Scud B, C and D missiles." He added most of the warheads are conventional, but "the Syrians also have B and C capabilities with relevance to surface-to-surface missiles." In addition, the Syrians have also produced Sarin (GB) nerve agents and are studying manufacturing VX nerve agents.

Halevy urged those present to keep a close eye on Libya, "which is developing long-range missiles with North Korean support," reminding them also that "Libya has often been mentioned as a country striving to achieve nuclear capability."

A significant part of Halevy's lecture was devoted to terrorism.

Suicide attacks, once "a marginal phenomenon characterizing the approach of a small extreme segment of society," are, he said, "rapidly evolving into a quasi-legitimate form of combat, encouraged and abetted at the leadership level in the Palestinian camp." The attacks on New York, Washington and Jerusalem are all "the fulfillment of a modus operandi motivated not only by its professional utility, but no less by its ideological and religious probity.

"The more these acts become prevalent," he warned, "the more the chance this will become a potent and prioritized weapon in future confrontations."

Halevy then called for "terrorism as a whole and suicide bombings in particular" to be recognized as a "form of war" which must be prohibited by international law. All those involved in such activities, or those who condone them, "must be placed outside the pale of justice." Halevy said he hoped "the days of rogue states and authorities acting as masters, not only of their own destiny, but also of yours and ours, must be numbered."

The PA was place alongside Syria, Iran and Iraq on his list of "host countries" that facilitate terrorist and suicide bombings. Halevy told the council how "Arafat has placed the theme of the suicide bomber – the martyr, the shaheed – at the top of his priorities."

He also warned of Iran's increasing support for terrorism, and its growing influence over the PA, with the Karine A arms ship affair serving as a prominent example.

In closing, Halevy said terrorism and suicide bombings can only be practised if "there is a safe haven for training, planning and the procurement of weaponry." He said states and individual leaders are responsible for what goes on in areas under their control.

"Ultimately, the international community will have no option but to force them to be accountable. Otherwise, the whole international system of nation-states exercising their sovereignty over land and people will be in jeopardy."

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Israel's evidence convinces Bush

Continued from page 1

Washington is planning to dispatch Undersecretary of State for Near East Affairs William Burns to the region to sound out Middle East leaders on their reactions to the speech and how to move forward. A trip by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell may follow the Burns trip, while other reports suggest Powell may convene a mini-summit of regional foreign ministers and a Palestinian Authority representative in New York in September during the annual UN General Assembly meeting.

A senior government source in Jerusalem said last week that the Americans face two problems in organizing a summit: what to do about Syria and Lebanon, and competition between Egypt and Saudi Arabia over the leading Arab role.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, meanwhile, has resumed contacts with top PA officials through his aides. In a meeting with EU ambassadors last week, Peres said the Bush speech "presented Labor's strategy with Likud tactics." He did not say whether he believes Arafat will be the sole candidate, or will be re-elected, in the Palestinian elections, which the PA announced last week will take place in January.

The PA said as it unveiled its own reform plans last week that the changes were prepared irrespective of Bush's speech. At a press conference in Jericho, Minister of Local Authorities Sa'eb Erekat announced the recently shuffled PA cabinet's "100-day plan." He said the reforms began on June 12 and were formally approved by Arafat on June 22, two days before the speech.

According to the plan, the Palestinian cabinet is committed to "immediately begin" steps to implement the principle of separation of powers, though the plan does not detail which steps will be taken. It says that within seven days, an order will be given to attach the preventive security forces, the Palestinian police and the civil defence forces to the PA's Interior Ministry. By September, new, "appropriate" judges must be appointed to strengthen the judiciary, and all the official information agencies, as well as the Information and Cultural Ministry, will be unified into one body. By Nov. 1, the Palestinian Legislative Council must receive the PA's 2003 budget.

The prologue to the reform package emphasizes its political goals, such as "strengthening the steadfastness of the people against the Israeli occupation," and says the new cabinet condemns "any sort of violence and threats to the lives of innocent Palestinian and Israeli civilians... creates an atmosphere of hostility, hatred and despair in Israeli society."

Erekat said last week it was too early to say if Arafat would run for re-election, but Nabil Sha'ath said in Cairo that Arafat would run, warning that open democratic elections could yield a Hamas majority in the Palestinian Legislative Council. Sha'ath's comments angered Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabo, who told TV interviewers that Sha'ath should stick to speaking about ending the occupation.

Oslo's dead – now what?

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Yitzhak Rabin, under whose premiership the 1993 Oslo accords were signed, must be rolling in his grave. Last week, as the Israeli army reoccupied all but one major town in the West Bank after another sickening spate of Palestinian suicide bombings, Rabin's daughter, Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff, the deputy defence minister in Ariel Sharon's cabinet, made it official. Oslo, she declared without mincing words,"no longer exists."

Mideast Analysis

Oslo, the agreement that held out the hope of a historic rapprochement between Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, died a death of a thousand blows – hammered by Palestinian terrorism and incitement and pummelled by Israeli settlement expansion and failure to honour withdrawal schedules.

The net result is that Israel and the Palestinians have lost all trust in each other, setting back the clock to the pre-Oslo era, when even the idea of peace was a remote possibility.

Oslo was buffeted by the collapse of the Camp David summit and the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising, which has turned into an undeclared war and shattered Israel's bilateral ties with the Palestinian Authority (PA). But ultimately, Oslo was destroyed by the suicide bombings – which have killed 64 Israelis since June 5, the 35th anniversary of the Six Day War – and by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's unwillingness or inability to stop them.

Shocked by these indiscriminate assaults, which have battered its economy and darkened its national mood, Israel has taken several significant steps to seal itself off from the plague of Arab bombers.

In what is being dubbed Operation Determined Path, Israel has stormed back into the West Bank for what will probably be a prolonged stay, and it has threatened to recapture the Gaza Strip.

Israel resorted to this radical measure when it became clear that Operation Defensive Shield, launched on March 29 after the Passover massacre in Netanya that killed 29 Israelis, had not had the desired effect of thwarting terrorism or crippling the organizations, from Hamas to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, behind it.

In a seminal policy speech last week, U.S. President George W. Bush, who had previously criticized Israel's incursions into Palestinian autonomous areas, defended what he described as Israel's "right of self-defence."

Buoyed by Washington's empathy, and Bush's demand for a new, reformed Palestinian leadership untainted by terrorism and corruption, Israel intensified its sweep into the West Bank, promising a "decisive and crushing" response to Palestinian bombings.

It remains to be seen whether a reoccupation of the West Bank, which postpones a resolution of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians and stymies momentum toward the establishment of a Palestinian state, can eradicate terrorism. It may inflame Palestinian grievances and thus be counter-productive. Nevertheless, Israel cannot sit back and do nothing in the face of murderous attacks on its citizens.

After much debate, Israel has begun building a fortified fence roughly along the old Green Line (as well as around Jerusalem). The path of the fence, bolstered by ditches, sensors and patrol roads, often veers eastward into the West Bank to protect settlements, as well as to avoid disadvantageous topography and make way for Sharon's previously announced buffer zones.

Opposed by Jewish settlers in the West Bank who fear it will demarcate Israel's future border and by Palestinians who object to any unilateral actions, the fence lays bare at least two political realities. It is a tacit admission that settlements beyond the Green Line do not, in fact, add to Israel's security, and it implies that Israel, having broken off talks with the Palestinians, is heading toward unilateral separation from them.

Israel has also started to clamp down on Palestinians who sneak into the country from the West Bank and has made it illegal for Palestinian workers to be employed by West Bank settlements. These measures may be helpful in the short run, but they are no substitute for a credible political process that addresses core Arab-Israeli issues.

The Week in Israel

June 24

• As part of a broader sweep back into areas in the West Bank, the IDF surrounded Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah.

June 25

• Attorney-General Elyahkim Rubinstein ruled that the public call by the Moledet party for a voluntary transfer of Arabs from Israel to neighbouring states was not illegal although definitely immoral.

• Israel's new Arabic-English international satellite TV network premiered, featuring a half-hour English news program and eight hours of daily Arabic broadcasts.

June 26

• About 150 Palestinian gunmen surrendered to IDF troops who had surrounded Palestinian Authority headquarters in Hebron. Among the 150 were 20 Palestinians wanted by Israel for suspected terror acts against Israelis.

June 27

• Israel cannot exile Palestinian suicide bombers' families to other countries, Rubinstein said. But he did not rule out the possibility of moving the families from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip, as proposed at a recent cabinet meeting.

June 28

• Some 15 per cent of the water pumped from the coastal aquifer, Israel's second most important reservoir, is unfit for drinking, according to a new report released by the Hydrology Service. Almost 60 per cent of the water, though potable, does not meet the service's standards for "high quality," the report adds. The report strengthens fears that the coastal aquifer is steadily deteriorating.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Notice from the Dutch Foundation for Individual Bank Account Claims Shoah ('Stichting Individuele Bankaanspraken Sjoa')

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In mid-1999 the Central Jewish Council (CJO) and the Israel Platform (SPI) agreed with the Dutch banks (NVB) to investigate the nature and amount of any outstanding credit balances of Jewish persecution victims at Dutch banks. This investigation, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, yielded a list of over 3000 account holders of whom credit balances had been identified at Dutch banks. The list appears on the Foundation's website. This list does not concern the credit balance transferred at the time to the looting bank Lippmann, Rosenthal & Co, Sarphatistraat ("LiRo Bank")

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For additional information, please contact the Foundation. Or see the internet sites of the Foundation (www.sib-sjoa.nl), the NVB (www.nvb.nl) and the CJO (www.cjo.nl)

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Stichting Individuele Bankaanspraken Sjoa

Film spurs debate about homosexuality, proud director says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Trembling Before G-D has been setting box office records in the United States and Sandi Simcha DuBowski, its youthful director, could not be more pleased.

The path-breaking film, which took six years and $900,000 (US) to make, has grossed $700,000 (US) and is expected to generate at least $1 million in revenues, a staggering sum for a documentary.

Financial considerations aside, what gratifies the 31-year-old DuBowski most is that the film, the first to explore the relationship between Jewish homosexuals and lesbians and the chassidic and Orthodox communities, has played a major role in fostering a debate about the topic.

"It's put the issue squarely on the table," he said in an interview on a cool and rainy day in early May. "It can't be swept under the rug anymore."

Trembling Before G-D, which has garnered positive reviews and which opens in Toronto on July 19 at the Carlton and Canada Square theatres, has been the object of much criticism in the Orthodox community, given the community's traditional opposition to homosexuality and lesbianism.

For example: In Baltimore, Orthodox Jews, joined by evangelical Christians, staged protests. And in Mexico City, pressure was brought to bear on the Jewish community centre not to show it.

But *Trembling Before G-D* has not been universally condemned by Orthodox Jews, claimed DuBowski, a white kippah resting on his head of hair.

Fourteen Orthodox synagogues in the United States, Canada and Britain have either screened it or plan to in the near future. And a Jewish day school in Philadelphia – Akiva Hebrew Academy – recently showed it to its 11th and 12th graders.

More significantly, the Rabbinical Council of America has invited DuBowski to screen it at its annual convention. "This," he declared, "is a milestone."

Not surprisingly, *Trembling Before G-D* has encouraged gay Orthodox Jews to come out of the closet. "Waves of people are coming out. I got a phone call this morning from a guy who told me he's come out."

The ripple effects have also led to belated family reunifications, he believes.

In Orthodox circles, gays, if not ridiculed, shunned or disowned by family and friends, are usually forced to submit to psychological treatment or arranged marriages.

The results, judging by some of the painful interviews in the movie, can be disastrous.

DuBowski, who came out when he was 18, said Orthodox gays who confess to their "sin" can do one of two things.

They can leave the community and embrace non-Orthodox forms of Judaism, which are generally more open to homosexuality and lesbianism. "I know hundreds and hundreds of people who've done that," he said.

Or they can get married and adopt the trappings of a "normal" life. He explained: "In the chassidic and haredi worlds, most gays exercise that option. It's very hard to live as a single person in these communities. There is unbelievable pressure to marry."

Sandi Simcha DuBowski

In making this film, DuBowski, above all else, sought to put a human face on what is otherwise an abstract issue in the Orthodox community. Judging by the poignant stories he tells, he has succeeded.

Naively, perhaps, he is hopeful that the Orthodox community is capable of altering its generally monolithic view of homosexuality and lesbianism.

"If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't have made the movie. I don't believe the Orthodox community can't respond to the suffering of a Jewish heart and can't meet such a level of pain."

Realistically, he realizes that *Trembling Before G-D* will not resolve any halachic issues. Nevertheless, he takes solace from his meetings with compassionate Orthodox rabbis, some of whom told him there are no explicit prohibitions against homosexuality and lesbianism in the Torah.

DuBowski was raised in a Conservative household in Brooklyn, N.Y., the only child of Elliot and Rima DuBowski.

Continued on page 30

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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Ravel's Dance Like a Butterfly *highlight of Fringe Festival*

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

This year's annual Toronto Fringe Festival runs July 3-14. Here are highlights of some of the plays involved:

The hardships of an 85-year-old Jewish woman as she tries to retain her independence are told in *Dance Like a Butterfly* by renowned Montreal playwright Aviva Ravel at Tarragon Extra Space theatre.

The compassionate and touching tale is performed by Lisa Hurd, of St. John's, Nfld., who was born in Vienna. She has already performed *Dance Like a Butterfly* over 50 times, in Saint John, Halifax, Toronto and Peterborough, and plans to present it in the fall in Newfoundland and on Vancouver Island.

•An unusual, but sympathetic account of a dentist's life, is the raison d'etre of a play by Gideon Forman at the Tarragon Extra Space theatre. *Death of My Dentist*, explores the inner life of a dentist, who comes back from the grave, to sum up his life and laments the isolation of his later years when he no longer practices.

The Jewish playwright has had other unusual themes in plays at the Alumnae Theatre and Summerworks Festival.

"I may tell my own dentist that I've written this play. He is very much alive and I don't mind him. But the play is really about the difficulties men of my father's generation have in making friends in their old age." Forman said.

•In *Criminal Hearts*, at the Poor Alex, actor Chloe Ariane Whitehor, breaks into an apartment, but finds that the stuff she intended to steal, has already been taken away by the tenant's divorced husband. So she becomes friendly with Ata, the tenant, and the two decide to carry on with a life of crime.

"There is some coarse language and this is definitely not for children," Whitehor said..

The Fishbowl Theatre, of which she is founder and artistic director, is making its first appearance at The Fringe.

•One of the Fringe efforts is a satire on the reality survivor shows which have had great success on TV lately. In this case, it takes place in *Radcliffe*, a fictional prison, with 10 people in a game show, who are free to come and go, while mixing with the other inmates. The reward is $1 million to the last person, who survives the atmosphere, and leaves the prison.

Then the same actors who appeared in *Radcliffe* come back on stage for *Minotauk Falls*, a parody on a TV sitcom, celebrating its 100th episode.

The two plays, which run about 35 minutes each, are written, produced and directed by two brothers, Steven and Daniel Shihori, and staged in the Renaissance Room behind the Clinton Tavern.

Continued on page 29

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CASTING DIRECTOR SEEKS LOCAL FACES FOR MOVIE ABOUT CROWN HEIGHTS RIOT

Casting director **Stephanie Gorin** seeks "members of the local chassidic community" to take small roles in a cable movie, *Crown Heights*, to be filmed in Toronto. The movie highlights inter-communal peace efforts by Crown Heights religious leaders after the infamous riot in the Brooklyn neighbourhood in 1991.

"It is our understanding that the project has the support of the New York chassidic community," says Gorin, who has 15 years of experience in the Canadian artistic community, and has worked for Columbia, Tristar, Fox, Disney and Mirvish Productions.

Contact her at 416-778-6916, fax 416-778-7717 or sgorin@canadafilm.com.

* * *

CD Fund-raiser for Katz & van de Ven: Clarinetist **Martin van de Ven** and guitarist-pianist **Brian Katz** are preparing to launch their first CD as a duo. *Collected Stories* features fresh, jazz-inspired renditions of klezmer classics and Armenian, Israeli, Bulgarian and original compositions with an eastern flare.

While the Canada Council has funded the initial stage of this project, the duo needs further support to finish it. They perform selections and host a reception at a CD fund-raiser.

Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. (one block east of Bathurst, south of King). $20. Sunday, July 21, 8 p.m. Reservations, 416-653-5368. Tickets, while they last, are also available at the door from 7 p.m.

* * *

Reading at Israel's: Nina Barragan is the author of *Losers and Keepers in Argentina*, a "fascinating, beautifully written work of fiction" that accurately depicts life in Moises Ville, an Argentinian agricultural colony founded by Russian Jewish refugees in the late 19th century.

Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments; no admission charge. Thursday, July 11, 7:30 p.m. 416-256-1010.

* * *

Ashkenaz Update: Ashkenaz, Toronto's exuberant festival of new Yiddish culture, returns to Harbourfront this Labour Day weekend for three days of music, dance, theatre, film, visual art, literature, lectures and story-telling. Many of the performances are free of charge.

The musical talent includes the Hungarian band **Di Naye Kapelye** making its Canadian debut; **Lerner y Moguilevsky**, **Klezmer en Buenos Aires**, a duo that creates klezmer music with a Latin beat using only clarinet and accordion; and the Toronto-based **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** under the direction of **David Buchbinder**, artistic director emeritus of Ashkenaz.

The festival also presents *Letter to My Father*, a play by Dora Award-nominee **Alon Nashman** that explores the psychological and emotional depths of writer **Franz Kafka**; a series of dance pieces from award-winning choreographer **Allen Kaeja**; **Zalmen Mlotek** from New York City; the premiere of one of **Milton Barnes's** last compositions; and much else. 416-703-6892 or www.ashkenazfestival.com

* * *

Names In the News: The Canadian Opera Company has announced that Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts has donated $20 million towards its new opera house, to be known as the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Groundbreaking begins next spring on the facility, which has been designed as a traditional four-tiered European-style horseshoe-shaped auditorium. Its location is the Queen Street-University Avenue intersection of downtown Toronto.

The hotel chain's founder and CEO, **Isadore Sharp** of Toronto, said he welcomed the opportunity "to open a new window on the world of the arts" and "to name a prominent world-class building in perpetuity."

* * *

Playwrighting Competition: The Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival's 24-Hour Playwrighting Contest begins Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. at Starbucks, 765 Yonge St. Contestants must incorporate four items, ideas, situations or locations into their scripts; the winner receives $500 donated by Bluma Appel and a staged reading of the script, directed by **Sue Miner**.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Shadrach, Meshach and Aved-Nego were the three men whom King Nebuchadnezzar's courtiers bound and threw into the fiery furnace along with Daniel (3:24-25). Shadrach, Meshach and Aved-Nego is also the title of an art exhibit by **Ben Kantor**, **Randall Lee** and **David Swartz**. Opens July 6, 8 p.m. Musical accompaniment by **Ronnie Wiseman** and **Julia King**. Free Times Cafe, 320 College St. 416-967-1078.

• *Scratch*, an exhibit of language-based works by artist-poet-musician **W. Mark Sutherland**, opens this week at the Koffler Gallery. The exhibit "comprises 300 signed and numbered vinyl records arranged on the gallery floor." The artist gives a talk at a reception, Thursday, July 11, 6 to 8 p.m. Free admission. 4588 Bathurst St. Until Sept. 27. www.bjcc.ca.

Fringe Festival Highlights

Continued from page 28

"We thought we would take the TV reality show to its extreme and set it up in a prison. It was such a hit with the public that the greedy producers decided to do another show in the same prison," Steven said.

•Writer and director Eric Lunsky's *Max Fishbaum's Theories of Love* is about a scientist who has boring relationships until he meets Zoe, the girl he's been hypothesizing. It also runs at the Tarragon Extra Space.

•A New Yorker, David Ackerman wrote *Inside Albert's Head*, a comedy which runs at the Factory Theatre mainspace. A local boy scout troop honors their crime buster of the year, Albert Herz. He regales the boys with his strangely demented tales.

•Noah Lepawsky and Becky Johnson, present *Theatre in a Box* at the Tarragon Mainspace. It is an improv show without format and was based on the notion of constant surprise. The improvisers had as their object keeping the audience in the dark until the lights came up.

•Daniel Karasik, Tamara Mida-Broder, George Patrick, Ashleigh Rains and Eric Sadvari wonder why life isn't as simple as finely sliced Gouda on a cracker in *Sorry, Did You Say Something*. This play, directed by Sandy Yabko, analyses the timeless struggle that is understanding dinner table etiquette. At the Robert Gill Theatre.

•*In The Churkendoose*, directed by Angela Besharah, poor Lizzie Bizziegirl dreams of becoming Lizzie: World Famous Tap-Dancing Gypsy Queen. This one's for all ages, at the Palmerston Library Theatre.

•*Dandelion Clockwork* is the tale of a young girl abandoned in a madhouse. It is chock-full of mystery, mayhem, blood and gore. At the Victory Café.

•Stand-up comic Marnie Levine is about to learn some shocking news about her new roommate... but should it still be 1945 in 2002? Tina Silver wrote *Anger Begets*, at the Helen gardiner Phelan Playhouse.

For dates, venues and other information call 416-966-1062 or visit www.fringetoronto.com

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A pulsating blend of Manhattan and Chinatown

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

HONG KONG — My first impression of Hong Kong, from the picture window of the fabled Peninsula Hotel, was of its gleaming skyline under a pale sun.

Although I was still jet-lagged, having just arrived from Toronto after a long flight on Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's flagship airline, I was struck by the sheer magnificence of the ultra-modern cityscape in my line of vision.

The skyscrapers, rising like monoliths along scenic Victoria Harbour, whetted my appetite for more. This was a city whose attractions I wanted to experience, my fatigue notwithstanding.

In the next few days, I explored Hong Kong, unpeeling its multifaceted layers and discovering an appealing, pulsating blend of Manhattan and Chinatown.

Once a somnolent fishing village defined in part by its salt flats and incense trees, Hong Kong was a British colony from 1842 to 1997 and is now a semi-autonomous special administrative region of the People's Republic of China.

Under colonial rule, it matured into a centre of international finance and commerce and a gateway to the untapped riches of China. Five years after its handover to mainland China, Hong Kong is what it was during British times – an affluent and industrious city state.

To appreciate and fully understand its place in China and the world, a visit to the impressive Hong Kong Museum of History, which opened last year, is necessary.

Accompanied by my guide, Nevin Lim, I traced Hong Kong's social, economic and political development from Neolithic times to the present day.

I saw ancient pottery and arrowheads and 19th century wedding gowns and lacquered boxes, learned about the Opium Wars that ushered in the British era, examined models of a traditional Chinese pharmacy, looked at exhibits relating to the short-lived Japanese occupation and the postwar period and finished the tour by studying mementos from the 1997 handover.

Hong Kong consists of four distinct parts: Hong Kong Island, where the central business district and many of its finest hotels and shopping malls are located; Kowloon, a major tourist mecca on the northern side of the harbour; the fan-shaped New Territories, its rural hinterland; and the islands and islets in the South China Sea, many of them uninhabited.

Hong Kong Island and Victoria Harbour from the Kowloon peninsula
[Photo courtesy of Hong Kong Tourism Board]

The vast majority of visitors concentrate on Hong Island Island and Kowloon, a peninsula connected to the Chinese mainland. Both are impossibly crowded and visually stimulating, particularly at night, when large and small garish neon signs, in Chinese characters, light up the streets in a brilliant display of colour.

Although Hong Kong is synonymous with sleek modernity, you can still find nooks and crannies from its storied past.

In Aberdeen's Shum Wan harbour, the remnants of a fishing fleet, once so vital to the local economy, lie placidly at anchor, an impenetrable wall of high-rise condominiums on either side of the channel. Close by is the Jumbo, which bills itself as the world's largest floating restaurant.

Hong Kong Park, a serene redoubt squeezed between immense commercial buildings soaring luminously into the sky, is the site of the white-columned Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware. Formerly the residence of the commander of the British forces, Flagstaff House is an exemplar of Greek Revival architecture and is Hong Kong's oldest surviving colonial structure.

Murray House, a restored colonial building, is on the periphery of Stanley, a maze of shops and stalls where bargaining is king.

Graham Street, an open-air fruit and vegetable market in the shadow of mighty skyscrapers, is a throwback to the 19th century.

The Star Ferry, which links Kowloon to Hong Kong Island, has lost some of its utility since the advent of the subway system. But the seven-minute ride across the choppy waters of Victoria Harbour, dotted with bobbing tugboats, barges and the rare sampan, is an exercise in nostalgia.

Luk Yuu, one of only two traditional Chinese tea houses still left in Hong Kong, is certainly worth a visit, as is the Repulse Bay Hotel, known for its sedate afternoon tea.

No sojourn in Hong Kong would be complete without sampling the shopping, which is fabulous. The sales, now in full swing, will last until Aug. 31.

Discerning buyers can head to luxurious air-conditioned malls and elegant department stores in Causeway Bay.

Alternatively, they can cruise the glittering shops on Nathan Road, named after an early 20th century Jewish governor-general. On Nathan Road, I returned repeatedly to Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium, whose food and tea section in the basement is amazing.

While we're on the subject of tea, I suggest a stopover at Ming Heung Tea Import & Export on Hau Wong Road. On the shelves in silver bins are a medley of fine teas, from green and white to yellow and black, the most expensive of which is $32,000 (Hong Kong) for a package of 600 grams.

On Hollywood Road, I ambled in and out of intriguing antique and curio shops. At one store, Dragon Culture, I picked up a copy of *Collecting Chinese Antiquities*, written by Victor Choi, the erudite proprietor.

Walking along Queen's Road West, I popped into aromatic herbal tea, ginseng and bird's nest shops.

The Temple Street Night Market and Mong Kok bulge with reasonably priced garments, accessories, watches and souvenirs. The Jade Market, jammed with 450 stalls, specializes in jade of all types, from genuine to faux.

Having done my shopping, I stopped at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, which faces Hong Kong's bristling skyline.

Its eclectic collection of Chinese watercolours, spare calligraphy and stylized ceramics is superb and mesmerizing. There are reproductions in the gift shop.

An ideal way of ending a day in Hong Kong is with an ascent to Victoria Peak, preferably by cable car. At 396 metres, it's the city's highest point, and offers a wonderful view of Hong Kong, which, by any measure, is the jewel of the Orient.

***

The Peninsula and The Great Eagle, in Kowloon, are five-star hotels close to everything.

Cathay Pacific flies to Hong Kong from Toronto via Anchorage, Alaska.

Lonely Planet guidebooks, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, publishes excellent guides on Hong Kong and China.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board has an office in Toronto at 9 Temperance St., third floor. Its Web site address is www.discoverhongkong.com. Its phone number is 416-366-2389.

Film spurs lively debate

Continued from page 28

When he was 11 or 12, he began having crushes on boys, a sure sign of his sexual orientation. At 18, he told his mother he was gay.

It was, as he recalls, an extremely emotional encounter.

"She cried and hugged me. She couldn't eat or sleep for several days after that. She told my father, who was not too happy either. But they've come a long way since then."

His parents, he added, are proud of *Trembling Before G-D*. "It has helped them. They're shepping naches. They see it doing good, doing tikkun olam."

DuBowski, who considers himself an Orthodox Jew, said that *Trembling Before G-D*, which set him on the path of greater religious observance, is his first full-length feature. Eight years ago, he made a short video, *Tomboychik*, about his grandmother.

He was drawn to making *Trembling Before G-D* for a number of reasons, his own personal inclinations being one of them.

"It was clear that it could be a vehicle not just of personal exploration, but a powerful catalyst for the birth of a community that would gain a mass public voice for the first time."

He approached about 100 foundations for funds, but received a positive response from only 25.

The hardest part was finding interviewees. "Of 50 rebbitzens, female mental health professionals and teachers, only one agreed to talk," he disclosed.

David, a modern Orthodox Jew, pulled out several times, fearful of embarrassing his family. But in the end, he agreed to co-operate, and became one of the central and most empathetic figures in the film.

DuBowski, who has been travelling the world publicizing his film, said that town-hall discussion forums and a Shabbaton will accompany the opening of *Trembling Before G-D* in Toronto.

His Internet address is www. trembling beforeg-d. com.

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Business Profile

Business problems require common sense, author says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Common sense, Barry Siskind will tell you, is a quality all entrepreneurs need.

As he warms to the topic, he mentions bumblebees.

Yes, bumblebees.

Let him tell the story.

About 100 years ago, scientists concluded that bumblebees are aerodynamically incapable of flight, given the ratio of their body weight to their wing span.

Yet, as we all know, bumblebees can and do fly, flighty scientific theories to the contrary.

"When bumblebees ignore science and take off in flight, they're using common sense," he writes in *Bumblebees Can't Fly* (Stoddart), a Canadian bestseller published recently in the United States and due to be published in Spain, Portugal, India, South Korea and Romania.

"We, too, have been blessed with common sense," he adds. "We use it when the solution to a problem seems so obvious and right that no other course of actions seems possible. More often than not, however, we don't use this valuable commodity in our lives."

Common sense, Siskind's mantra, is the topic of the book, which took seven years to research, write and market, and is a quintessential primer based on his experiences and those of others.

"I'm not sure anyone can write a book of strategies like *Bumblebees* in the vacuum of your own head without the input of hundreds of people," explained Siskind, the president of International Training and Management, one of North America's largest trade and consumer show companies. "I listened, talked and took notes."

In *Bumblebees*, Siskind shows how to deploy your common sense – how to recognize it, harness it and put it to good use.

As he defines it, common sense is the ability to find the right solution to the right problem at the right time.

"The right solution is the one that works best, the one that is the most straightforward or the easiest to implement," said Siskind, who works out of Terra Cotta, Ont. "It sounds simple, right? So why is it often so difficult to come up the proper solution?"

Siskind, who was born and raised in London, Ont., wrote *Bumblebees* because he is fascinated by the process of decision-making.

"I've watched people make decisions and often wondered how really smart people do really dumb things," observed Siskind, who is also a professional speaker and business writer. "They find themselves on the wrong track and don't know how to reverse the downward spiral."

Having realized that what is appropriate for one person or business may not necessarily be right for another, he came to the conclusion that the missing ingredient was, wonder of wonders, good old-fashioned common sense.

"I thought that if I could find a way to help people incorporate more common sense into their everyday decision-making, it could be of tremendous value to my clients."

No problem, he maintains, defies common sense.

As he put it, "There are good solutions out there for everything, even though we don't initially know it."

Siskind has devised seven common-sense strategies:

Doubt the obvious.

This strategy helps you broaden your horizons and teaches you to see new possibilities.

"Often we take what we hear for granted and assume these messages are true: There will never be peace in the Middle East. The sun revolves around the earth. When we take statements like these at face value, there is no point going any further."

Let your reach exceed your grasp.

"There are answers out there for everything, and even though you may not see them now, they are there nevertheless.

"For example: Scientists have been searching for a cure to cancer for decades, but you don't see them throwing up their hands and saying, 'What's the use, there isn't an answer.' On the contrary, they know any answer lies out there, they just don't know what it is and when they will stumble over it."

Know yourself.

Every action is governed by four life forces – values, intellect, emotion and experience.

Barry Siskind, author of *Bumblebees Can't Fly*

"The trick is to honour all four forces and move as close to the centre as possible. This is also a terrific strategy for helping groups reach consensus."

Transform information into knowledge.

"We're inundated with information. The trick is to transform it into workable knowledge at a gut level. This implies that we can instinctively incorporate common sense into everyday decision-making. Intuition can be honed using three guiding principles: sense of purpose, commitment and inner strength."

Embrace the unexpected.

"This strategy allows us to find new, workable solutions in the most unlikely of places."

Stay the course.

This strategy advises when to backtrack and when to move forward. "It teaches you how to retrace your steps and find where you went off course."

Don't be afraid to change horses in midstream.

"Sometimes, we make bad decisions, but that doesn't mean we are stuck. There are always ways of correcting what is bad. This strategy takes the discussion on intuition one step further by identifying the three voices of intuition: the thinker, the doer and the critic."

If followed in sequence, these strategies are foolproof, Siskind claimed.

And they lend themselves perfectly to business.

"Successful businesses are run by managers and employees who possess a healthy dose of common sense," he noted.

Siskind, whose grandfather was a founder of one of London's synagogues, has travelled the world for the past two decades helping firms mount trade and consumer shows.

He has also written more than 500 magazine and newspaper stories about such shows.

As a speaker, Siskind usually delivers talks on exhibiting excellence. "In addition, I assist people put the buzz back into their organizations with the principles learned in *Bumblebees*."

Now 55, he is the son of the late Jack Siskind and his wife, Esther, a real estate agent.

"In London, I was part of a large family that played a major role in the Jewish community," he said. "Strong Jewish feelings have never really left me and, now, as a grandfather, I feel a strong pull back into the Jewish community."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP

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Mental health art contest draws over 6,500 kids

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

More than 6,500 children from kindergarten to Grade 8 took part in the first Drawing for Our Dream Art Competition, sponsored by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Children participating in this year's contest drew pictures responding to: "What makes you feel good about yourself?" or "Draw Happy!"

Students from the Toronto Heschel School and Bialik, United Synagogue, Associated Hebrew and Leo Baeck day schools were among the 180 winners. They received prizes that included passes to local attractions, a tour of the Cadbury Trebor Allan factory, art sets, Ganz antique teddy bears, gift certificates, videos and toys.

Each child who entered received a set of Sandylion stickers and a letter of acknowledgement.

Jean Simpson, chief operating officer of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (formerly the Clarke Institute), said people at the centre saw a need to create awareness of mental health issues, particularly among children.

The hope is, she told *The CJN*, that this greater awareness will "lessen the stigma of mental illness and addictions."

Contest organizers approached Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic School Board, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and Mentor College for their co-operation, which, Simpson said, was freely given. Through media advertising, the general public was also approached.

Simpson and the other organizers were "astounded" by the response, she said. In less than a month, hundreds of entries were received, as well as donations by private and corporate sponsors.

Some schools combined taking part in the contest with teaching units on mental illness, while others displayed the entries around the school to stimulate interest.

There were 16 judges, including sponsor representatives, artists, education specialists, two general volunteers, and a child psychologist.

Simpson explained that the centre has a number of programs specifically for children, including an arson prevention program, an adolescent/young offender program, a gender identity service and programs for such behavioural problems as aggression, substance abuse and anxiety.

This is in addition to the better-known programs dealing with psychiatric conditions, such as obsessive compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and psychoses. Some of the services are offered jointly with the Hospital for Sick Children, with joint faculty appointments.

A chilling note Simpson added is that "more children die of suicide than from cancer and heart disease combined." Even more chilling is the statistic that 20 per cent of youngsters need the kinds of help the centre provides, yet of those, 80 per cent don't get any.

Part of the reason for the contest, she said, is to remove the feelings of shame and denial that frequently go along with mental illness, so that people will be prepared to get the help that they need.

Plans are to make the competition an annual event, with a different theme every year. The schools, Simpson said, have expressed willingness to incorporate it into a regular classroom unit on mental health.

Drawing by eight-year-old Melanie Citran.

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MDA remains on Israel's front line

By JEFF BERCUSON
Special to The CJN

Despite Israel's recent political instability, the staff of Magen David Adom (MDA) is still passionately focused on its goals, says a veteran of emergency medicine in both Israel and Canada.

Dr. Isser Dubinsky, the vice-president of Miltom Consulting Inc. and an associate professor in the department of family and community medicine at University of Toronto, was talking as the keynote speaker for a recent information session sponsored by MDA and the Canadian chapter of the Israel Medical Association.

The event, called How Magen David Adom Responds to the Current Crisis, outlined MDA's history and achievements and included a frank discussion about the difficulties it's now facing.

Increased activity reported

"In the year 2000 alone, MDA required the use of 78,000 mobile ICU transfers, an increase of nearly 40 per cent," Dubinsky said.

The organization has also seen an increase of 14 per cent in its activity, most of which can be attributed to the increase in the number of suicide bombings throughout Israel, he said.

Last year, the staff of MDA was also devastated by the deaths of three of its volunteers at the hands of suicide bombers.

Since its inception in 1930 – when seven Israeli doctors from Tel Aviv operated out of a one-room emergency treatment facility – MDA has grown in size and importance. With a fleet of 581 ambulances operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, its staff of physicians, volunteers and Haganah members is responsible for caring for and transporting more than 230,000 patients each year.

The organization, often considered the State of Israel's second line of defence, was awarded the University of Haifa's Humanitarian Award for Merit last month.

MDA saves lives regardless of religion, sex or race, in times of peace, in emergencies and during war, Dubinsky said.

He recalled that once while he was working in the emergency unit of Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital, a 17-year-old Palestinian boy was brought into his care after a bomb he was building in his basement was accidentally detonated, leaving him with third degree burns covering nearly 70 per cent of his body.

Despite the boy's harmful intentions, the staff of MDA provided him with the best possible care, Dubinsky said.

"Magen David Adom does not recognize any boundaries or borders. It responds to every call with an equal amount of calm, dispatch and care," Dubinsky said.

Because of its shoestring budget, MDA relies heavily on volunteers – what Dubinsky calls the "human factor" – who he commended for their willingness to "take risks and chances and share in the ambiguity of daily life in Israel."

Dubinsky ended his talk on an optimistic note.

"The way to the Promised Land has never been an easy one, but thanks to the Magen David Adom, the path to the Holy Land, the land of milk and honey, has been made a little easier."

In a question-and-answer period following the speech, a member of the audience who is currently completing a degree in medicine and who had participated in the MDA volunteer program, said the experience was "a wonderful way to give back to the community."

It has "a huge impact on the formative years of the students that participate in Magen David Adom," the audience member said.

For more information on MDA, visit the organization's Web site at www.magendavidadom.org, or call the Canadian Chapter of the Israel Medical Association at 416-781-9562.

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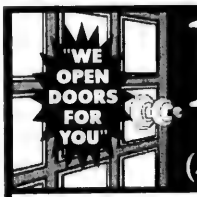

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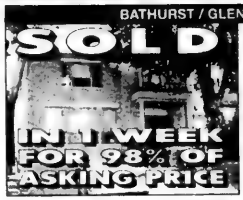

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Arts & Travel

Book a celebration of Matt Cohen and his work

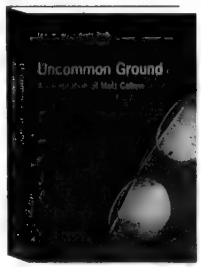
By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Uncommon Ground, a fresh collection of articles, essays, excerpts and interviews just published by Knopf Canada ($29.95), offers a wonderfully luminescent look into the legacy of the multifaceted and elusive Canadian writer Matt Cohen, who died in December 1999.

The book is being offered as a *festschrift*, or celebration, of Cohen and his work. It features pieces from a diverse assortment of Cohen's literary associates and friends, including Margaret Atwood, George Bowering, John Irving, Martin Levin and Alice Munro. Its fascinating historical material includes seven interviews conducted over the course of Cohen's prolific, three-decade-long writing career.

Born in Kingston and raised in Ottawa, Cohen later lived in Toronto. He became famous for his five *Salem* books, which occur in and around a fictitious village in eastern Ontario.

He left a sizeable oeuvre of more than 20 books, mostly novels such as *The Sweet Second Summer of Kitty Malone* (1979), *The Spanish Doctor* (1984) and *Elizabeth and After* (1999); the latter title earned him a Governor General's Award just before he died. He also wrote numerous children's books under the cuddly pseudonym Teddy Jam. An autobiography, *Typing: A Life in 26 Keys*, appeared posthumously in 2000, as did an anthology of short stories, *Getting Lucky*.



While Cohen sometimes dabbled in Jewish themes and characters, he defied being pigeonholed as a Jewish writer. When his first significantly Jewish work (*The Spanish Doctor*) appeared, critics treated it as an aberration and pleaded with him to resume his usual Canadian literary output. It was, Cohen observed, as if being Jewish and being Canadian were mutually exclusive qualities. In that light, he is a pioneer of the current multicultural trend in Canadian fiction.

"Matt was to become one of the leaders of the movement to decolonize Canadian literature, to give it a voice of its own," writes translator Daniel Poliquin.

The Spanish Doctor came as a shock to many readers and critics, Cohen told an interviewer in 1990, "because of their sense that I betrayed my Canadianness by writing about being Jewish. It tells you something uncomfortable about people's conception of what it means to be a Canadian. Even after *Nadine* was published, people would say to me: 'Are you going to write about Canada again?' I would answer that most of Nadine takes place in Canada, and that her being Jewish doesn't mean she isn't Canadian. Then they would be offended, as if I'd made a hostile remark."

Atwood astutely suggests a connection between Cohen's Jewish background and "the crumbling WASP rurals of the Ottawa Valley" that Cohen focused on in the *Salem* series: "Nobody seemed to understand the affinity between Jews and crumbling rurals – the common threads, which were destroyed culture, demoralization, and rootless and wandering survivors."

Atwood also provides a significant insight by noting that Cohen was not simply a literary realist, since he dipped frequently into the realm of the fabulous in books such as *Last Seen* (1996).

"Tale-spinning improvisation and the invention of wild fantasies came to him easily; it was the 'realism' that was hard work," she writes.

Editor Anna Porter, who presents a charming sketch of her relationship with Cohen, observes that he was disappointed that his books, while critically successful, did not make him a comfortable living "nor did they change anyone's life." As Porter observes, "Matt remained his own harshest critic."

Each chapter of *Uncommon Ground* seems to illuminate another facet of the writer we thought we knew. Alice Munro rhapsodizes over Kitty Malone; Steven Hayward details Cohen's connection to a Toronto bookshop, highlighted in the 1993 novel *The Bookseller*; Janet Lunn tells us about the children's writer; Beatriz Hausner's provides a thorough, descriptive bibliography that deftly summarizes Cohen's multiple gifts to our national literature.

Another facet: Cohen was fascinated with the European-Jewish writer Joseph Roth, and intended to write a novel about him called *The Three Loves of Joseph Roth*. *Uncommon Ground* presents a seven-page segment from the unfinished manuscript.

Edited by Graeme Gibson, Wayne Grady, Dennis Lee and Priscila Uppal, *Uncommon Ground* is the Canlit establishment's loving tribute to one of its own – no matter how far out of the mainstream he perceived himself to be. The book is required reading for anyone who wants to get a handle on Cohen, whose reputation will likely grow in the years ahead.

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Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling **AD#1438**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 2", from Woodbridge. He's employed, enjoys walking and running. He's interested in conservation, has never been married, is a non-smoker and social drinker. He's also serious & shy, a nice guy, and a seeks female with similar interests. Leave him a message **AD#1335**

TOUCH OF CLASS
Single female from Montreal in her 50's. She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 50-68 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests. **AD#1306**

HOME COOKIN'
Jeanette enjoys the outdoors, sports, hiking, swimming, kayaking and travelling. She seeks someone with similar interests and can talk to about the situation in Middle East. If you enjoy children, dining, and Cicily home cooking, please leave me a message **AD#1050**

PASSIONATE FEELINGS
Bonnie enjoys music, dining, walking, long drives and anything that has passion attached to it. She seeks a male who's interested in fine arts & theatre, not so much into sports, and possibly enjoys the outdoors, who has a great smile & sense of humour. Leave her message **AD#1371**

PERKY WIDOW
Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people. Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70s. Give her a call **AD#1066**

LOTS OF FUN
Dave is 36 yrs, slim and handsome. He's outgoing and enjoys movie going, dining, concerts and shopping. Looking for a single Jewish female, who is slim, 30-37 yrs, tall and reasonably attractive. If you like what you hear please leave him a message **AD#1436**

LET'S MEET
Martin, 49 yrs, enjoys dancing, long walks, flea markets, nice restaurants and weekend country drives. He looks for a good natured, friendly individual, a nice person to be with and converse with. Feel free to reply and he will get back to you **AD#1393**

FUN LOVING LARRY
Larry is 50 yrs and new in town. He likes horses and any outdoor activities. He's looking for a nice lady with a good sense of humour and lots of love. If this fits your description, please reply **AD#1397**

SEEKING SOULMATE
Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 8", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good. She enjoys dancing & life. She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate. A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend. If you think you're a match, please leave her a message **AD#1411**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto. She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel. Please call **AD#1413**

PLEASURE & OPTIMISM
A self employed Jewish female, 60 yrs, would love to meet someone who greets each day with pleasure & optimism. Someone who's not afraid to speak his mind, and loves classical music & the opera. Ideally creative and has a deep love for Israel, but is not religiously observant. Please call **AD#1437**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 8", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

LONG WALKS
Single Jewish male, in his mid 40's, is an attractive, intelligent, ambitious, professional gentleman. He seeks an attractive Jewish female, 32-44 yrs old for casual dating leading to long term relationship, someone who enjoys dining, movies, good music, dancing, nearby travel and romantic long walks **AD#1254**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys **AD#1179**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

HEART OF GOLD
A unique Jewish female, 5' 5", with beautiful brown hair & eyes, seeks a Jewish gentle man. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lost of fun to be with. She seeks a man with strong morals, who's over 45yrs, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoking, and financially stable **AD#1462**

GREEN EYES
She's a pretty, 5' 4", blonde w/ green eyes. Fun, very positive, caring & sharing. She enjoys theatre, music, movies, dancing, swimming, and seeks a sincere, established, non-smoking gentleman, with sense of humour, good outlook on life, who's between 60-70, for mutually enjoyable relationship **AD#1471**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Ruth is easy going, a bit naughty but very nice. She loves going out, dancing, dining, travelling and romance. It is essential that she be able to communicate with her companion. If you are as naughty and nice as her, please leave her a message **AD#1133**

ENJOYS LIFE
Single female, 50 yrs, loves to laugh, likes to have fun, is warm friendly, has a child, 2 dogs. She's 5' 6", thin, blonde hair, attractive, nice person, likes dining, movies, travelling, reading, quiet walks, and drives in the country **AD#1054**

CALL ME
Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends. Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family **AD#1222**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee **AD#1224**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

It's absolutely FREE to place your personal message!

"C" ALL ME
Single, attractive female, slim, 50 yrs young. She seeks a male between 55-70 yrs, someone who is young at heart and not afraid of "C" words, such as card, cuddling, compassion and confiding. She's looking for friendship, fun and to share the wonders of life **AD#1150**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
Single female, interested in meeting a trustworthy, loyal, caring, intelligent, professional Jewish male. She's a non smoker, lives in Toronto, has a great sense of humour. She has many interests and would like to share them with someone for a friendship first relationship **AD#1366**

LIFE PARTNER
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, intelligent, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish established male, who's over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable, and over 6 feet **AD#1181**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

Have Questions?
416-236-6644
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Smashnova eliminated from Wimbledon

CJN News Services

Israeli tennis star Anna Smashnova was upset by French Open junior champion Angelique Widjaja in straight sets at Wimbledon last week.

The 17-year-old Widjaja, playing for the first time in the main draw, came away a 6-3, 6-2 winner against 25-year-old Smashnova, who has won three of her five women's tennis titles this year and was seeded 15th at Wimbledon.

Widjaja jumped into a 4-0 lead against Smashnova before the Israeli broke back and narrowed the gap to 4-2 in the first set, but Widjaja steeled her nerves to take the match.

Prior to the tournament, Widjaja scouted the Israeli's style of play by speaking with her friends on the women's circuit.

"All my friends told me she's better on the backhand and she plays like this and that. And it's true, her backhand is much better and I think she's a very good clay court player," said Widjaja.

The defeat was disappointing for Smashnova, who has had a very good season, breaking into the million-dollar club in winnings this year after a victory in Vienna.

A few weeks before Wimbledon, Smashnova beat defending champion Iroda Tulyaganova in straight sets to win the $170,000 (US) Wien (Vienna) Energie Grand Prix tournament.

Smashnova dominated her opponent from Uzbekistan, defeating Tulyaganova 6-4, 6-1. She rose to number 17 in the world rankings as a result of her victory.

The placing was an all-time high for an Israeli tennis player, either male or female, and is one better than Amos Mansdorf, who reached 18 in the men's ATP rankings for one week in 1987.

Mansdorf subsequently ended that year in 23rd position, his best year on the ATP Tour.

Smashnova, who started the year in 87th position, has won three ranking events in 2000. Her previous tournament victories were at the very start of the year in Auckland, New Zealand, and Canberra, Australia. Only the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, have each won more events this year.

Maccabi Canada hosting family picnic

Maccabi Canada is holding its first-ever family picnic for former athletes, coaches and supporters.

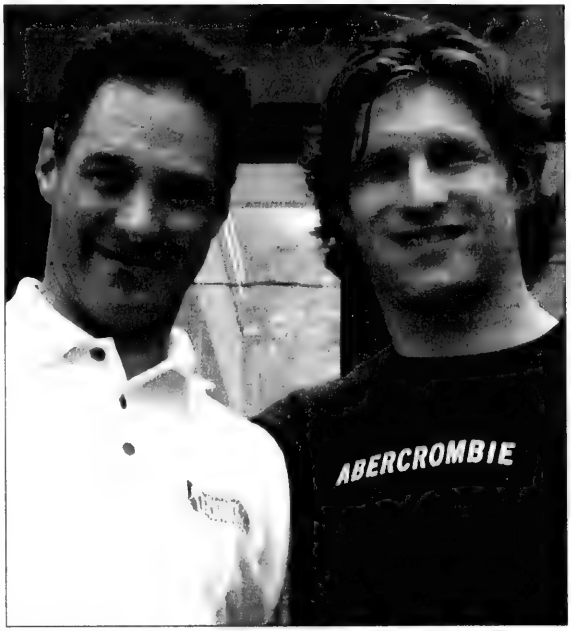
The picnic will be held on Sunday, July 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Camp Robin Hood in Markham. Cost is $20 per person or $40 per family.

Participants will be treated to a variety of activities, including swimming, canoeing, archery, beach volleyball, tennis and basketball. In addition, Maccabi Canada's new executive will be on hand to introduce themselves and answer questions.

For more information, contact Debbi Silver at 416-398-5780.

Leafs team doctor had an eventful year

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter



Dr. Michael Clarfield (left) along with Leafs forward Shane Corson at Clarfield's mid-town Toronto sports medicine clinic. [Paul Lungen photo]

At 47, Dr. Michael Clarfield isn't exactly a kid in hockey camp, but his job makes him feel that way.

In addition to running a mid-town sports injury clinic, The Sports Medicine Specialists, he's one of three doctors who tend to the star athletes of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Not only does he get to watch his beloved Leafs at almost every home game and travel with the team during the playoffs, he's had a bird's-eye view of all the action, shmoozing with the players and sharing the ups and downs of successful and not so successful seasons.

"It's been unbelievable. It's been a great career. I've seen a lot of things with the Leafs, met great people," he said.

Clarfield smiles at just about every Leafs memory. It's clear he loves his work with the team, even though it's a job that keeps him busy at the best of times. This year has been one for the books.

Beyond the sprains and strains of professional athletes enduring an 82-game season, Clarfield and the other team doctors had some extraordinary maladies to contend with: two coaches experienced serious illnesses – Keith Acton was diagnosed with cancer, Pat Quinn suffered heart problems – while Dmitri Yushkevich, a key defenceman, was taken out of the lineup with a dangerous blood clot and Art Jackson, the nephew of former Maple Leaf great Busher Jackson, collapsed during a pre-game ceremony and died despite Clarfield's best efforts to resuscitate him.

And all that came in addition to this year's playoff drama and post-season injury bug, which hit the Leafs much harder than management let on.

Still, it was a memorable season, one that Clarfield ranks up there with the Gilmour years in the early 1990s, when the Leafs twice advanced to the final four before being eliminated.

With the season over, Clarfield was at liberty to discuss some of the injuries that Leaf officialdom tried to downplay during the playoff run.

Mats Sundin's broken wrist was well documented, but defenceman Jyrki Lumme was in much worse shape than many had imagined. He did not suffer a concussion, as was rumoured, but instead "had a really bad shoulder" that included a torn bicep tendon and a separated shoulder.

Forward Darcy Tucker's injury was reported simply as an upper body injury when in fact he had a dislocated shoulder and fractured scapula (shoulder/back bone). And enforcer Tie Domi had a high ankle sprain, which is more serious than a regular sprain.

"There were so many injuries this year that I'd never seen before," Clarfield said.

In early March, Clarfield and thousands of spectators attending a Buffalo-Toronto game were shaken by an unforeseen turn of events.

During pre-game ceremonies to honour the Leafs' greatest players, Art Jackson collapsed on the bench just as he was about to stride onto the ice. As the pre-game ceremonies continued in the darkened arena, Clarfield worked frantically for 10 minutes trying to revive him. When the lights went on, spectators could see a stretcher being used to carry the stricken Jackson from the arena.

"It was a very surreal experience. We're trying to perform live resuscitation and the ceremonies go on," he said.

One of Clarfield's favourite memories dates back to those heady days in 1993 when the Leafs tangled with the Kings in the semi-finals and the Doug Gilmour-led team looked poised to advance to the Stanley Cup finals.

As Leafs fans know all too well, Gilmour was clipped by a Gretzky high stick, but a penalty was not called. Inside the Leafs dressing room, Clarfield was busy: "We're trying to sew Gilmour up and [then coach Pat] Burns comes into the dressing room and rips a sink off the wall and throws it across the room," he said, smiling at the memory.

There were some "dark years" mixed in with the good ones, but Clarfield is grateful for the turn of events that led him into the Leafs' inner sanctum.

When he completed his medical residency in 1982, sports medicine was in its embryonic stages. Clarfield had always loved sports and he saw the opportunity to combine his love of medicine with his interest in athletics.

Mentored by Dr. Charles Bull, the doctor for Team Canada in 1972, Clarfield gravitated to sports medicine. "At that time I was a wandering gypsy, working in a lot of clinics."

As public interest in physical fitness grew, so did Clarfield's sports injury practice. Eventually he would become director of the clinic at Yonge Street and Davisville Avenue, which recently moved to Eglinton Avenue. The clinic, he said, offers weekend athletes the same level of care it provides to the pros. With doctors, physiotherapists and other professionals on staff, it treats all manner of ailments related to just about every kind of sport.

"You have to be a jack of all sports and understand the mechanics of sports," he said. "Without that, you can't treat the injury or it will come back."

Like many NHL pros, Clarfield paid his dues in the minor leagues before getting called up to "the show."

In the mid-1980s he worked with the OHL's Toronto Marlies. In 1988, he received a call from then Maple Leafs GM Floyd Smith asking if he would be interested in replacing the team's retiring doctor. After pondering the offer for about a nanosecond, Clarfield said yes.

He's still smiling at that memory.

When he's not treating his patients or other Leafs, Clarfield coaches a tykes team in the Avenue Road Hockey League. He has also served as medical director of the Canadian team at the Maccabiah Games in 1989 and 1993, bringing Leafs athletic therapists Chris Broadhurst and Brett Smith with him to Israel.

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NHL teams draft pair of Jewish skaters

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

NHL players should beware. Two young Jewish skaters will soon be challenging them for their jobs and the privilege to play hockey at the highest level.

At the June 22 NHL entry draft in Toronto's Air Canada Centre, Adam Henrich,18, was selected 60th overall (second round) by the Tampa Bay Lightning, and Robert Gherson went in the fifth round (145th overall) to the Washington Capitals.

"I've been looking forward to this my whole life," said Henrich, a 6-foot-4, 215-pound winger with the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) Brampton Battalion. "When I got called, it was the best feeling in my life. It was a good day. I couldn't stop smiling."

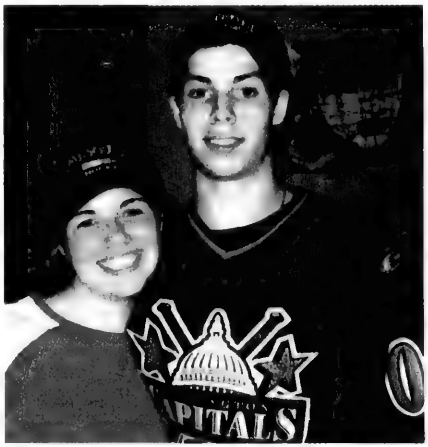
"It [getting drafted] has always been a dream. Anyone who puts on skates has dreamt of it," added Gherson, a 6-foot, 152-pound netminder with the OHL's Sarnia Sting. "It is also a big relief to finally hear my name."

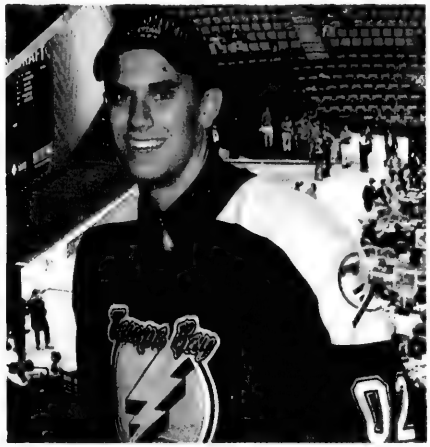
Henrich said the entire process made him very nervous.

"I didn't sleep the night before," said the power forward, who compares himself to Philadelphia Flyer John Leclair. "I was so nervous the whole day I didn't want to talk to anyone."

The Lightning originally had the fourth overall pick in the draft, but traded it to Philadelphia for left-winger Ruslan Fedotenko and two second-round selections. After another trade with the Dallas Stars, the Lightning's first draft choice became Henrich.

"He [Henrich] fits our profile. Our team is talking about improving our size and speed," said Lightning general manager Jay Feaster. "He obviously has good hands. In the second half of the season, he added a power forward aspect to his game. He will continue to develop and is the complete package."





Sporting their new team's sweaters, Robert Gherson (left) and his sister Gabriele, along with Adam Henrich, seen here at the Air Canada Centre, are all smiles following the NHL entry draft. [Henrich photo by Jay Levin/TBL]

Henrich is fresh off a solid sophomore season in Brampton, where he scored 33 goals for a total of 63 points, good enough to lead his team in scoring. In April, he represented Canada at the World Under 18 Championships in Slovakia, using his physical presence to rack up 43 penalty minutes.

"He is going to continue to work at being a power forward," said Feaster. "It is now up to to him to continue to develop. Just because he got drafted doesn't mean he will make it."

NHL Central Scouting, the body that rates amateur hockey players, had predicted both players would be selected higher in the draft.

"It's an honour to be drafted. It doesn't matter when you are drafted, but what you do after the draft that counts," said Gherson, who was slated to go 70th overall.

Henrich was touted as a late first-round pick, ranked 23rd among North American skaters.

"[I] wasn't happy [that I dropped]. I wanted to go higher. But I've seen a lot of second- and third-rounders make it over first-rounders in the past," Henrich said.

The Henrich family has been through the draft day experience before. Adam's older brother, Michael, was picked 13th overall by the Edmonton Oilers in 1998 and he continues to develop and improve his professional game with Hamilton in the American Hockey League.

"[I've] watched him for many years. He has helped me out and talked to me," said Adam. "I have really just watched and learned from him."

Gherson said he's learned a lot studying his idol, Patrick Roy.

"[I] love Patrick Roy and watch him the most. I watch how he plays [and see] how solid he is technically and how he battles. I really try to match that," said Gherson, who posted an .879 save percentage in 55 games this year with the Sting.

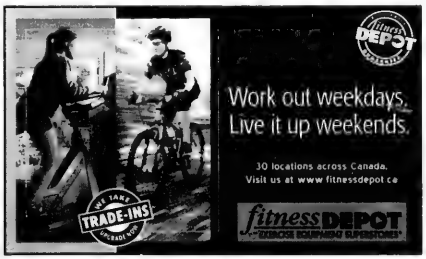
Gherson is a teammate of Eric Himelfarb, the speedy Jewish scorer selected 171st by the Montreal Canadians last season, The duo account for 50 per cent of the known Jewish players in the league.

"[I] always play Jewish geography with other guys. During Passover, we were playing Erie [Otters]. Cory Pecker and I were talking about matzah on the ice," he said. Pecker was drafted 166th overall by the Calgary Flames in 1999.

During the summer, Gherson and Henrich will spend a lot of time in the gym bulking up. Henrich says he also wants to work on his skating and his quickness, while Gherson intends to improve his puckhandling skills.

At training camp, Gherson might have to face the likes of Peter Bondra and Jaromir Jagr, which he says "is amazing. Not a lot of people can say they stopped Jagr."

Henrich is confident and says "[he] plans on making the team.



ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

פתאום מראה המלחמה: לאומיות ואלימות בשירה העברית בשנות ה- 40 מאת: חנן חבר (הקיבוץ המאוחד)

בשנת 1934 פרסם אברהם שלונסקי את ספר השירים 'אבני בוהו' (הוצאת יחדיו). הספר שימש כמורה דרך לאסכולה השירית של אותן השנים. נתן אלתרמן, יוכבד בת-מרים, יעקב אורלנד, עזרא זוסמן, אליהו טסלר, לאה גולדברג, אלכסנדר פן, יונתן רטוש ואחרים אימצו את הציור הלשוני, מבנה ותמטיקה סימבוליסטית של שלונסקי. האוטוריטה של אסכולת שלונסקי נשתרשה בשירה העברית. כך היה עד לספטמבר 1939.

עם פלישת הגרמנים לפולין חל מהפך בתודעה הספרותית בארץ. "במרכזו של שיח השירה עמדה אז שאלת יצוג האלימות, זו של הרודפים וזו של הנרדפים" מסכם חנן חבר בהקדמה לספרו: 'פתאום מראה המלחמה: לאומיות ואלימות בשירה העברית בשנות ה- 40'.

חנן חבר, פרופסור לספרות עברית תמיד מעדיף לדבר על ספרות ישראלית ולא ספרות עברית. בספרו המרתיב האחרון, בו הוא מסכם את גלי התפתחות הספרות העברית הוא מאפיין ספרות זו "כספרות שנכתבת כאן". וכך גם הספרות שנכתבה בשנות ה- 40 בארץ. יותר מכל ספרות זו חבויה לידי ביטוי פחד קולקטיבי.

בשלב הראשון, תשיח הספרותי של שנות ה-40 התפתח כתגובה לאירועי פרוץ מלחמת העולם השניה. מדובר על תגובה גם כאשר מדובר בנסיונות לכתוב במכוון על הכל רק לא על המלחמה. בהקשר זה ידועה במיוחד מחאתה של לאה גולדברג: "לא רק היתר הוא למשורר לכתוב בימי מלחמה שיר-אהבה, אלא הכרח, משום שגם בימי מלחמה רב ערכה של האהבה מערך הרצח." (1939).

דבריה של גולדברג עוררו סערה. היו שהצדיקו את דבקות המשוררת ב"נצחיותה של הלוריקה" והיו שגינו את המשוררת על התנערותה כביכול מאסון המלחמה. גולדברג עמדה בשלה: "לא זכות בלבד היא למשורר בימות הזוועה לשיר שירו לטבע, לאילנות הפורחים, לילדים היודעים לצחוק, אלא חובה, החובה להזכיר לאדם כי עדיין אדם הוא, כי קיימים בעולם אותם הערכים הפשוטים והנצחיים העושים את החיים ליקרים יותר, את המוות למושלם יותר, את המוות ולא את הרצח." (1939).

בשלב השני כבר חילחלה בתודעה שהחרג בשדות האימה של אירופה אינו מסוג הרדיפות שידע העם היהודי אלא משהו חדש: רצח שיטתי של העם כולו. בשלב זה חל מהפך ביצירה הספרותית בארץ ושירתו של אלתרמן עולה ועולה כמייצגת תקופה חשובה זו. בשנת 1944 אלתרמן מפרסם את 'שירי מכות מצרים':

"קְבוּרִי, בכורי הַבָּוו, לָדָם הים המים,
כִּי דם טהור בכורי, כי דם שֶׁפֶךְ כמים.
חשכו עמקי הבאר, אדמו עיני הַבְּעִיר,
כי דם היה בעיר ולא חרדה העיר."

אלה ימים של שנאה, של חוקיות באלימות הפוגעת בכל; חוקיות שחורטת כל סדר עולם.

"אבי, התוהו באי! מה תחכה בכדיני?"

בשלב השלישי, לאחר המלחמה, עם פתיחת הפרק בהיסטוריה הלאומית היהודית שחוביל לעצמאות מדינית, שוב התחולל מפנה בשירה שנכתבה בארץ. הפעם הסמלים שזורים בעימות המתרחש עם הערבים. ועתה חצת חרוצי המלחמה הם כאותם נער ונערה בשירו הנודע של נתן אלתרמן: 'ימגש הכסף': "כי אין אות אם חיים הם או אם ירויים." המתים חם מתים-חיים. "הן נקום, והנחנו שנית כמו אז, ושבנו שנית לתחייה" מבטיחים חללי הל"ה בשירו של חיים גורי.

עם כל הכאב שבמאבק לעצמאות, לקוֹלוֹת הספרותיים היו מאפיינים שהצביעו על שינוי מובחק בדימויי הלאומי. לא עוד היינו לנרדפים. למדנו גם להיות רודפים. לא אחת, שנות מלחמת הקוממיות מוזכרות כתוֹוייה; "אלה היו שנות חיינו היפות ביותר! והחטיבה בסדר... החטיבה הייתה מאה אחוז" אומרים החברים אחד לשני בסיפור 'הפגישה בעיקול הדרך' שכתב בזמנו חיים גורי.

...

אני שואלת: כיצד נגדיר מחר את מאפייני השירה הנכתבת היום בארץ, פתאום למראה המלחמה? ימים יגידו.

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Crustless Florentine Tart

2 (10 oz) pkgs. frozen, chopped spinach
1 clove garlic, peeled & minced
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp. seasoned salt
1 cup ricotta cheese
1/4 cup pine nuts
1 tblsp. olive oil

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cook spinach according to package directions. Cool; squeeze dry to remove excess juice.

Combine with eggs, Parmesan, nutmeg, seasoned salt and ricotta cheese. Grease 10" pie pan with olive oil and spread spinach mixture evenly around the pan. Top with pine nuts. Bake 20 mins. Cool. Serve with your favourite salad. Yield: 8 servings.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Food

Dear Norene

Tired of the same old salads? Perhaps it's time to explore greener pastures!

This bean-based salad from *Vegetables Every Day* by Jack Bishop (HarperCollins, $44.95) captures some of summer's best flavours. Serve with plenty of bread to sop up the juices. For the sweetest green beans, Bishop suggests buying them at the height of summer, selecting crisp, slim beans.

GREEN BEAN SALAD WITH TOMATOES & FETA CHEESE

1 lb. green beans (preferably a mix of green and yellow beans), ends snapped off
salt
2 medium ripe tomatoes (about 1 pound), cored, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
1 small shallot, minced
2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. minced fresh parsley leaves
freshly ground black pepper
2 oz. feta cheese, crumbled (about 1/2 cup)

Bring several quarts of water to a boil in a large saucepan. Add the beans and salt to taste. Cook until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Drain, shake dry, then spread out over a clean towel so they dry quickly. Cool to room temperature.

Combine tomatoes, shallot, oil, lemon juice, parsley and pepper in a large serving bowl. Add beans and adjust seasonings, using salt sparingly. Sprinkle feta cheese over salad. Serve immediately. Serves 4 to 6 as a first course.

Sharon Sanders, author of *Cooking Up an Italian Life* (Pergola West, $26.95 U.S.), believes you don't have to live in Italy to eat like an Italian. This refreshing salad, also known as Panzanella, cuts through the heat of a sweltering day. A smattering of chopped fresh chili pepper makes a spunky addition. Day-old bread works perfectly; just add a bit more cold water to reconstitute.

BREAD SALAD WITH TOMATO, CUCUMBER, ONION & BASIL

8 oz. rustic bread (1/3 to 3/4 of a loaf), cut into 1/2-inch-wide slices
1/3 to 1/4 cup olive oil
2 tbsp. red or white wine vinegar
3/4 tsp. salt
2 medium-large fresh tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1/2 English cucumber, peeled, coarsely chopped
1 small red onion, coarsely chopped and rinsed
1/4 cup loosely packed slivered fresh basil leaves
ground black pepper

Toast bread in a toaster, toaster oven or broiler. Cut into 1/2-inch cubes; set aside to cool.

In a large bowl, whisk 1/3 cup oil, vinegar and salt. Add tomatoes, cucumber, onion, basil and bread. Toss and set aside for 15 to 30 minutes at room temperature. Press salad occasionally with the back of a spoon so tomatoes release their juice. Taste a bread cube. If too dry, drizzle with up to 1/4 cup more oil or a few tablespoons of cold water. Season generously with pepper. Serves 4 to 6.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

The Canadian Jewish News CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 28.)

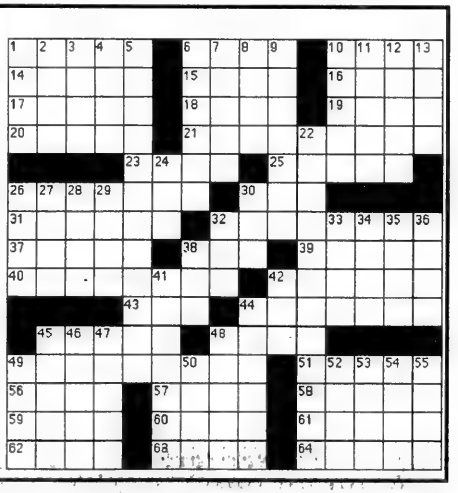
Summer Fun ~ It's a Mitzvah!
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across

1. "___ haMakom", Kol Nidre phrase
6. Major Israeli political party, briefly
10. Notations used, forwarded clippings
14. Sir, in Paris, in the old days
15. Menorah
16. Summer's sun rises here
17. My scent, in Hebrew
18. Famed New Yorker cartoonist
19. A segen or a sergeant (var.)
20. Many hang by this in the Big Apple
21. Summer refreshment slogan
23. Old playing card
25. Lots of holes in this tool
26. "_____ out!", gleeful students' cry
30. 32 Down may be this good
31. A hero may be this, in some cities
32. These to summer may show dev
63. Tea ___, shops
37. Popular summer escape sites
38. Where the bump is, in old song
39. Can get this in your palm, at beach
40. Have one on your summer fun-boat
42. Beat-up jalopy, to Chaimke
43. Caribbean island chain (abbrev.)
44. Treat your guests before their time?
45. Hugh ____, sired French dynasty
48. It's between loam and clay in texture
49. Like, I mean, cool in the summer, man
51. Slew
56. First rower in the shell
57. Undercover drug police
58. Summer fun substance
59. Nothing, in Nimes
60. One color, as it were
61. The good-night song girl
62. Warhol
63. Maasim, in English

Down

1. This repetition works a simile
2. Letters, in doctoral acronym
3. Letter start
4. Shows persona around the person
5. Many Jewish youngsters take one in the summer
6. Small valley or ploughshare bottom
7. Had a bar in Italy, Hemingway mecca
8. Prefix, popular pregnancy procedure
9. Backer of cause, program, or career
10. You may be foiled doing this
11. Variant spelling, Esau's twin
12. One of 43 Across, to Giuseppe
13. Leaf pore (abbrev.)
22. A welcome summer treat at Tiberias
24. Function (abbrev.)
26. Irish club, for short
27. ___ fan tutte, Mozart comic opera
28. A whole divided in two
29. Arch or molding form
30. Where peat is big
32. Goes, in a word, with 30 Across
33. Mama, in Metulah
34. Dwarf, in Adano
35. Vacates the premises, in oaters
36. Thin piece of carpenter's wood
38. Rgt's opposite
41. Herod rebuilt and renamed this tower
42. Path in the outdoors (abbrev.)
44. Fish, in Roman Firenze
45. Daisy or human
46. Was shown on the tube
47. Roman elder or younger
48. Two may be under your car
49. Girl's name
50. Reform Judaism's U.S. organization
52. Peel summer fruit, or any season's
53. You, plural, in Yerushalayim
54. ____ment, slum disgrace
55. Poetic before, poetic before



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This Week

National

CMDA fighting loss of charitable status in court. *Page 3*

New immigration laws create concern at JIAS. *Page 5*

Seven-year-old donates birthday money to Israel. *Page 6*

Belleville Jews optimistic about future. *Pages 22*

Arts & Travel

This performer enjoys clowning around. *Page 30*

Health & Lifestyles

Breast cancer centre reaches out to patients. *Pages 32*

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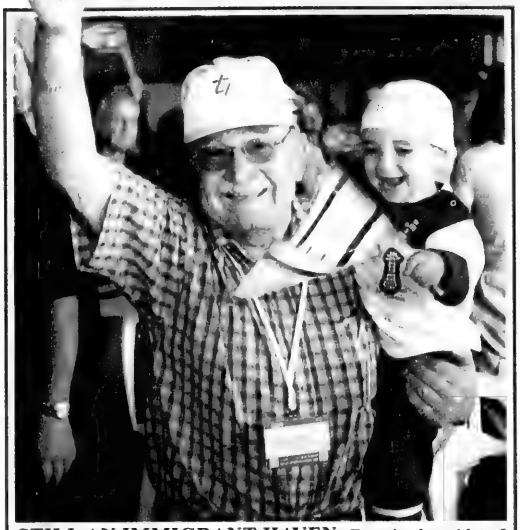

STILL AN IMMIGRANT HAVEN: Even in the midst of ongoing violence against the Jewish state, new immigrants continue to arrive. Here, a Jewish Agency representative greets a group from the former Soviet Union (FSU) last month at Ben-Gurion Airport. As of the end of May, 12,344 new immigrants have arrived in Israel this year, including 6,980 from the FSU and 2,102 from Argentina. *[Israel Sun photo]*

'Every death devastates'

The story of an unsung hero

By YAFFA NEVO
Special to The CJN

Saul Bornstein of Bat Yam tries to find the balance between life and death. Suicide bombers have kept him very busy during the last 1½ years. The owner of a fish store also volunteers with Magen David Adom and ZKA, the Victims Identification Unit. When his beepers go off, he drops everything and rushes to the scene. First he attends to the wounded. Then he painstakingly collects the body fragments of the dead and injured.

His two beepers make different sounds to avoid confusion. The general call goes out to all volunteers, and they all show up. Saul's little car is his ambulance, carrying both lifesaving equipment and the tools of ZKA: nylon bags, tweezers, towels and special paper for the absorption of blood.

When injured people are present, he wears the familiar identifying jacket of MDA and helps save their lives. Once all those injured have been evacuated, he puts on the distinctive yellow jacket of ZKA and shifts to the mitzvah of attending the dead, known as *chesed shel emet*.

Continued on page 26

Saul Bornstein
[Yuval Chen photo; colourized by Britta Montgomery]

Israel innovates gene therapy

By JESSICA STEINBERG
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Dr. Shimon Slavin, a slim man with stick-straight white hair, holds two of his patients in his arms.

Tassnem Abu Said, 6, daintily kisses the doctor's left cheek, while her sister, Salsabil, 22 months, offers a slightly moister version on his right side.

"*Shukran*," Slavin says in Arabic, thanking the two curly, dark-haired Israeli Arab sisters who scamper back to their father, Tahir, and mother, Hayam, sitting nearby.

Salsabil toddles out of sight, her small red shoes moving to the shiny metal elevator doors. Tahir quickly darts over to scoop her up before her chubby fingers get caught in the elevator doors.

It isn't unusual for toddlers to embark on search and explore missions. But 1½ years ago, Salsabil was living in a Hadassah hospital isolation unit, under the care of Slavin, who heads the bone marrow transplantation department at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center.

She and Tassnem were both "bubble babies," born without immune systems, a genetic disease known as severe combined immunodeficiency. SCID is caused by the lack of an essential enzyme, adenosine dramina-se, or ADA, that creates a functioning immune system. Bubble babies are so named because the first patients diagnosed with SCID were isolated for prolonged periods in germ-free plastic tents.

Continued on page 26

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Chazon: Devarim
Candlelighting: 8:40
Havdallah: 9:45

Don't miss an issue. Call 416-39[illegible] to have The Canadian Jewish news delivered [illegible]

We are taking a summer vacation. Our next issue is July 25.

The News in Brief

CANADA

Financial Difficulties

CALGARY — The Calgary Jewish Community Council has agreed to provide one-time emergency assistance to the cash-strapped Akiva Academy. The financial aid, which will not exceed $100,000, is conditional on the school developing a repayment plan.

Proposed Changes

OTTAWA — More than 70 per cent of the members of the Beth Shalom Synagogue have voted for the shul's board of governors to move the shul out of the Orthodox movement and join the Union of Traditional Judaism. Under the proposed changes, there would be mixed seating in the chapel and women would be allowed to read the Haftorah and open the Ark. The move is seen as an effort to attract more young families as the downtown shul faces a declining and aging membership.

ISRAEL

Palestinians Protest

GAZA — About 4,000 Palestinians marched on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Gaza headquarters last week to protest corruption and a lack of food, jobs and unemployment benefits.

Farrakhan Barred

JERUSALEM — Israel has decided to bar controversial Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who is currently touring the Mideast. He had planned to propose that he mediate in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Expulsions Nixed

JERUSALEM — Israel can't exile Palestinian suicide bombers' families to other countries, Israel's attorney general Elyakim Rubinstein said last week, since such a move could result in war crimes charges against Israel. But he did not rule out moving the families from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

WORLD

Egyptian Nukes?

CAIRO — Egypt has announced plans to build a nuclear plant for generating electricity. Egypt's electricity and energy minister, Hassan Ahmed Yunes, announced that the country's first such facility would be built on the coast northwest of Alexandria, *Ha'aretz* reported. The statement came several days after a German newspaper reported Egypt is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

SS Guard Deported

WASHINGTON — An ex-SS concentration camp guard became the 56th Nazi war criminal removed from the United States when he departed voluntarily for Austria last week ahead of a forced government removal. In August 2000, an immigration judge found Michael Gruber, 86, had served as an armed SS guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Oranienburg, Germany in 1943 and 1944. A retired auto mechanic who was born in Croatia but who is a citizen of Austria, Gruber left when an immigration tribunal ruled it didn't have jurisdiction to consider his appeal.

Poles Honoured

KRAKOW — Israel honoured six non-Jewish Poles last week for protecting Poland's Jewish heritage. Israeli Ambassador Shevach Weiss presented the Preserving Memory awards at a ceremony that closed the annual Festival of Jewish Culture here. Honorees included the mayor of a town that placed a monument on the site of a shul destroyed during World War II and a priest who headed the cleanup of his town's Jewish cemetery.

Apartheid Foe Dies

LONDON — Lionel "Rusty" Bernstein, a leader of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, died in Oxford, England, on June 23 at 82. A leading member of South Africa's Communist Party, Bernstein was responsible for much of the written material issued by the nation's liberation movement in exile before the 1990s. He was also a co-defendant with Nelson Mandela in two major political trials. In the second, Mandela was sentenced to life in jail but Bernstein was acquitted because of insufficient evidence linking him to "revolutionary" activities. Bernstein then fled to Britain with his family, where he lived until his death.

Shoah Memorial

TAIPEI — Taiwan's first Holocaust memorial has been installed in a Christian church in the county of Tainan, with the assistance of Israeli diplomats in Taipei. Israel's representative to Taiwan, Menasheh Zippori, said it would help people understand what happened during the Holocaust.

Jews get Restitution

BRUSSELS — Officials here have agreed to pay about $55 million (US) to the Jewish community for property stolen or abandoned during the Nazi occupation. Under deals signed June 27, the government will pay $44.7 million, the country's insurance companies $9.8 million and the national bank $295,000. Talks between Jewish groups and private banks to reach a separate agreement are ongoing.

Anti-extremism Bill

MOSCOW — Russia's Parliament passed a bill June 27 aimed at combating extremism. If the bill is signed into law, it will outlaw the use of Nazi symbols, the promotion of any kind of ethnic or religious hatred and the bankrolling of such activity.

U.S. Evangelicals Voice Support for Israel

NEW YORK — A former U.S. presidential candidate delivered a letter of support for Israel last week from a broad range of 28 American evangelical Christians.

"We condemn the moral relativism that confuses those being murdered with those doing the murdering," read the letter brought to Israel by Gary Bauer, the president of a group called American Values who ran as a Republican candidate in the 2000 presidential primaries.

"We demand that the United Nations and other international bodies end their silence on the atrocities committed against civilian men and women, young and old in Israel."

Others who signed the letter were convicted Watergate felon Charles Colson, for Prison Fellowship, and talk show host Janet Parshall.

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CMDA fighting loss of charitable status in court

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

An impending decision by the Federal Court of Appeal in a tax case being fought by Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA) could cost the organization its charitable status for operating outside Israel's pre-1967 borders.

No matter the outcome, the case will have far-reaching consequences for all charities that raise money in Canada for Israel, said prominent Ottawa tax lawyer Arthur Drache, who is representing CMDA.

For years, organizations raising money here for Israel have been restricted to sending money solely for use inside the Green Line, Israel's pre-1967 borders.

If CMDA wins its case, that restriction will be removed. If it loses, Drache said, CMDA will have its federally registered charitable status revoked and will no longer be permitted to issue income tax receipts, and the same could happen to similar groups operating beyond the Green Line.

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) notified CMDA about two years ago that it was in violation of the Income Tax Act and that its registration was being revoked.

At a hearing last month in Ottawa, the Crown's lawyer said ambulances donated by Canadians through CMDA were operating in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, which Canada considers part of the West Bank, and he further alleged that they were not always being used for medical purposes.

Drache argued there is no legal weight to the "public policy" the CCRA has cited for the past decade as the reason it does not recognize charities that send money into the occupied territories.

Drache maintained that tax officials "invented" the unwritten policy in 1991. He said it stems from a presumption that, because Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is disputed by the Canadian government, ordinary Canadians would not accept that donations to Israeli activities in those territories be tax-deductible in Canada.

"'Public policy' is infinitely harder to establish than government policy; [public policy] is not a matter of law," Drache said in an interview with *The CJN*.

CMDA's auditor Donald Hersh, who attended the proceedings, said that one of the three judges who heard the case asked, " 'Where is this public policy written?' There was no response from the Crown attorney. It couldn't be established where this policy can be found."

As to accusations that Magen David Adom ambulances were being used for non-medical purposes, Hersh said "the Crown couldn't back that up with any evidence."

Drache said he doesn't know when a judgment will come down, but he anticipates it will not be before September. He said that until a decision is made otherwise, CMDA continues to operate legally and can issue valid tax receipts.

The other major issue in this case, Drache said, is a technical one that involves ownership of the ambulances CMDA sends to Israel. The CCRA contends that under the Income Tax Act, CMDA should have retained title over the vehicles, either directly or through an agreed upon agent, he said.

Continued on page 23

READ FOR A NEED: Rabbi Abraham Soffer, (center) educational director of Associated Hebrew Schools, presents a cheque for $81,500 to Canadian Magen David Adom vice-presidents Gerald Berley (left) and Ben Kranc. The money, raised by Associated students through their "Read for a Need" campaign, will purchase a new ambulance for MDA in Israel.

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Winds of change?

From the editor's desk

It was only a coincidence, but the timing of the two developments ought not to be ignored, for they may augur at least a bracing breeze, if not yet the winds of change in the Arab world.

Barely one week after U.S. President George W. Bush staked out a definitive claim for radical change of the Palestinian leadership, an all-Arab blue-ribbon panel of renowned intellectuals staked out a definitive claim for radical change of Arab societies.

Published under the auspices of the United Nations, the report entitled the Arab Human Development Report 2002, was refreshingly honest in its observations of Arab world society, and surprisingly blunt in its recommendations.

The report warns the Arab world and the leaders of the 22 different states that comprise its wide geographic compass, that Arab society is terribly stagnating and runs the risk of being left far behind the rest of the globe in all measurable categories of advancement and progress. There are essentially three ubiquitously applicable reasons for this stagnation, the authors of the report point out: the utter lack of political freedoms, the repression of women and the woefully sub-standard, inward-looking norms of public education.

The report was assembled by an advisory team of high-profile Arab thinkers who culled their conclusions from the presentations of nearly 30 different Arab scholars and authorities on a range of relevant subjects including Arab demographics, sociology, economics and culture.

"The Arab world is at a crossroads. The fundamental choice is whether its trajectory will remain marked by inertia… and by ineffective policies that have produced the substantial development challenges facing the region; or whether prospects for an Arab renaissance, anchored in human development, will be actively pursued."

These are uncompromising words. They form part of the concluding remarks of the report.

The authors lament that the "wave of democracy… has barely reached the Arab states," and the result of this diminished reach, they candidly aver, "undermines human development."

Some of the absolute and comparative statistics are quite revealing, indeed quite eye-popping.

The entire Arab world of 22 nation states comprising some 280 million people

• generates a GDP smaller than that of Spain;

• translates about 330 books annually, approximately one fifth the number that Greece alone translates; and

• invests less than one seventh of the world average in scientific research.

The report goes on to say that nearly one quarter of the adult Arab world is illiterate. Some 65 million Arab adults, including half of all the women, cannot read. More than 10 million children do not even go to school.

Again, in a departure from the usual platitudes, the report says of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that it has been both an impediment to the progress of the Palestinian people and an *excuse* for continuing that lack of progress.

One of the ironies in the timing of the report's release is its resounding resonance with the theme and the language of Bush's call for greater democratization of the Palestinian polity.

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been both a cause and a pretext for delaying democratic change," Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, director of the UN Development Program's Arab regional bureau, said in Cairo upon releasing the report. "We say that the Palestinians should be able to determine their own future. But we also say that the rest of the Arab countries have to start promoting democracy and equality for all."

Despite its historic forthrightness, the report does not directly point an accusing finger at or specifically mention Islamic militants or the despots and strongmen who run the closed, police states. To expect otherwise would be to expect too much from this ground-breaking study.

[Illustration by M. Nisimov]

Bashir Assad

Neither Bashir Assad nor Saddam Hussein will likely take the report home with him for a quiet evening read. The consciences of the Royal Saudi rulers will not any time soon yield new progressive, egalitarian policies toward the women in their kingdom. Nor will the tired, corrupt ruler of the Palestine Authority be convinced by the report's ringing cri de coeur that perhaps Bush has struck a quivering Palestinian nerve.

None of these men, or their like, will be moved by the report. But they will likely keep a closer watch on currents of change that may be slowly undulating their way across the approaching sands.

— *MBD*

SeeJN

MITZVAH DAY: More than 100 volunteers participated last month in One Hot Day, organized by UJA Federation's Young Leadership Program. Members of the federation's Hands on Toronto volunteer program took part in a variety of social service mitzvah projects in the community, including working with the elderly, the homeless and clients of Jewish Family and Child Service. Pictured are One Hot Day co-ordinators (from left) Alison Himel, Leanne Spier, Michael Long, Lisa Dolovich, Naomi Cohen, and Daphne Nussbaum.

New immigration laws create concern at JIAS

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Although some of the recent changes to Canada's immigration and refugee laws are "quite positive," others are causing concern at JIAS Toronto, says Mila Voihanski, the agency's acting executive director.

One sticking point – or potential sticking point – under the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (details of which are available at www.cic.gc.ca) involves changes to the point system used to assess independent immigrants.

Also, under a new agreement with the United States, emigrants who arrive via the United States are no longer allowed to enter Canada as refugees because the United States is considered a safe country, Voihanski said last week.

Although JIAS does not deal with many refugee claimants, all of the recent ones – about half a dozen families in the past six months – have entered Canada via the United States after leaving South America and the former Soviet Union, she said.

For individual immigrants, the Canadian government has raised the minimum number of points necessary to immigrate from 70 to 75 out of 100, said Voihanski. At one point, she noted, it looked like the number was going to go up to 80.

"The education requirements are much higher now," she said. "You need at least 17 years of study or its equivalent. That will make it problematic for a lot of people coming from a lot of different countries." Points are also awarded for work experience and adaptability, which includes family relationships in Canada, and for a spouse's education.

Unless potential immigrants have prearranged employment or close relatives in Canada, netting them an additional five points respectively, it will be more difficult for them to qualify, explained Voihanski.

Another thing that is troublesome, she added, is that "some knowledge" of English or French is "not good enough any more."

Under the old regulations, Voihanski clarified, 9 was the top mark possible for ability in one of Canada's official languages. Proficiency in both means up to 24 points, but the highest rating possible for the first language is 16. "Moderate proficiency [in English or French] gives you 8 points. There's not that much difference between 9 and 6 [for moderate proficiency under the old system], but [under the new system] if you get 8, you don't make it.

"We are worried that it will impact our clients immensely," said Voihanski. "We have a lot of potential immigrants. Everybody is worried."

On the other hand, she noted, it would be premature to make judgments, because the new regulations only came into effect on June 28, and she has yet to see them in action. As of last week, JIAS staff members were still receiving training regarding the new laws.

Voihanski said it is hard to predict accurately how clients will be affected because the act leaves things like what constitutes the equivalent of 17 years of full-time study to the discretion of the pre-immigration interviewing officer.

On the positive side, Voihanski noted, parents can now sponsor children up to age 21, an additional two years beyond what the previous regulations allowed; common law spouses are now included under the definition of family; the upper age limit of immigrants receiving 10 points has been raised to 49 from 44; and same-sex partners are recognized.

"I guess they're moving with the times," Voihanski said.

Tisha b'Av program planned

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

For the 14th year, Rabbi Jay Kelman, spiritual leader of Beth Jacob v'Anshei Drildz Congregation, will be organizing a community-wide program to mark Tisha b'Av.

Tisha b'Av, which this year is from the evening of July 17 to sunset July 18, marks the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, as well as a series of disasters that befell the Jews on that day. It is a day of fasting and mourning.

The program, to be held at the synagogue on July 18, will consist of the regular prayers and lamentations for the day, a film from the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation and five speakers.

Rabbi Kelman said he tries to bring in a wide range of speakers. This year, participants include Rabbi Yossi Michalowitz of Aish Hatorah; Rabbi Eliyahu Attias, head of Kollel Yismach Moshe, the new Sephardi kollel of Toronto; and Elliott Malamet, a teacher at CHAT and a columnist for *The Canadian Jewish News*. Rabbi Kelman will discuss 10 or 12 of the lamentations.

The rabbi, who said he considers these programs as one of the things for which he is best known and one of the things he is most proud of, said he sees the Tisha b'Av programs as "a way to bring meaning into the day," which he sees as not just a time to mourn, but "as a time of reflection and reawakening."

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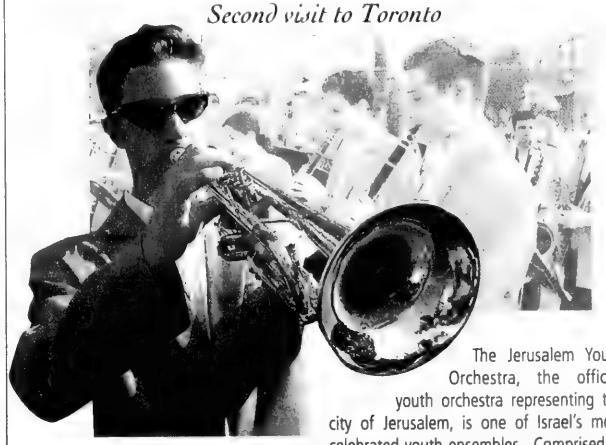

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Lawyer seeks to end visa-free entry for Saudis

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A Toronto immigration lawyer has warned the federal government about a potentially serious threat to Canada's national security.

Sergio Karas recently drew attention to the fact that a citizen of Saudi Arabia who wants to travel to Canada is not required to apply for a temporary resident visa under section 190 of the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which was enacted last year and took effect June 28.

Karas made this concern known to Denis Coderre, the minister of citizenship and immigration, and Johanne Deslauriers, the department of citizenship and immigration's director of social policy, which drafted section 190 (formerly known as section 183).

In a Jan. 17 letter to Deslauriers, copies of which were sent to Coderre and Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, Karas noted that most of the Arab hijackers who crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last September were Saudi nationals.

"In light of the events of Sept. 11... it seems difficult to understand why Saudi Arabia remains on the list of countries whose citizens are allowed to enter Canada without first obtaining a visa," Karas wrote.

On May 16, Karas wrote Coderre about the matter.

Neither Coderre nor Deslauriers have replied, nor did Coderre's office return several calls and two e-mail messages from *The CJN*.

Graham's department acknowledged Karas' letter on Feb. 11 and forwarded it to Coderre.

Karas also sent a letter to Paul Cellucci, the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

On Feb. 7, Leslie Ann Gerson, the minister counsellor in the American embassy, answered: "I can assure you that discussions between our two countries on the visa process, including the use of the visa waiver, are ongoing and that your letter addresses a very real concern."

Karas said Canadian visa officers and intelligence personnel should be given the opportunity to examine the background of Saudis before they enter Canada.

In an interview, Karas described Canada's policy as dangerous, saying it endangers Jewish Canadians.

"The Jewish community should be extremely concerned about this policy. It is amazing that Saudis should be treated on the same level as the United States, Britain and Europeans. After 9/11, it makes no sense whatsoever."

Karas said Saudi Arabia does not accord visa-free entry to Canadians, and it also restricts travel by foreigners inside Saudi Arabia and requires disclosure of religion in visa applications.

He said that Saudis, like Egyptians and Jordanians, should be required to obtain a visa before they travel to Canada.

"According to most respected intelligence sources, it is beyond dispute that the government of Saudi Arabia and Saudi nationals appear to be financing or supporting terrorist activities around the world," Karas said in his letter to Deslauriers.

Canada, he added, is one of the few remaining Western nations still according Saudis the right of visa-free entry.

"I fail to see why Canada should continue to reward the citizens of a country which actively supports and funds terrorism, needlessly exposing Canadians to unnecessary risks and international criticism for granting such ill-advised exemption to Saudi nationals."

Karas recommended that Ottawa should immediately relieve Saudi Arabia of its visa-exempt status.

As well, he urged Canadians to call their members of Parliament and complain about Canada's policy.

Among foreign nationals who do not need temporary resident visas under section 190 are citizens of Israel, the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Malaysia, Portugal, Switzerland, Brunei, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Greece, Ireland, Costa Rica, Japan, Mexico, St. Vincent, Barbados and Bahamas.

A little girl with a big heart for Israel

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Instead of receiving dolls, toys, candy or clothes for her birthday this year, a seven-year-old Toronto girl decided to ask her family to donate money to Israel.

Batya Isaacson, 7, told her family not to buy her birthday gifts because "all the poor people in Israel need the money."

The philanthropic effort has already raised $550 for the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, which Batya says makes her "feel good because the Jewish people in Israel get medical help."

Her mother, Monique Isaacson, was pleased with her daughter's initiative.

"I think it's great that she thought to do this," said Isaacson. "If it can go to help a good cause, why not?"

The federation is also impressed with Batya's contribution.

"Where else would you see a seven-year-old child, who is big enough to say [she doesn't want] gifts, because Israel needs it more?" said Dan Horowitz, UJA Federation's senior communications coordinator. "It sets a great precedent [and is] nice to see."

Batya Isaacson

According to Isaacson, her daughter got the idea on her own, though her two older siblings influenced Batya with their own frequent donations to tzedakah.

Isaacson said for years, her son Joshua, 8, and daughter Talia, 11, have given money to Mazon Canada, a charity that raises money from within the Jewish community to help fight hunger across the country, and also to the Toronto Breakfast Club.

"It started when my older daughter [started] collecting the money," she said. "[It's the] kind of family we're from. We believe in tzedakah and I instill it in my kids."

"Giving is important thing. You have to learn by example," said Isaacson. "I have really great kids."

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Israeli organization helps Jewish and Arab kids

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Even the average Israeli probably hasn't heard of Orr Shalom Children's Homes.

The non-profit organization, which operates a network in Israel of "family group homes" run by couples for about 270 children who have suffered abuse or neglect, "is about melting into the community," says Alisa Olmert, Orr Shalom's chair.

But on a recent overseas visit, Olmert (who is married to Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert) and Haim Feingold, Orr Shalom's executive director, spent several days raising awareness among supporters and potential supporters about the homes, which can each accommodate up to 10 children.

The organization receives 85 per cent of its funding from local welfare authorities. The rest comes from private donors and federations, including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Although Orr Shalom's funding has not been cut recently, as is the case with many Israeli social service agencies, it has incurred unforeseen expenses due to the current intifadah. One example is finding a replacement for group home fathers who have been called up for reserve army duty. Increasing security for the homes is another.

One of the organization's most recent projects, which opened this spring after taking three years to get off the ground, is a Bedouin home in partnership with a Bedouin non-profit organization.

Although there were many difficulties in setting up the project – differences in mentality, culture and language – the current intifadah was not an issue as far as Feingold was concerned. At seminars with the new house parents and Bedouin directors, "we had a great time together," talking and sharing experiences, Feingold said during a joint interview with Olmert at UJA Federation's offices.

A proposed Orr Shalom home in Bethlehem, within the Palestinian Authority, has been put on hold, but another home has been operating for two years in an Israeli Arab community.

"There was a barrier of mistrust and a cultural gap that had to be overcome," said Olmert.

"It takes time," Feingold said. "But we do it. They [Arabs] do it. They have to take a bigger step than we do [to accept our assistance]."

The Orthodox community is also averse to accepting help from a secular organization, Olmert said. "It has its own social system."

The fact that Orr Shalom, a secular organization, counts an Orthodox home among its 21 homes and three "little institutions" for children who need more intensive care is unusual, as is the way it came about.

Bedouin home opened

"This guy comes to me... he wants to do something good for Orr Shalom," said Feingold, who likes to share a good story. "I said, 'Okay, purchase a home. We need a home.' "

After consulting with his family, including a daughter who was a ba'alat tshuvah, the man returned to Feingold with a dilemma. His daughter wanted the home to be an observant one. "He doesn't like [the idea], but he likes his daughter," said Feingold.

Feingold consulted with authorities from the municipality of Jerusalem, which refers children in need to Orr Shalom, who confirmed that such a home was needed.

The home is run by a modern Orthodox couple and serves children from "various degrees of observant families," Feingold said.

All the Orr Shalom homes are within Israel's pre-1967 borders. "But," said Feingold, "if someone comes to me and says, 'Haim, open a home in Netzarim,' I'll go there. I go for kids, not for politics. Wherever kids need it, we'll do it."

Alisa Olmert and Haim Feingold

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Bad ruling, bad policy

The Federal Court of Appeal has been asked to set aside a decision by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) that revokes the charitable status for income tax purposes of Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA). As *CJN* reporter Janice Arnold writes in this issue, the CCRA has ruled that CMDA violates the Income Tax Act because CMDA-donated ambulances operate outside Israel's pre-1967 borders. Such use of the ambulances was deemed by the CCRA to be "activities… which lend support to Israeli settlements beyond its pre-1967 borders," thus undermining Canadian public policy – in this case on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – and thus leaving CMDA in violation of the Income Tax Act.

The CCRA ruling is illogical, inconsistent, discriminatory, offensive, hypocritical and just plain wrong. It should be overturned.

Illogical. The decision focuses on the locale of the activity to the total exclusion of its intrinsic nature. Can there be any doubt but that the very essence of the activity by the CMDA ambulances is humanitarian and thus, patently charitable according to Canadian law? To disregard the essential activity of the charity is illogical.

Inconsistent. Certain activities that are disqualified under the Income Tax Act, by virtue of the locale of the activity, are considered fully appropriate for advancing Canadian public policy, in the very same locale, for other tax and commercial purposes, such as under the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

Offensive. By utterly ignoring the intrinsic nature of the activity for the sake of the locale of the activity, the ruling effectively says the activity will be charitable under the Income Tax Act anywhere on earth except in one spot – "beyond pre-1967 borders." The ruling therefore completely disregards and even negates any historic, religious, or emotional attachment that Canadian Jews have to the area. It singularly and offensively characterizes an otherwise valid charitable activity to be merely political in nature.

Hypocritical. Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham has had no difficulty in bifurcating the activities of Hamas for purposes of Canadian public policy into military ones, which violate the Income Tax Act, and humanitarian ones, which do not. It is hypocritical in the extreme to sanction humanitarian activities by a publicly-avowed terrorist organization despite its record of murdering and slaughtering Jews, yet to prohibit patently humanitarian activities by CMDA because of the locale of the activities. Why can humanitarianism be set apart even from the terrorism of one group but not from the locale of another?

Discriminatory. The CCRA ruling does not jeopardize the status of a non-Jewish Canadian charity that remits funds to a non-Jewish institution beyond the pre-1967 borders, but it does jeopardize a Jewish charity that remits funds to, in this case, maintain the operation of an ambulance in the very same location. Could there be a clearer case of discrimination against Jewish Canadians?

Wrong. It is just plain wrong, indeed unconscionable, that Canadian public policy, in essence, promotes discriminatory practices over humanitarian ones.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO…

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones

AMERICA'S GOAL IS TO BRING DEMOCRACY TO IRAQ
BUT THE U.S. CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT OUT LOUD.
?
PREACHING DEMOCRACY IS NO WAY TO WIN SUPPORT
... FROM THE GANG OF TOTALITARIAN RULERS THAT MAKE UP THE ARAB LEAGUE

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Israel, Jews and the left

I regret the fact that conservative elements within my community begrudge those of us who are against the occupation, who see the fact that Israel is subjecting people to unspeakable conditions. Advocating an end to the occupation is not exclaiming support for extremists. Quite the contrary, it is in Israel's best interest to end the occupation.

It is regrettably true that Palestinians have been horribly misled and many unfortunately support suicide bombings, but this does not mean that collective punishment is necessary. As we have seen, it is actually ineffective and quite counter-productive to Israel's own security needs. Furthermore, there is a Palestinian left, with whom I am in regular contact, people working quietly with international NGOs and many Israeli organizations (Gush Shalom, Peace Now, T'ayush). One should know that the likes of Palestinian-American academic Edward Said's books are banned by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, so these people have to work very quietly. Israelis should be reassured to know that there are very good people working to build a civil society to eventually be able to counter the horrible terrorists and form a legitimate power structure in Palestinian society.

As to the ludicrous charge (by Michael Zigman in a letter that appeared in the Montreal edition) that I owe Israel an apology, I don't think David Ben Gurion had totalitarianism in mind when he founded Israel, so I won't lend credence to the cockamamy notion that critiquing a state's activity leaves me owing an apology to said state. I believe that Ben Gurion envisioned Israel as a democracy in which criticism was welcomed. It is somewhat sad that North American armchair Zionists believe that they speak for a state. It is also somewhat Orwellian. I would expect this in regards to Iran or North Korea, not Israel. Let it be said, I love Israel, the country and the people. But I do not support its foreign policy. The Jewish community has to accept and welcome the growing majority of us who feel this way, not threaten us and attempt to discredit us.

Jordy Cummings
Toronto

* * *

Where were the Jews?

Gil Troy and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, two of the speakers at the recent rally Canadians Against Antisemitism in downtown Toronto, tried to impress upon us the importance of making our voices heard at this ominous time of increasing anti-Semitism in Canada and around the world. But where were the Jews to hear them?

By my estimate, Gentiles outnumbered the rally's Jewish participants 2 to 1. Frankly, I was dumbstruck at the poor showing of Jews when the issues are so important to each and every one of us.

I can't "guilt" members of our community into being more concerned, committed, verbal or informed, but I can remind you that this struggle is now "up close and personal." If you leave it to someone else to "make noise," it isn't going to happen.

Every day, letters to the editor in all the newspapers express biases against Israel and the Jews. These are written by so-called intelligent people. Even the universities are rife with anti-Semitism cloaked as anti-Israel rhetoric. So when an event such as that rally tries, as Rabbi Bulka said, "to stem the tide of evil that is enveloping us like a raging inferno," where is our support?

Truthfully, as a member of the Jewish community of Greater Toronto, I felt embarrassed and alone. Hearing my expressions of frustration, one of my fellow demonstrators said, "Now you know how isolated Israel feels."

Elaine Hoffman
Richmond Hill, Ont.

* * *

Israel is here to stay

The State of Israel has come a long way from heroic dreams and idealistic plans to face realities unfamiliar to any other nation.

Spiritual power has enabled the Jewish people to survive over the millennia. Today, it also has physical power, which it had to develop to fight wars not of its own making. The agony of Israel's decisions lies in having to balance one with the other.

Years of tension on the borders and the continuing impasse in Israeli-Arab relations have not made Israelis bitter: they continue to hold out the hand of peace and stand ready to negotiate an agreement for security and territorial integrity with all states in the Middle East.

It is probably a unique phenomenon that a nation that has been victorious on the battlefield many times should have to sue for peace from defeated antagonists. It is to Israel's credit that peace is still first and last the nation's purpose.

Some observers unfamiliar with the tenacity and resilience of the Jewish people may doubt Israel's chance of survival – six million Israelis against 120 million Arabs – and may even be eager to see it end its existence.

Yet for thousands of years, the Jewish people – and for the last 54 years, the State of Israel – have succeeded in holding at bay the hazards and challenges that have beset their existence. No matter what, Israel is here to stay.

Henry Charles Cowen
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

An open letter to the children of Israel

Greetings to a courageous people.

Recently I learned that in the Hebrew Bible, "Comfort, comfort my people … speak tenderly to Jerusalem…" (Isaiah 40:1-2) is addressed to the gentiles. We are admonished to speak favourably and to comfort Israel. I am a gentile, a born-again Christian, and I know you are really being hit hard — a double whammy – what with terrorist bombings in Israel, increasing anti-Semitism in Europe, the desecration of synagogues and cemeteries, and schools and religious Jews becoming the object of more frequent attacks. Every time I hear of yet another terrorist bombing in some crowded Israeli area, my heart breaks for you.

While I cannot pray for peace in Israel because it is a time for you to fight and defend your nation – any other country, if it were being so afflicted would do the same – it is biblical to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, the Holy City, and I do so earnestly. I also pray for those of you who live in Israel and elsewhere in the world that you be able to find strength and courage – *chazak v'amatz* – to endure in these very difficult times.

The State of Israel was "reinstated" in May 1948 – no other nation or tribe of people on earth that disappeared was ever reinstated, save Israel. She will never disappear from the earth again.

The State of Israel is not a series of occupied territories. She is "*Eretz Yisroel*."

You are loved. God bless Israel.

Lillian Watson
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

War crimes, lies and videotapes

By JACK SILVERSTONE

For the better part of a month, the world was bombarded with a vicious lie, replete with misleading video footage, about a massacre perpetrated in Jenin by the Israel Defence Forces. Outlandish allegations made by Palestinian and other Arab propagandists were lapped up by the international media, the United Nations and the European Union. The lie, as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres put it, is nothing but a blood libel. And we Jews know what that means. Blood libels against Jews have the been the excuse for centuries for anti-Jewish edicts, expulsions and pogroms.

That big lie has now been exposed, but in a world full of double and even triple standards, one should not, I suppose, expect that Israel would get an apology for the libel against it. Nor do I expect there will be any recognition for Israel's scrupulous adherence to its principle of "purity of arms" and refusal to call in air strikes or artillery to pound the Jenin camp and other centres of terrorist activity. (Instead, it exposed its ground forces to severe losses in order to prevent civilian casualties.)

However, I do expect the media and maybe even some of the world community to be more skeptical of Palestinian claims and not to subscribe so readily to unsubstantiated propaganda of the most vile nature. They should know that the Arabs, unable to defeat Israel on the battlefield, have resorted ever more to the political and juridical fronts, arguing against the legitimacy of Israel itself and its actions in self-defence.

War crimes and crimes against humanity have indeed been committed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but not by Israel. The U.S.-based organization Human Rights Watch now admits that the Palestinian claims of a massacre were unfounded, but – unwilling to admit its mistake without qualification – it says that other activities conducted by Israeli forces in the campaign appear to be war crimes. To accuse the Jewish state in a cavalier fashion of perpetrating such acts as those the Jews were victims of during World War II is a deliberate and unacceptable provocation. Israel and Jews everywhere have every right to be thin-skinned in response to such allegations.

International human rights organizations, the UN and the media should focus, not on false accusations against Israel, but rather on looking for war criminals by examining the role of Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Authority, and before that, the PLO, over the past four decades (and in particular, over the past two years).

The use of disguised terrorists to strike at the Israeli civilian population and Jews worldwide has been a hallmark of Palestinian terrorism, and it did not start with the current so-called intifadah. It predates the establishment of the State of Israel and has never been absent from the conflict. To recruit suicide bombers to attack the civilian population in Israel is criminal. The perpetuation of terrorism violates numerous international treaties and conventions. To use children, as they do, as unlawful combatants contravenes international humanitarian law, as does the use of ambulances to transport terrorists and munitions. To wage a systematic war of aggression through terror is a contravention of international law.

And what of the UN itself? The Jenin refugee camp receives extensive logistical support from the United Nations Relief and Works Authority (UNRWA), a UN entity created specifically to assist Palestinian refugees. How could they turn a blind eye to the transformation of civilian areas, where they have an extensive infrastructure, into armed camps, bomb factories and staging areas for terrorists? UNRWA has a lot to answer for.

It is significant that the new International Criminal Court (ICC), a permanent international criminal tribunal to prosecute and punish war crimes and genocide, came into effect on July 1. The United States is not a party to its formation, nor will it become one, and Israel has expressed serious reservations about its politicization. It is to have a chief prosecutor with enormous powers, elected by secret ballot and without real accountability to state members. The ICC is one of the legacies of the Nuremberg tribunals after the Holocaust and World War II. Sadly, it appears likely that its misuse by some Arab and Muslim states and their supporters will turn it into an instrument for political propaganda and judicial guerrilla warfare.

As we saw last summer in Durban, South Africa, at the so-called World Conference Against Racism, virtually every international forum, regardless of its stated purpose, is being turned into an Israel-bashing, anti-Semitic event. The international legal system, such as it is, is certainly not immune and, unfortunately, may be heading in that direction. Canada, both through the expression of governmental views and through its legal community, must stand up against malevolent manipulation and abuse of the international juridical apparatus.

Jack Silverstone is the executive vice-president and general counsel, Canadian Jewish Congress.

The definition of "war crime" in the ICC statute was expanded to include the movement of populations into occupied territories. Israelis fear this definition will be used against Jewish communities such as Beit El (above) in the West Bank.

Why Israel withdrew support for the new war crimes court

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Despite special assurances it would not be politically targeted by a new war crimes court, Israel has withdrawn its support and will not ratify its signature on the United Nations treaty creating the court, officials said last week.

The world's first permanent war crimes court came into existence July 1 in the Netherlands. The cabinet, following the United States' lead, decided late last month not to join the court even though it had been among countries behind the drive to establish it.

Israel is concerned that an expanded list of war crimes put forward by the International Criminal Court could throw into question the international legality of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and leave IDF soldiers vulnerable.

"The moment the charter of the court took the shape of a political institution rather than a judicial institution, we could no longer be a part of it," said Justice Ministry spokesperson Yonaton Baker.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Lancry, signed the treaty in December 2000, but only after assurances that the court would not be used as a political tool to persecute Israelis. With memories of the Holocaust in mind, Israel had been among the countries pushing for a permanent war crimes court.

Israel's backing withered, however, after those who prepared the framework for the treaty expanded a list of war crimes to include the movement of populations into occupied territories. That could throw into question the future of 200,000 Jews living in more than 140 settlements built on land captured from Egypt and Jordan after the 1967 Six Day War, which is now claimed by the Palestinians for a future state.

The court, located in The Hague, will prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed on or after July 1.

The United States is also demanding immunity because it fears American troops and citizens could be targets of frivolous and politically motivated prosecutions. The treaty, signed by 139 countries, was ratified by 74.

Israel originally agreed to sign the declaration after an amendment was added that said Israel was opposed to any attempt to use the treaty's provisions "in a politically motivated manner against Israel and its citizens."

Another Israeli concern over backing the court was that Syria, a party to the treaty, might then be able to file complaints over Israel's settlement of the Golan Heights, a strategic border area Israel captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

"Even though Syria has no authority there, Syria can still possibly press the law," said Irit Kohn, head of the international section of the state's attorney's office. "There are many questions. These things are very unclear."

Kohn, speaking on Army Radio, said that as long as Israel does not ratify the treaty, the court will not have jurisdiction over its territory and the court cannot force Israel to extradite any of its citizens to stand trial in The Hague.

She warned however that it remains to be seen if a wanted Israeli could be arrested when travelling to a country that has signed the treaty.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon late last month rejected a proposal by Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and Minister Dan Meridor to announce that Israel would not participate in the court "at the present time." Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also strongly opposed having Israel participate in the new court.

Prior to the government meeting, Rubinstein sent a letter to cabinet secretary Gideon Saar noting that Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit and other involved officials believe that Israel should not confirm its signature on the international tribunal's constitution.

The attorney general wrote that "the reasons for this are connected to the danger of politicization that threatens the court, and the article that is largely directly against Israel on the matter of settlements." He also noted that "the United States, which Israel followed in signing the court's constitution, officially informed the UN recently that it has no intention of ratifying the covenant."

Meridor, the only one to abstain from the unanimous decision late last month, said that "if this were a fair and apolitical institution, there would be reason to join it."

Our forgotten ally

The other day, a little pamphlet arrived in my mail. Entitled *Israel: Democracy's Neglected Ally*, it bore the name of an author whom I had known well. He was Pierre van Paassen, whose name was once well known to Jews and Christians alike.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Born in Holland at the end of the 19th century, van Paasen, a non-Jewish American journalist, became one of the most vocal advocates for a Jewish Palestine, and when the dream was fulfilled, he became a staunch defender of the State of Israel.

It was my privilege to know him personally, and I cherish the memory of the evening when he was a dinner guest in our home.

Van Paassen became widely known after he published a controversial book during World War II. Titled *The Forgotten Ally*, it described the Yishuv's contribution to the anti-Nazi war effort. The ally, he wrote, was the Jewish people, and its contribution to the victory of the Allies over the Nazis was, in van Paassen's words, "the best kept secret of the war."

Van Paasen was also the man who, more than any other I know of, reported Nazi atrocities from Germany, which led to his expulsion from the country. The *Toronto Star* reported on this on April 24, 1933, showing his face together with Adolf Hitler's. The montage emphasized the stunning similarity between the two faces, yet no greater difference in philosophy could be imagined. The picture had a memorable byline: "Pierre van Paasen is not a Jew."

Over the centuries, we Jews have had more enemies than friends, but that is no reason to neglect the latter. It's high time to remember our friends with affection. Van Paasen published his book in 1943, and, for a while, it topped the best-seller lists. Too bad it has been neglected, and the author's name with it.

The purpose of this column is to stimulate as many readers as possible to go to the nearest library and ask for a book by van Paassen. If you are fortunate enough to borrow a copy, you will have a great experience awaiting you. (I am sad to report that my own copy has mysteriously disappeared.)

Pierre's "forgotten ally" stood for the Jewish people. I hope we can exhume the memory of van Paassen, who died in 1968 and has become our own forgotten ally.

The demographic challenge

If in the past, "Who is a Jew" was debated among the various denominations in the Jewish world, today the debate has shifted inwardly to the domestic Israeli arena.

Last week, the Israeli government rejected a proposed amendment to the Law of Return that would have placed new limitations on immigration to Israel. In a direct response to Nazism's anti-Jewish measures, the law was originally developed to provide automatic refuge and citizenship to anyone with a Jewish grandparent. Although Jewish religious law (Halachah) determines religious affiliation maternally, the law applies to the grandchild of a Jewish grandfather, even if his mother and grandmother are not Jewish. As a result, some 20 per cent (approximately 250,000) of immigrants from the former Soviet Union qualify for Israeli citizenship even though they are non-Jews according to religious law.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

In an effort to limit the number of non-Jewish immigrants, the Shas party's proposed amendment would have limited the ability of those with a Jewish grandfather to enter Israel under the Law of Return, unless the grandfather himself immigrated as well. If accepted, the amendment could have led to complicated, even bizarre scenarios: a Christian priest with a Jewish grandmother and Jewish father might have been covered under the law, despite not being halachically Jewish. In contrast, the Zionist, Hebrew-speaking son of a Jewish father and Jewish grandfather would not be covered by the law if his grandfather was deceased and could not immigrate with him.

The government rightly rejected this clumsy amendment, but the attendant debate pointed to a deeper, discernable trend in the Israeli public discourse – the concern for the country's Jewish majority. Three factors have made this historic concern more pressing in recent months. First, the Russian immigration of the last decade has created a significant minority of non-Jewish citizens who are not Arabs for the first time in Israel's history. Second, the decline in Palestinian workers from the territories has created a growing demand for foreign workers to perform menial jobs. Today, there are more foreign workers than unemployed Israelis.

Finally, the sense that a negotiated agreement with the Palestinians is virtually impossible at present has revived "the demographic question." When nearly 20 per cent of Israelis are either Arabs or other non-Jews, preservation of a Jewish majority necessitates tough choices with regard to the Palestinians in the territories. The arguments are known and the alternatives are stark: If prolonged reoccupation is necessary for security reasons, Israel can maintain a Jewish majority over time only by denying the Palestinians full civil rights or by somehow removing them from the area. Neither of these options is palatable to most Israelis.

In the absence of easy prospects for negotiations, it is not surprising that people are drawn to extreme responses. Prof. Danny Gottwein of Haifa University recently distinguished between two kinds of separation – territorial and national. As clear-cut territorial separation with the Palestinians seems more distant due to current security imperatives, the more elusive option of national separation appears to be taking hold. By definition, it is difficult to implement such a principle without the appearance or reality of discrimination on ethnic or religious grounds. This, in turn, hits at the very core of Israel's identity as a Jewish and democratic state.

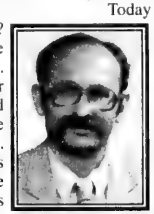
There is no simple resolution for these existential questions. Both left and right wing in the political debate use the demographic argument to reinforce their respective positions on the territories. At the same time, the changed demographic reality inside Israel has spawned some initiatives that would have been unheard of in the past. For example, last month, a private member's bill to allow civil marriage for those Israeli residents precluded from religious marriages was reintroduced in the Knesset. In a country in which only religious marriage is permitted (for members of any religion), non-Jewish Russian citizens who serve in the army and fulfil other duties of citizenship are unable to marry in Israel and have been forced to do so abroad.

These issues are far too critical to be left only to rabbis or legislators with political agendas. Regardless of the next steps with the Palestinians, these are critical questions for Israelis themselves. A broad public debate is required to determine identity and practice for the country in the decades to come.

Going to summer camp

Any study of Jewish identity in North America has to recognize the key role played by Jewish summer camps. They have been a major force in the socialization of Jewish children.

What is Jewish about these camps? In fact, the range is impressive. Some camps are only minimally Jewish. These are mainly private summer camps where most of the campers and staff are Jewish, and the food may be kosher or kosher style. And that is all. Others are Jewish community camps of various sorts, where almost all the kids and staff are Jewish, the food is usually kosher, some Shabbat ceremonies or observances are practised, and periodic doses of Jewish content are included in the program.



Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

At the other end of the spectrum are religious camps where Jewish learning takes place, or Zionist camps with explicit elements of Zionist or Israeli programming. Both of these would also use Hebrew words and sing Hebrew songs, religious or secular.

This summer, one hopes there will be a new priority on the programming agenda of Jewish summer camps. At this critical moment facing Israel, one hopes that these camps, especially those with ties to Jewish communities or movements – will try to increase the Israel component of their programming. Indeed, as high school trips to Israel are cancelled, the summer camps must serve as surrogate Israels for many Jewish teens. Indeed, some of the communal funding earmarked for Israel programming might be deliberately diverted to summer camps. Fun should remain paramount. But it is possible to combine fun with the creation of a strong pro-Jewish and pro-Israel identity.

Today Jewish camps range from the very posh to the rather Spartan. Some community camps have scholarships for low-income families. At the other end of the spectrum, many Jewish camps have to compete with highly specialized camps that cater to affluent families, featuring things like computer workshops, the latest in photography and film, tennis or sports specialties, artistic expression and the like. Some of these fancy-schmancy or specialty camps are less places for kids to relax and "chill," and more continuations of the pressures of school and the need for extra-curricular achievement. Yet kids seem to like them, and they pose a challenge to the more generalized Jewish camp.

One hears that enrolment figures in Canadian Jewish summer camps remain strong. I hope this is true, although it would be remarkable, since an increasing number of Canadian Jewish youths seem to be going to American camps, either as campers or to work as counsellors or specialists.

One of the ongoing debates among Jewish researchers is the degree to which a Jewish summer camp experience is effective, compared to Jewish schooling, Jewish family life, or trips to Israel, in inculcating Jewish identity. The little research that exists shows a positive association between summer camp experiences and subsequent measures of Jewish identity, though it is hard to estimate if one kind of Jewish input works "better" than another. Certainly, for those Jewish children who have little formal Jewish schooling and a minimally Jewish home, a Jewish summer camp experience may be crucial.

But it is not surprising that the camps have some positive effect on later Jewishness. How could they not? The campers are away from the supervision of nagging parents and the routine of school and homework, out in the country and fresh air. Camp activities are usually varied enough – sports, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, music, drama—that most kids find something they really enjoy. Hormones are raging. So anything associated with that fun experience – it being a Jewish camp – is seen positively.

I attended a Hebrew-speaking camp, Camp Massad, in the Laurentian mountains north of Montreal, eight years as a camper and two as a counsellor. I speak for many other "Massadniks" of the 1950s and 1960s who would confirm the impact of that experience on their subsequent Jewish commitments.

For those Jewish camps that are co-ed, the importance of the social scene cannot be underestimated. I would love to get some global estimate of the numbers of Jewish marriages that have taken place in North America between people who met at summer camp. And even where there are no marriages, many young Jews get their first taste of romance and dating in summer camp – with a Jewish partner. That is as crucial a foundation as any for Jewish continuity.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

Summer's long, lazy days beckon readers with an outpouring of new, eclectic books for all tastes...

In terms of emotional and historical resonance, Israel's capture of eastern Jerusalem was one of the highlights of the Six Day War, the 35th anniversary of which was marked last month. The late Mordechai Gur, who commanded Israeli forces in Jerusalem, wrote an informative account of that moment – *The Battle for Jerusalem* – in 1974. The English version, ably translated by Philip Gillon and published by ibooks, is now out in print.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

What accounts for the fact that the proportion of Christians living in the Middle East has dropped significantly in the past century? American foreign correspondent Charles Sennott grapples with this issue in *The Body and the Blood* (HarperCollins), a journalistic pilgrimage based on visits to Israel, Lebanon and Egypt, where Christian flight is most apparent.

Kathleen Christison, a former CIA analyst, has a bone to pick with U.S. foreign policy in the Mideast. In *Perceptions of Palestine* (University of California Press), a pro-Palestinian tract, she claims that the United States has never had a balanced policy. Rather than addressing the needs of both sides, she argues in this historical survey, Washington has focused on Israel's security requirements to the exclusion of other issues and has thus failed to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion.

Said Aburish, a seasoned Palestinian writer, excoriates Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, in *Arafat: From Defender to Dictator* (Raincoast Books). His thesis is that Arafat has been corrupted by power, is out of touch with reality and has become just another Arab dictator.

Since the horrific events of Sept. 11, Islam has been much in the news. In *Islam: A Concise Introduction* (HarperCollins), Huston Smith offers an explanation of its mass appeal and deals with such timely topics as the meaning of jihad and the growth of Islam in the United States.

Jews were profoundly influenced by eight centuries of Persian, Greek and Roman domination. Seth Schwartz delves into this intriguing aspect of the Jewish experience in a masterful book, *Imperialism and Jewish Society, 200 B.C.E to 640 C.E.* (Princeton University Press).

Although Palestine was the cradle of Jewish culture, the Jews of classical antiquity dwelled mainly in Greece, Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia and Asia Minor. In *Diaspora: Jews Amidst Greeks and Romans* (Harvard University Press), Erich Gruen deftly explores their lives, their institutions and the sporadic harassment to which they were subjected.

Judaism is supposedly indifferent, even hostile, to the visual arts. But in *The Artless Jew: Medieval and Modern Affirmations and Denials of the Visual* (Princeton University Press), Kalman Bland overturns the assumption of Jewish iconophobia.

Shmuley Boteach, author of *Kosher Sex*, turns his attention to the basics in *Judaism for Everyone* (HarperCollins), an engaging primer in which Judaism is portrayed as a faith attuned to the needs of modern life. A companion volume, *Rekindling the Faith* (Harcourt), by Samuel Osherson, is written for assimilated, intermarried and non-observant Jews interested in making Judaism a part of their lives.

Marriage, one of the key commandments in Judaism, is sealed by a marriage contract. *Ketubbot* (Pomegranate) presents 40 beautifully decorated marriage contracts from the Jewish Museum in New York.

Proverbs: The Wisdom of Solomon (Random House), translated and introduced by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, is a book of pithy aphorisms, the key themes of which run from self-discipline to personal integrity.

Is the Torah letter-perfect? Barry Levy's *Fixing God's Torah* (Oxford University Press) examines this complex question through a meticulous examination of rabbinic writings.

Due to its connection with Purim, the Book of Esther is one of the most enjoyed books of the Bible. Adele Berlin, in *Esther* (Jewish Publication Society), provides a line-by-line commentary of this biblical text. Bruce Feiler, in *Walking the Bible* (HarperCollins), walks a reader through the five books of Moses, an arduous trek through five countries that magically connects biblical stories to actual sites.

Hebrew manuscripts are a window into Jewish intellectual, religious and everyday life in the Middle Ages. *Hebrew Manuscripts of the Middle Ages* (Cambridge University Press), by Colette Sirat, is the last word on this topic.

Judaica meets Americana in *Judaikitsch: Tchotschkes, Schmattes and Noshere* (Raincoast Books), a funky, off-kilter collection of crafts and collectibles for every (?) home.

Yale University's user-friendly *Modern English-Hebrew Dictionary*, edited by Avraham Zilkha, contains 30,000 entries and includes newly-coined words, contemporary technical expressions and common idioms.

Isaac Babel (1894-1940) is one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, and his legacy grows by the year. *The Complete Works of Isaac Babel*, edited by his daughter Nathalie and introduced by Cynthia Ozick, has been published by W.W. Norton & Company.

The One Facing Us (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), Ronit Matalon's impressive first novel in English, is set in Israel, Africa and the United States, charged with family history and animated by the mysteries of cultural exile.

Neurotica (Bantam Books) is most unusual – a book by Jewish writers, ranging from Saul Bellow and Isaac Bashevis Singer to Henry Roth and Jerzy Kosinski, on every conceivable dimension of sex.

Hasia Diner investigates a subject the vast majority of scholars completely ignore: the culinary habits of new immigrants. In *Hungering for America* (Harvard University Press), she zeroes in on the changing food habits of three such groups – Jews, Italians and Irish – and does so with generous dollops of panache.

Maya Plisetskaya, a Jewish prima ballerina during the Soviet era, has written her memoirs. *I, Maya Plisetskaya* (Yale University Press), is quite interesting, but curiously enough, she alludes to her Jewish background only very indirectly.

Holocaust survivors continue to bear witness. Vera Schiff, in *Hitler's Inferno* (Raj Publishing), poignantly describes the fate of eight people, relatives and friends, during the nightmare of the Holocaust.

No One Awaiting Me (University of Calgary Press), by Joil Alpern, is the inspirational story of two orphaned brothers whose grit enabled them to survive the Holocaust in Romania. *Reclaiming the Past*, by Emery Gregus (self-published), vividly recreates the shoah as it unfolded in Hungary. *Hanna's Diary, 1938-1941* (McGill-Queen's University Press), by Hanna Spencer, touches on the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia from a very personal vantage point. *Light from the Ashes* (The University of Michigan Press), edited by Peter Suedfeld, assesses the impact of the Holocaust on young survivors with respect to their personalities, values and choice of careers. *First Words* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), by Rosetta Loy, describes the Holocaust in Italy from the viewpoint of an observant, empathetic Catholic girl. *The Avengers* (Alfred A. Knopf), by Rich Cohen, turns on a band of Jewish partisans in Vilna, led by Abba Kovner, who battled the Germans, hatched a plan to kill Nazis and fought for Israel in the War of Independence.

There are no shortage of Holocaust deniers, from Ernst Zundel to David Irving, and *Denying History* (University of California Press), by Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman, takes a close look at them.

The men who conceived and orchestrated the Holocaust, ranging from Hermann Goering to Heinrich Himmler, are thoroughly profiled by Guido Knopp in *Hitler's Henchmen* (Oxford University Press). *Goebbels* (Harcourt Brace), Ralf Georg Reuth's vivid biography of Joseph Goebbels, Nazi Germany's minister of propaganda, plumbs a black soul. *Speer: The Final Verdict* (HarperCollins), Joachim Fest's biography of Albert Speer, Adolf Hitler's architect and minister of armaments, analyzes a man of immense contradictions. *Hitler and the Holocaust* (Random House), by Robert Wistrich, is a superb example of the historian's craft. *Hitler Stopped by Franco* (Marbella House), by Jane and Burt Boyar, posits the theory that Spain's strongman, Francisco Franco, played an indirect role in Germany's defeat and the rescue of 60,000 Jewish refugees. *Social Outsiders in Nazi Germany* (Princeton University Press) concentrates on so-called undesirables, from Jews to homosexuals, that Hitler's regime sought to exterminate. The erudite essays in this excellent volume are edited by Robert Gellately and Nathan Stoltzfus, both of whom are experts on Nazi Germany.

War Crimes of the Deutsche Bank and the Dresdner Bank (Holmes & Meier), edited by Christopher Simpson, is an illuminating, jolting study of two large German banks during the infamy of the Third Reich. Michael Burleigh's *The Third Reich: A New History* (Hill and Wang) is a magisterial analysis of Nazi Germany from every conceivable angle. Read it and cringe. *The Man Who Invented the Third Reich* (Sutton), by Stan Lauryssens, is a discerning biography of Arthur Moeller van den Bruck, a now-obscure person who greatly influenced Hitler.

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Jewish Life

An ongoing message

By RACHAEL TURKIENIEZ

The fast of Tisha b'Av is approaching and it is important to ask ourselves why we are told to fast. Certainly the historic answer is the usual one: both the first and the second Temples were destroyed on this day, and therefore we fast as a sign of mourning.

Likewise, all the fast periods that surround these months are connected to historical events. For example, we fast on the date we believe the walls of Jerusalem were breached (17th of Tammuz). All these fasts are linked to events that ultimately end in the destruction of the Temples and the exile of the Jewish people from their homeland.

Though Tisha b'Av sits amid other fasts that connect to a historical progression (the Temple fasts), it stands out from them because it is considered a major fast – in other words, it lasts 24 hours. It is unusual in Judaism to enact a major fast merely because it marks a past event.

The rabbis of the Talmud generally discourage fasting and criticize those who engage in too many personal fasts. When we are told to refrain from eating and drinking, it is most often in order to repent so that we can improve ourselves. Sometimes specific contemporary events will call for a fast in order to avert a disaster. Rarely do we engage in a fast simply to mark a historical event, and even more rarely would that fast last for 24 hours. So why do we fast on Tisha b'Av?

Perhaps the answer lies in the writings of the prophets, particularly Jeremiah. On Tisha b'Av we read Jeremiah's book of Lamentations, which describes the ruins of Jerusalem and the devastation brought upon the people. Jeremiah lived in the time of the first Temple, and despite his repeated and lengthy warnings, the Israelites refused to consider the possibility that they could lose it all. Jeremiah bore witness to the truth of his prophecies when he lived through the events. We hear his heart breaking in the book's words.

It is true we mourn the loss of the Temples and the ensuing exile. But we also mourn our own ignorance in not heeding any of the warnings. We are taught in Jewish law that before anyone can be found guilty of a capital crime, it must be proved that they were warned and committed the act with full knowledge. We lost the Temple, we lost everything, because we were warned and we remained deaf.

Jeremiah was a prophet who was well aware of the politics of his time. His warnings included theological messages as well as political ones. Sometimes the words of prophecy serve to clarify logical consequences. Today we would say that we failed to "read the handwriting on the wall."

We fast on Tisha b'Av, not because we are marking history, but because we are hoping to learn from it. It is not a mere anniversary but an ongoing warning. The midrash relates a passage where God goes to Jerusalem as it lies in ruins. The ministering angels are accompanying Him and Jeremiah is leading the way. Upon seeing the ruins and the desolation, God weeps and cries out in anguish: "My children, where are you? My priests, My Levites, where are you? What else could I do... I kept warning you again and again."

Why Israel searches ambulances

MYTH:

Israel prevents Palestinian ambulances from taking sick and injured Palestinians to hospitals.

FACT:

One of the unfortunate results of the violence during the current intifadah has been the allegations of Israeli abuse against Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances. Various human rights groups, and politicians throughout the Arab world, have accused Israel of gratuitously delaying ambulances attempting to cross from the West Bank into Israel proper, resulting in inconveniences, medical complications, and even death to the sick passengers on board. These accounts tend to portray the delays as wanton acts of cruelty on the part of Israeli soldiers against Palestinians in need of medical attention.

These allegations are correct in one regard: ambulances are indeed stopped and searched at Israeli checkpoints. They fail, however, to put the facts into a broader context. The reason that ambulances have been held and searched at checkpoints is due to the very real threat that they pose to Israel and its citizens. Ambulances have frequently been used as a means to transport terrorist bombs, and many of the militants who have triggered suicide bombings in Israel gained access by driving or riding in Red Crescent ambulances.

For example: On May 17, 2002, an explosive belt was found in a Red Crescent ambulance at a checkpoint near Ramallah. The bomb, the same type generally used in suicide bombings, was hidden under a gurney on which a sick child was lying. The driver, Islam Jibril, was already wanted by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), and he admitted that this was not the first time that an ambulance had been used to transport explosives or terrorists. According to Jibril, he was given the bomb by Mahmoud Titi, a member of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which the U.S. State Department has listed as a terrorist organization and which is affiliated with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

The bomb was removed from the ambulance and detonated in the presence of a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In a statement issued the same day, the ICRC said it "understands the security concerns of the Israeli authorities, and has always acknowledged their right to check ambulances, provided it does not unduly delay medical evacuations." Soldiers escorted the ambulance's sick passengers to a nearby hospital.

In January 2002, Wafa Idris blew herself up on crowded Jaffa Street in Jerusalem, becoming one of the first female suicide bombers. She was an ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent, as was Mohammed Hababa, the Tanzim operative who sent her on her mission. Idris left the West Bank by way of an ambulance.

In October 2001, Nidal Nazal, a Hamas operative in Kalkilya, was arrested by the IDF. He was an ambulance driver for the Palestinian Red Crescent, and information indicates that he exploited his privileges of unrestricted travel to serve as a messenger between the Hamas headquarters in several West Bank towns.

The accusations levelled against Israel by its critics have frequently been based on statements of international law, such as the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is true that the Geneva Convention does place particular emphasis on the immunity and neutrality of ambulances and emergency medical personnel. But the conclusion that Israel must ignore a clear and present danger to its citizens, or else violate international law, is a distortion. It is in fact the Palestinian terrorists, who are using ambulances to smuggle explosives into Israel, that are compromising the Red Crescent's immunity and neutrality.

Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.

Jewish Life

Tisha b'Av & acts of kindness

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

We are now in the period called The Three Weeks, the traditional time of mourning when we remember the destruction of the Temples and other Jewish catastrophes that have occurred on Tisha b'Av.

Sometimes it may be hard to relate to disasters that happened 2,000 years ago. But the Talmud makes those events feel relevant when it explains that the Second Temple was destroyed because of *sinat chinam*, baseless hatred between Jews. The story is told of a man named Bar-Kamtza who was mistakenly invited to a feast. When the error was discovered, Bar-Kamtza was humiliated and told to leave. In return, Bar-Kamtza became an informant to Caesar. **[http://www.ou.org/yerushalayim/tishabav/kamtza.htm]**

As the Ohr Somayach Web site illustrates, baseless hatred is unfortunately an all too modern phenomenon. For example, how many people who feel wronged in an inheritance choose to drag the case through the courts just to make sure the other side gets nothing? The site illustrates this hatred with the following parable: A king told a person, "Ask for anything you desire and I'll give it to you, and to your enemy I'll give double." After thinking awhile he said, "O, King, poke out one of my eyes." **[http://www.ohr.org.il/special/9av/tishabav.htm]**

Of course, there is much good out there, too. And many wonderful sites on the Internet that focus on *gemilut chasadim*, acts of kindness, and *ahavat chinam*, acts of selfless love. As Tisha b'Av approaches, here are some of my favourites.

The Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, Md., provides guidelines for three of the central acts of *gemilut chesed*: visiting the sick (*bikur cholim*), hospitality (*hachnasat orchim*) and comforting the mourner (*nichum avelim*.) As the page says, "*Gemilut chesed* is, in the final analysis, an individual act and an individual expression of how we view the world in which we live... In performing acts of *gemilut chesed*, we seek to unify our historic communal and individual experiences by enhancing our individual personal development as Jews, as members of the present generation of the Jewish people, and as members of the human family." **[http://www.jrf.org/adatsmd/gemiched.html]**

Rabbi Rami Shapiro explains that *gemilut chasadim* means putting other people first. But he emphasizes that this "does not mean denigrating yourself or denying yourself happiness. It means taking the other person into account and seeing how what you say and do impacts on those around you." He says that putting the other person first will become natural, but here are some suggestions to get into the swing of things:

- Praise helpful employees to their managers.
- Reply courteously to unsolicited sales calls over the phone.
- Take care of the things that take care of you. Kindness is not simply toward people. The things in your life serve you tirelessly. Maintain your car. Polish your shoes. **[http://shlk.com/107]**

There are several Web sites that speak about random acts of kindness, doing the unexpected to bring joy into the lives of others **[http://www.actsofkindness.org/pdf/teachers_guide.pdf]** Miriam Scheibein writes in the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's *La Nasi* that she has a problem with the "random" factor. "As Jews, we are commanded to visit the sick, clothe the naked, honour the elderly, give tzedakah, and perform *gemilut chasadim*, acts of loving kindness. Thus, these acts are not random; they are obligations." **[http://www.usy.org/yourusy/communications/lanasi/pdf/1997winter.pdf]**

Alan Feder was forced to be kind – and he thinks it was a good idea. Feder is a student at Ramaz Upper School in Manhattan, where he and his classmates are required to perform 40 hours of chesed. He feels that many of his classmates who normally put in nine-hour school days wouldn't find time to volunteer unless it was required. But many enjoyed it so much that they continued to volunteer even after the program was finished. **[http://www.thejewishweek.com/bottom/freshink_content.php3?artid=102]**

For other acts of chesed, here are some sites: Mazornet's Chessed World **[http://www.mazornet.com/jewishcl/chessed.htm]**, Chesednet **[http://www.chesednet.org/]** and the Ziv Tzedakah Fund **[http://ziv.org/]**.

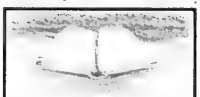
* * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at [highway@rogers.com].

Commemorating Tisha b'Av

By RABBI MARTIN J. BERMAN

Soon we will be commemorating Tisha b'Av, when we mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples. Our ancient sages believed that the cause of the destruction of the Second Temple was *sinat chinam* (senseless hatred). Josephus, in his history of the period, writes about the various groups among the population and adds weight to the rabbis' analysis of the events. The Jewish people were divided and fought among themselves. He notes that Jews were killing Jews while the Romans stood outside the walls of Jerusalem.



In contrast to this reality was the ideal that all of Israel is responsible one for the other. We are not isolated individuals, but we are part of a whole known as the people of Israel. The concept is wonderful, but the reality is something else. We are not united, and not even threats to the existence of the State of Israel are enough to truly bring us all together. Our political differences, our religious differences, our ethnic differences all too often stand in the way of truly relating as one people.

This is not new. From the days of the Second Temple to modern times, we have been a people divided. The question is not how to eliminate the divisions – that is impossible – but how to live with them. How do we acknowledge that we are one while we also hold divergent views on life?

I have recently become president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis (TBR). The TBR is made up of rabbis from every denominational group. There are Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform rabbis who participate in this body. We do not think alike, we do not act alike and we do not always agree on the important issues. But we do sit together, we do talk together and we do respect each other, no matter what divides us, because we firmly believe that what unites us is more important than what divides us.

Ours is not a perfect model. We can't always act on behalf of our religious constituencies the way we would like because of those differences. Yet, it is important to note that we often can come together to serve the entire Jewish community, especially during times of crisis such the one we are in now.

I wish that we could find a way to bring together more of the rabbinic community of Toronto to share in the common effort, but I understand that this will not come to be. But I do ask that the general Jewish community urge its rabbinic leadership to be involved in efforts that will unite us. We do not have to agree on the religious positions of others. But we do have to recognize that our strength as a community is fostered by our coming together, and we are weakened when we can not even sit together and talk.

Rabbi Martin J. Berman is spiritual leader of Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill, Ont.

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Child survivors to gather in Toronto in October

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Among child survivors of the Holocaust, Eve Bergstein's experiences were not altogether unique. Nevertheless, they entail the kind of drama and plot twists that no Hollywood script writer could imagine.

Born in Staszow, Poland, a small town southeast of Warsaw, Bergstein was only five years old when the Nazi hammer fell. Fearing arrest by German forces, her parents handed her to a Roman Catholic couple who lived on a farm and who promised to take care of her. She stayed there, along with two young cousins, until workers on the farm betrayed them to the Gestapo.

The host family, hearing that the Gestapo was about to swoop down on them, hurriedly took the youngsters, who ranged in age from four to six, to a nearby convent and turned them over to the Catholic sisters.

Bergstein remained in the convent for three years, terrified of telling anyone she was really Jewish. During that time, she was separated from her cousins, who were caught and killed by the Nazis.

Near the end of the war, Bergstein herself was almost killed when the convent was bombed and she was caught under a pile of rubble. Luckily, the family that had placed her at the convent learned of the bombing and came to extricate her from the debris. She was taken in by the family and lived with them for one year until her uncle, who had survived Auschwitz but whose two children had been killed, found her and took her into his care.

Eventually he arranged for Bergstein to be reunited with her aunt, Rivka Applebaum, in Toronto while he emigrated to Brazil, where his uncle resided.

Now 65, Bergstein has told her story many times to school children attending Holocaust awareness programs. She's also an active participant in a local chapter of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust.

Bergstein, along with Anita Ekstein, another child survivor, serve as co-chairs of the group's 11th annual International Child Survivors Conference, which will be held in Toronto from Friday, Oct. 11 to Monday, Oct. 14 at the Regal Constellation Hotel. Staged only for the second time in Canada – Montreal hosted the 1994 event – organizers are encouraging participants to sign up before the Aug. 1 early registration deadline.

The conference will feature numerous workshops, seminars and keynote speakers. Rabbi Dow Marmur and psychiatrist Robert Krell, both child survivors, are keynote speakers. Madame Justice Rosalie Abella and author Lev Raphael, who are children of survivors, will also address the conference.

The Toronto conference, whose theme is "Sharing the Past, Celebrating Life," serves an important function in the lives of child survivors, Bergstein said.

"It's an opportunity to meet other people who had a similar life experience. It's very important for child survivors. We do not have a community of survivors like older people did. We were younger and were more interested in becoming Canadians."

Many child survivors did not have friends who shared similar experiences and did not have anyone to discuss the kind of unique traumatic issues that concerned them, Bergstein said.

Many continue to be troubled by questions of identity. Though born Jewish, they were hidden in non-Jewish homes and convents and subsequently had very little contact with the Jewish community, she said.

The 1991 conference in New York, which drew 1,600 people, was attended by about 20 women from Poland who had been told only late in life that they were born Jewish.

"Their mothers are saying to them, on their deathbeds, that they were Jews," Bergstein said.

Two such women from Poland and one from Croatia will likely attend the Toronto conference, she added.

A total of 350 people from around the world are expected at the Toronto conference. Since the first conference in 1991, the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust (www.fjcsh.org) has expanded to 48 chapters around the world. They have held meetings in Prague, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Washington and Miami.

Cost of the Toronto conference is $350, which includes all meals and materials.

TORAH CEREMONY: **Grade 2 students of Leo Baeck Day School celebrate their study of the Book of Genesis with a Torah ceremony telling the story in song, words and movement for their parents and grandparents.**

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am very concerned about my teenage daughter. She has stopped eating meat and poultry and I am worried that she isn't getting any protein. What other sources of protein are there?

A. Eggs, dairy products, soy, fish and a grain called quinoa are all complete sources of protein. Other sources that are incomplete proteins include nuts and legumes (i.e. chick peas, kidney beans, lentils etc.).

Q. My daughter is nine months old and I know that she can now eat egg yolks. Is it okay for her to have raw egg yolks? I make a sauce for pasta with raw yolks.

A. No. While it is okay for her to have egg yolks now, they must be fully cooked to prevent food poisoning.

Q. My daughter has always loved grapes and eats them daily. She really gets mad when I cut them up, because she thinks they look like much more fun whole. She is now 2½. Until what age should I continue to cut them?

A. In order to prevent dangerous choking, you should continue to cut her grapes and other round foods until age four. Good for you for sticking to it; it's so important.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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Greater Toronto Area

Nili Kopstick, manager of product training for RBC Global Services, holds up the black and gold house dress she wore in the international fashion show at the Royal Bank's recent cultural event for its employees. Kopstick is standing in the Jewish/Israeli booth she helped to run.

Royal Bank festival celebrates diversity

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

Nili Kopstick stands behind a table laiden with Shabbat finery – challah, candlesticks, wine and Jewish specialties like rugalach. Suddenly, a woman walks by the table and grabs a knish. But rather than being distressed, Kopstick encourages the woman to continue noshing. "Oh yeah – eat, eat!" Kopstick tells her in typical Jewish mother fashion.

While Kopstick may be acting like a typical Jewish mother, this is far from a typical Shabbat meal. But it is a celebration of sorts – Royal Bank's third annual cultural event, on June 21 in downtown Toronto, was a festival for employees featuring booths and entertainment from 17 countries, including the Philippines, Italy, Poland and Africa.

Aside from featuring Shabbat-related items, the Jewish/Israeli booth, which Kopstick helped run, also displayed brochures about Israel and Israeli products. But while the booth offered passers-by a window into Shabbat and the opportunity to learn about Israel, it gave no hint of the conflict ravaging the Jewish State.

"It is not a political event," explained Reuven Rashkovsky, senior manager in the Royal Bank's risk management group, in an interview before the event.

"It is cultural, for people to display their ethnic food, singing and dancing."

This sharing of customs and traditions is vital, said Paya Khondo, a booth volunteer and systems analyst at the bank.

"It is important to show (that) people can live and work together from different cultures."

In addition to being a type of cultural exchange, the event was meant to display the diversity of the bank's workforce, Rashkovsky said.

"It is for people at the bank to demonstrate we are all equal and the bank provides equal employment opportunity."

The festival was also a good venue for highlighting Israel's attributes, said Kopstick, manager of product training for RBC Global Services. "Because of what is going on, we wanted to focus on the beauty of Israel and how productive she is," Kopstick said.

Two young women sang Israeli songs part way through the day, and Kopstick participated in the event's international fashion show, wearing a long black and gold house dress typically worn by Israeli women from Middle Eastern countries.

Jewish teens win Canadian Millennium Scholarships

Four local Jewish teenagers who recently graduated from high school have each won one of 900 cash awards from the federal government's Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, to be used for their education at a Canadian college or university.

Receiving a renewable $4,800 award is Stacy Saltzman from Westmount Collegiate Institute in Thornhill. Receiving one-time prizes of $4,000 apiece are: Jordan Friedman, from Richmond Hill High School; Darryl Silverstein, from Westmount Collegiate; and Barak Marcos from Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton.

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Yiddish concert draws over 1,000 people

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Despite the recent Toronto heat wave, more than 1,000 people attended the Summer Yiddish Concert at the Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

Sponsored by the Committee for Yiddish at UJA Federation, with support from the Toronto Arts Council, the 32nd annual concert, titled Between Two Worlds: Yiddish Songs in Europe and North America, confirmed that Yiddish is alive and well in Toronto.

"The Yiddish summer concert was started as a way of bringing our Yiddish language and culture as part of our Jewish heritage to the community," said Bess Shockett, chair of the concert committee. "What better way to do it than through music?"

Many come to hear a Yiddish *vort*, she added.

"We have attracted thousands of people, young and old through these concerts which have been held in different parts of the city."

The program presented refreshing and creative interpretations of traditional and post-modern klezmer music, with Russian, Jamaican, Romanian, Spanish and other world sounds incorporated into what was once considered standard klezmer.

From the lively opening instrumental, *Dem Tsadik's Zemerl*, by Eric Stein's klezmer ensemble Beyond the Pale, the audience clapped delightedly and sang along to the music.

Stein, a leading figure in Toronto's Jewish music scene, played his arrangements on the mandolin and cimbalom. He was joined by Bogdan Djukic on violin and percussion, Bret Higgins on bass, Milos Popovic on accordion and Martin Van de Ven on clarinet.

Vocalists Bronna Levy, Stella Walker, and Dave Wall also performed.

Following the opening remarks by the evening's MC, David Abramowitz, the three singers joined Beyond the Pale in a rendition of Itsik Manger's *Hey Klezmorim*.

Levy, who has appeared in a variety of leading and supporting roles for the Yiddish Theatre of the Sadie Bronfman Centre, sang the gentle and lilting *Di Goldene Pave* (the Golden Peacock) from a poem by Anna Margolin and with music by Chava Alberstein, as well as spirited renditions of Mordecai Gebertig's *'Kum Leybke Tantsn* (Come Leybke dance) and the calypso-style *Yanek's Chasene* (Yanek's Wedding), which the audience received enthusiastically.

Walker, who came to Toronto from Vancouver a decade ago, has been active in the Yiddish/klezmer revival and has appeared with many klezmer bands. The singer, who is also an actress and comedian who has appeared on CBC and the Comedy Network, performed *Ich Hob Dikh Tsufil Lib* and the Bagelman Sisters' (later known as the Barry Sister) hit song *Sheyn Vi Di Levone*.

Continuing in the Barry Sister's tradition, Levy joined Walker in the moving *Eyshes Chayil* by composers Isadore Lillian and Joseph Rumshinsky. Yugoslavian violinist Djukic, who came to Canada in 1999 and has performed klezmer, Yiddish, Serbian folk and Mexican mariachi music, joined Walker in a memorable performance of the German classic-style song *Harbstlid*.

Wall, a member of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band who has composed and performed music for many film and television productions, performed *Vander Ich Mir Lustig* and the gypsy sounding *Grine Bleter*.

Susan Jackson brought greetings from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and noted the many programs presented by the federation's Committee for Yiddish throughout the year – Yiddish classes for adults and children, lectures, concerts and participation in Holocaust Education Week.

She noted the efforts of Ethel Sum Cooper, chair of the Committee for Yiddish and the work of the event's committee members.

Cooper said support for Yiddish culture in Toronto is strong and "the time is now right to charge ahead with the creation of the Toronto Yiddish Education and Cultural Centre, a Committee for Yiddish project that has been quietly in the works for the last few years."

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, July 15, is deadline for July 25 issue and Monday, July 22, is deadline for Aug. 1. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, July 11

TORAH ROAD SHOW

Young Professionals: Livnot presents an Alumot Event for Israel Program alumni (and their friends). Join Livnot director of international programs **Shmuel Bowman** for the Torah Road Show, an evening of hyper-topical inter-discussion edu-tainment, fusing Torah insights with real life. 8:30 p.m. at 333 Clark Ave. W. (at Hilda), Suite 703, Thornhill. For more information and RSVP, **Tami** 416-708-7022.

Saturday, July 13

BACK YARD PARTY

Young Professionals: Livnot presents an Alumot Event for Israel Program alumni (and their friends). Join **Shmuel Bowman** (Livnot director of international programs) for a Saturday Night Back Yard Party, with stories from Israel's front lines! A night to remember. See old friends, meet new friends. 10 p.m. at 222 Combe Ave. Call **Tami** 416-708-7022.

Sunday, July 14

MOSES AND THE BIBLE

Did Moses Really Write the Bible? is the subject addressed by **Dr. Joseph Greenbaum**, associate clinical professor of medicine, McMaster University, 8 p.m. at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-886-3810.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group lunch meeting is at noon at Le Commensal vegetarian restaurant, 655 Bay St. (entrance on Elm St.) Guest speaker is singer-songwriter **Grant Waldman**. For information on this event or on the group, call **Howard Koch** 416-663-4076.

Sunday, July 21

A RABBI & A MISSIONARY

The Entertainment & Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present An Encounter Between a Rabbi and a Missionary, a no-holds-barred debate between **Rabbi Michael Skobac** and a determined adversary, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove** co-ordinators. Synagogue office 416-789-3213.

Monday, July 22

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

For parents and families of lesbians and gays. For more information, call **Ruth** 416-763-9111.

Thursday, July 25

CASINO RAMA

Adath Sholom Sisterhood fun-filled trip to Casino Rama. A luxury bus leaves Adath Sholom, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. at 9 a.m. sharp. Cost includes buffet lunch. Phone 416-635-0131 to reserve and prepay.

And What Else Is New

TORAH STUDY

The Jewish Russian Community Centre Institute of Torah Study welcomes you to a summer learning series at 18 Rockford Rd. Men and women welcome. For information, **Chana Weisberg** 416-222-7105.

Sunday, July 14:

- What is Tisha b'Av and How Does It Relate to Me as a Modern Jew? with **Rabbi Yaacov. Schechter**, 8-8:45 p.m.
- The Feminine Side of Tisha b'Av – Transforming Exile Into Redemption with **Chana Weisberg** 9-9:45 p.m.

Continued on page 19

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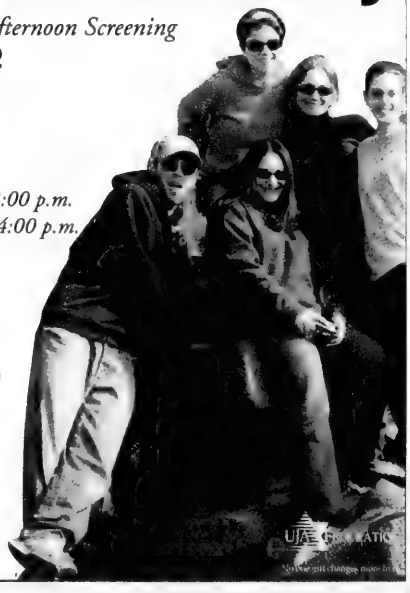


UJA Federation

Continued from page 18

Monday, July 15:

• A Journey of a Nation: What is the Secret of Jewish Survival? with **Rabbi Chaim Hildeshaim** 8-8:45 p.m.

• Coping with Suffering – A Jewish and Psychological Perspective with psychiatrist **Dr. Lionel Gerber**, 9-9:45 p.m.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

North York Women's Centre, 201 Caribou Rd., offers a group program titled Women's Gratitude Gathering. In this workshop you will connect with the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of yourself through expressive and healing arts such as role-play, meditation, sound and drawing. It runs Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2:30-5 p.m., and Wednesday, Aug. 14, 7-9:30 p.m. For information, call 416-781-0479.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto is offering Social Skills Programs for children/adolescents with learning disabilities and ADHD for ages 6-16. For information, call program co-ordinator **Mimi Hoffman** 416-229-1680.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting Thursday, July 25, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic is a general briefing on Israel. Speaker **Jesse Guberman** of the Consulate of Israel. For information, call **Goldie** 416-635-2860.

LZA Seniors cultural club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Please note – a Valentine's party July 20. Regular activities: July 11, sing-along; July 18, bingo; July 20, party; July 25, out for dinner. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Casino Rama July 17, 31, Aug. 14, 28; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., July 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Sunday dances with live band, July and August every Sunday 7-10 p.m. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Summer Learning Series for Seniors with gerontologist **Rheta Rosen** concludes Wednesday, July 17. Topic is Assertive Communication, 10 a.m. to noon at Bernard Betel.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna**, ext. 119.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

Bereavement Group, meeting the needs of spouses ages 55 and older living in the community. This support group offers understanding about the issues of loss, loneliness, pain and healing. For information regarding dates and times, contact **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

Summer Splash, an afternoon under the sun, Thursday, July 25, 1:30-3 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in person at Wagman Service Desk. For information, **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275.

Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, July 30, at the Gathering Place Reserve in person at service desk. For information, **Mara**, ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

New dance school opens! Koffler Centre of the Arts announces the opening of the Academy of Ballet & Jazz at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. New artistic director is **Nadia Vessevova-Tencer.** Fall registration now open. Registration office, Room 106. For information, ext. 258.

Classes offered: Master ballet classes with **Nadia** – Hip Hop; jazz, tap, pointe, classical ballet repertoire (ages 12+), ballet floor stretch (for adults) and ballroom dancing. Ages: 3½. For information, ext. 258 or 271.

Making beautiful music together! The Royal Conservatory of Music joins the Koffler Centre of the Arts School of Music. Register now for fall classes. Classes offered: piano, violin, trumpet, guitar, Suzuki violin and piano, singing from scratch, recorder, preparatory music for preschoolers, eurythmics for preschoolers, young musicians band, theory, harmony, history, choir, percussion for kids, adult band and more. Ext. 228.

New show at Koffler Gallery! W. Mark Sutherland's Scratch, sculptural works, sonic poems, book works, videos and audio-visual installations. Artist talk is July 11 at 6 p.m. Opening reception is July 11, 6-8 p.m. Show runs to Sept. 27. For information, ext. 380.

Israeli *shuk* comes to Toronto

Crowded tables piled high with hamsa keychains and challah covers. Merchants and buyers haggling over the price of a loaf of bread. People in a hurry, pushing and knocking into crates of oranges that topple over. Angry vendors swearing under their breath… No other place in Israel showcases Israeli culture more than the *shuk*, the Hebrew word for marketplace.

Olive Branch For Israel, a new non-profit organization that was founded by a group of 20-somethings to educate Canadians about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, plans to bring the *shuk* to Toronto with a big party to launch its Web site later this month.

"We want to give people a snapshot of Israel," says Olive Branch president Grae Sibelman, 29. "We are trying to re-create a youthful Israeli cultural experience that people who would normally be going to Israel are not getting."

The Shuk in the Park event, to be held Sunday, July 28, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Suydam Park, was conceived as a way to raise awareness of Olive Branch while simultaneously raising money for Israel during these difficult times.

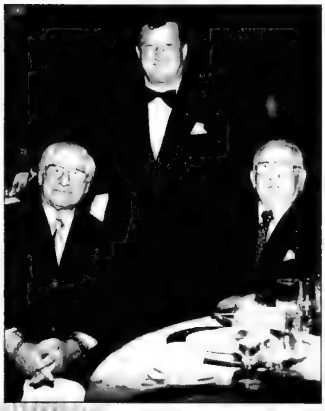
This event will bring vendors from Israel to sell products not usually available in Canada and will also include live entertainment. Among the performers will be an Israeli DJ, bellydancers and Cactus, a Toronto-based Israeli cover band. There will be a nargila café, a drumming circle and a variety of booths providing information on Israel programs. Israeli food will be sold.

Olive Branch For Israel's Web site, currently under construction, will contain data that counteracts inaccurate press, as well as reprinted articles from a variety of sources, including first-hand accounts of the experiences of individuals who have been to Israel in recent months.

Suydam Park is located at Spadina Road, between St. Clair and Eglinton avenues. Admission is free.

If you would like to help with the event or with Olive Branch's Web site, please contact Sibelman at president@olivebranch.org.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: The Association of Jewish Day School Administrators' changing of the guard took place recently for the 2002-2004 term. Seen, from left, are Ira Berman, Eitz Chaim Day School, past president; Bernard Shoub, Board of Jewish Education, secretary-treasurer; Rhona Birenbaum, CHAT, immediate past president; Jerry Solomon, Bnei Akiva Schools, newly installed president; Sonia Shron, Bialik Hebrew Day School, past president; Alan Steinfeld, Netivot HaTorah Day School, past president; Arthur Landa, Associated Hebrew Day Schools, past president. Absent Sue Walsh, United Synagogue Day Schools, newly installed vice-president.



FOUNDING FATHERS: Greenpark's Founding Fathers, (from left) Philip Rechtsman, Carlo Baldassarra and Jack Wine, appear together at the company's 35th anniversary celebration. Baldassarra, Greenpark's president and CEO, paid tribute to his long standing, now retired partners with a donation on their behalf to Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel/Beit Halochem Canada. The company is still owned and operated by the Baldassarra, Wine and Rechtsman families.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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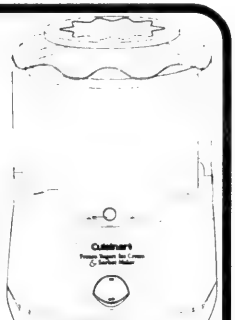

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On Campus

In Israel, life does go on

By ALYSSA SCHWARTZ
Special to The CJN

The slogan may be "Now more than ever," but when it comes to actually visiting Israel, the more common attitude these days seems to be "Now's not the time." But that's exactly the reason I chose to participate in a recent solidarity mission to Israel, organized by Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) and its GAP (graduates and professionals) program.

When I told people I was going, reaction was mixed. My parents were concerned for my safety. When I went to a popular lunch restaurant with my grandmother a couple of days before I left, the owner presented me with a baseball hat and said it was wonderful that I was going. But a lot of people thought I was crazy. My bosses wanted my cell phone number so I could report back on breaking news developments.

Like most North American Jews, watching the events of the past couple of years unfold on CNN and reading about them in the morning paper, I've felt horrified, scared and, more than anything else, helpless.

As a journalist, I felt something else, too – guilty. It's hard not to watch the often biased coverage and not feel some responsibility for my industry. Working mainly with non-Jews who have little or no context for understanding the current situation, I also feel a responsibility to be a spokesperson of sorts. People at work often ask me informally why suicide bombs affect me, even if the victims aren't people I know personally, or they ask for my opinion on Israel moving into the West Bank. Perhaps my answers make them understand a little bit more why the way we report on a story happening so far away can make a difference here. I'm sure it's hard for them to understand where I'm coming from.

Going on the mission gave me the opportunity to take a break from explaining (or maybe it gave me the opportunity to learn how to explain better) and to be with people who felt the same way as I do. During the opening program, we sat in a circle in the plaza by the Kotel and told the group our reasons for participating in the trip. For the most part, our reasons were the same. As we went around the circle, each individual told the group how helpless he or she felt back at home. We had come to express our support for Israel, and more than anything, our unconditional love.

The most moving part of the trip for me was the Israeli reaction to that.

Our Israeli medic, who sat and listened to us, told me after the discussion that she had no idea North Americans felt that way until that moment.

Our visit gave us an opportunity to share those feelings with a number of Israelis. In Jerusalem, where we stayed at the beginning of the trip, we spent most of our time in advocacy workshops, but at night we met informally with Israeli university students who were affiliated with the Jewish Agency. In Eilat, we volunteered on various Toronto-funded projects within the community. Among other things, we volunteered in foster homes and planted a garden from a pile of rocks at a home for people with psychiatric disorders. Though I've visited Israel many times and spent a year of university studying at Hebrew University, that work gave me a feeling of attachment to the Israeli people that I had never before experienced.

On the last day of the program, we visited an elementary school in Gilo. The students had spent weeks preparing dances and songs for us, and their cheers filled the school gym upon our arrival. One 11-year-old girl told our group that the wall of her apartment building had holes in it from mortar fire. She wasn't really afraid, she said, but then she turned to us and asked us why we weren't scared to come to Israel like other tourists.

Students cheered upon our arrival

The visit was filmed by local television crews and, because it coincided with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham's visit to Israel, was even supposed to run on Global news at home that evening. It got bumped because of a suicide bomb in Petach Tikvah.

After the mission ended, I spent an extra week in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with some of the people I'd met on the program. For me, this was when the real solidarity of our journey began.

During the trip, we were not able to explore the streets on our own because of the strict security promised to our parents by JCS. But after the trip, we wandered around Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, bought chocolate rugelach in Machane Yehuda – basically, we did all the things we'd promised our parents back home we wouldn't do. Being in those places, more than anything, gave us the most powerful sense that life does go on, and that despite everything, even now, "am Yisrael chai." Unfortunately, back home, we're exposed to the horrible things. But the most comforting part, the strength of spirit of the people living in Israel now, is something we don't hear enough about.

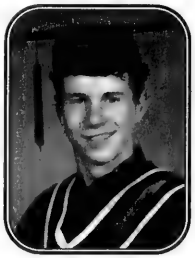
Alyssa Schwartz is a freelance journalist at CTV.ca.

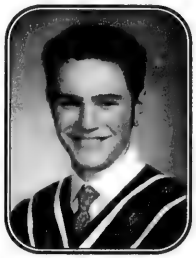
Mazel Tov MOMENTS

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Stanley & Faigie: Fifty years through thick and thin, what wonderful parents you have been. With love, your children, the Chris', the Vertes and Carolyn.





Congratulations Daniel (left) and Gabriel on graduating early from the gifted program at Major Mackenzie. From parents Doris Ender-Nicolau & Harry Nicolau, and sister Inna.

Mazel tov to Steve Feldman on his retirement from teaching. You have touched the lives of many! Best wishes from your family and friends.

Happy 105th birthday to the remarkable William (Velvel) Katz. Love, Ida, Judy & Terry, Howie & Pauline, Ellen, Peter, Caroline, Daniel & Emily.

Happy third birthday to Tamar Michal and happy first birthday to Jacob Charles. Love Mommy & Daddy, Lisa & David Eisen.

Mazel tov to Diana Tamir on graduating from medical school. We wish you the best of luck. Love, your parents Mariana & Andy, and sister Dr. Gaby Tamir.

Mazel tov to Harriet & Morris Altman on 30 years of marriage. Love Bubba, Marc, Elysse, Michael, Jackie and Jackie.

Mazel tov to Tracey & Evan Wilson on the birth of Rachel Elizabeth. Grandparents Frank & Judith Wilson; great-grandmother Jenny Wilson; Aunt Barbi & Uncle Avi.

Mazel tov to Shelley Gershman & Arnold Resnick, who were married June 6 in Toronto.

Mazel tov! Mitch Beube & Rosanne Stein are getting married. Relieved parents are Molly & John Shweid and Bertha & Abe Stein.

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Belleville Jews optimistic about their future

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

BELLEVILLE, Ont. — Joe Burke, 74, was born and still lives here, but his two daughters have left. His longtime buddy, Abe Tobe, 86, who grew up in the house where the first minyan was held in 1905, has no kids. Eleanor Jourard arrived in 1951 and has four children who have all moved away.

After a century of Jewish life in Belleville, the community recently celebrated the bar mitzvah of the last remaining boy.

With the Jewish population decreasing and young people leaving, will this community survive?

"[The] demographics are changing. Fifty years ago these communites were a lot stronger. There used to be a lot more participation," said Michael Soberman, director of community development, Regional Jewish Communites of Ontario (RJCO), an organization that links 27 small Jewish communities together under the banner of United Israel Appeal (UIA). "It's a shame that down the road it will not be the same."

"Everyone wants to be educated [now]. Nobody wants to just come here and open up a store," said Tobe.

"[People] went away to school, [they] got jobs and careers elsewhere," said Jourard, offering her own explanation for why the membership of the Sons of Jacob Synangogue, Belleville's only shul, has dwindled to 30 members, from more than 75 at mid-century.

Belleville's Jewish community was once thriving. Before the arrival of Tobe's father, Moses Tobman, there were only a few Jews in the town, there wasn't a recognized community and no minyan had ever been held. Tobman left Minsk, Belarus (then part of the Russian empire), travelled through England and arrived in Kingston in 1905. His first job sent him to Belleville as a peddler bartering for chickens. After he met Abraham Safe, the two realized the need for a Jewish boarding house in the town.

Inspired, Tobman returned to Kingston, packed his belongings and moved to Belleville by horse and buggy. He rented a house, and in the months that followed, hosted the first minyan in his kitchen.

By the time of the Great Depression, the community had grown to more than 70 families.

"People came here to try to better themselves," said Burke, whose uncle Vova Vechter was the first Hebrew school teacher in Belleville. "The Jewish people always strived to make a good living, to not depend on any kind of welfare or public handouts."

Today, Burke is a healthy man who still owns and operates his own clothing store. He golfs and walks a few miles every morning.

He recalls growing up in a community that threw large Chanukah and Purim parties.

"It's a hard thing to imagine [what it's like] growing up in a small town compared to the strength of Jewish community behind you in the big city," Burke said. "It is difficult to explain what it is like to be an extreme minority here.

Abe Tobe (left) and Joe Burke on Tobe's property.

"My friends [the majority of whom, he said, were not Jewish] felt they had to segregate me. At that era, the Christians didn't know much about Jews. Their interpretation of a Jew was different then it is now. I had to work at being accepted," Burke said.

Despite the fact that the Jews kept to themselves, Burke said he has always felt comfortable in Belleville. Along with all the other children, he attended cheder (Hebrew school) every afternoon.

By the late 1940s, "most people became affluent and took off. [They took] families out to be receptive to Jewish life," he said, adding that people started going away to university and did not return.

"[People] got married and moved to the city. There wasn't the oppurtunity for doctors and lawyers here," added Tobe.

Regardless, most of the Jews who remained prospered. Many opened clothing stores and became merchants.

"[It was all] about hard work and brains," said Burke. He opened his first store when he was 20 years old and has since owned a variety of businesses, including a menswear store that he owned for more than 35 years.

"[You] take advantage of opportunities and have the courage to take gambles."

Tobe and his brother, Zeke, started the Tobe County Gardens and Frosty Freeze Fun Fair, which Tobe says featured the first soft ice-cream in Canada. There were also caged animals, concerts and events on his property. Tobe said many Jews began working for themselves, because "they wouldn't work on Shabbat."

In 1955, with enough capital and resources, the members of the synagogue came together to build Sons of Jacob's current home, moving the shul from its downtown location to a neighbourhood in the east end.

"For me it's very important, but it's a personal thing. If you are a Jew wandering around, it is going to make you feel good to see a shul staring at you," said Burke about the synagogue where he served as president on and off for the last 30 years.

"[The building of the shul was] very important to keep from being assimilated," said Tobe. "[We] always identified with being Jewish."

A Jewish life was extremely important to the community's families, Burke said.

"Intermarriages [were] frowned upon in highest order. Parents were always conscious to keep you in your own boundaries," said Burke.

Neither Tobe or his brother married, because, as Tobe said, "there were no Jewish girls around." Burke was 37 when he brought a Toronto native to Belleville and started a family.

Over the years, said the RJCO's Soberman, the Belleville Jewish community has built a strong relationship with the town's non-Jewish community, with Burke leading the way.

Burke teaches Judaism to a group of non-Jewish students at the synagogue. Recently, Catholics carrying a large cross across Canada in celebration of World Youth Day stopped in front of the shul in Belleville.

Understanding the importance of small towns, he approached the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) more than 25 years ago to ask for help in solving the diminishing population problems in Belleville. Yet, "they had a different vision then," he said, and wouldn't listen to him.

Times have since changed. Now the CJC works alongside the RJCO, attempting to strengthen the communities by offering such programs as a travelling rabbi service. As well, the RJCO has a seat on the UIA's board, which Burke said "gives us a really strong voice."

"The organization is the best thing that [could have] happened," said Burke. "This association saved the small towns. We work together; it is the best thing."

Yet as the community's average age continues to rise, young Jewish people in Belleville can be counted with just a few fingers.

Fred Cowen, 29, is among the youngest in town. The electrical engineer arrived in Belleville from Toronto on a work-term with Proctor & Gamble a year ago, after spending two years in Kobe, Japan.

"[It] is very easy for a person who lives in a small town to move out," said Cowen. "But it is very diffcult for a young person to move from a large town to a small town."

On June 16, the last bar-mitzvah boy and two girls, 10 and 11 years old, graduated from Sunday school. This year, these three students made up the entire class; at the middle of the last century, there were 40 students.

But Jourard, who along with her husband produces a community information bulletin called *The Nudnik*, said that new members have been added to the synagogue's membership list this year.

"We do have a few more members this year," she said. "Things seemed to have picked up. Like all the small towns we do what we can. Belleville seems to be doing better than some."

(Burke said in recent years the town's Jewish population has fluctuated between 25 and 30 members as new members replace members who have died.) The locals who built this warm and welcoming community are optimistic about its future.

"People from the city are starting to not want to live in large towns and in megacities, so they're coming to rural communities," said Tobe. "We have facilities for everything a Jewish person needs to maintain a Jewish life. [The] lifestyle is no different [in Belleville].

"As long as there is one Jew here, the community will survive," said Cowen. "It took until I lived in small communities to uncover my Judaism, who I was and where my roots were."

For more information on the Belleville Jewish community, visit www.lks.net/~soj or call the Sons of Jacob Synagogue at 613-962-1433.

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Canadian teens named 2002 Bronfman Fellows

Four Canadian high school students are among 26 North American Jewish teens named to receive 2002 Bronfman Youth Fellowships, which aim to develop future community leaders committed to Jewish unity.

The four are Talya Kagedan and Hannah Mayne of Ottawa, and Yonah Krakowsky and Talie Shalmon of Toronto.

This summer, they will spend five weeks in Israel with the Youth Fellowships program, launched 16 years ago by Edgar Bronfman, who was a longtime chair of the Seagram Company and is currently president of the World Jewish Congress and chair of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, which sponsors the fellowships.

The 26 fellows — 13 girls and 13 boys — were chosen from 176 applicants.

Kagedan is in Grade 11 at Yitzhak Rabin High School, where she has served on the student council, is on the school senate, leads the women's prayer group and is on the basketball team.

Mayne is in Grade 11 at Lisgar Collegiate Institute, where she is a member of Lisgar Environmental Action Force, and is on the rowing team. She is a certified mashgiach with the Ottawa Vaad Hakashrut and tutors students in Jewish elementary schools.

Krakowsky is a Grade 11 student at Toronto's Yeshivat Or Chaim, where he plays for the varsity basketball team and was student council vice-president, head of the environmental board and a Model United Nations delegate.

Shalom is a visual arts major at Claude Watson School for the Arts, where she hosted a student radio show and was a member of the rugby team and a fashion show designer.

The 26 Bronfman Fellows will spend their time studying the history and traditions that bind Jews together worldwide. The program began July 8, after an orientation seminar in New York City, and will end Aug. 14.

In Israel, the youths will participate in seminars and dialogue with Bronfman Fellowship educational staff, as well as prominent political and literary figures, representing a broad spectrum of views on key political, social and religious issues facing world Jewry.

Each fellow also makes a commitment to do at least 40 hours of community service when returning home after the summer.

CMDA fighting loss of charitable status

Continued from page 3

Historically, CMDA has turned them over directly to Magen David Adom, which is a separate organization.

Drache thinks the decision on ownership will have far-reaching implications not only for groups raising money for Israel, but for all charities supporting overseas work, such as Christian groups that build hospitals or schools in Africa.

Established in 1931, Magen David Adom is Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross. It collects and dispenses blood to medical institutions and has more than 200 emergency first aid stations throughout Israel. It provides services on a non-sectarian basis.

CMDA has its national office in Montreal and a regional office in Toronto. It ships ambulances, medical equipment and other supplies to Israel, which Hersh said are bought in Canada, the United States and sometimes Europe.

Hersh said there appears to be a double standard at work in the tax department when it comes to which donations to the territories are deductible and which are not.

"Another judge asked if the Canadian Red Cross donated money to the territories, would its status be rescinded, and the answer was no. There seems to be a distinction on the basis of whether the money goes to the Palestinians or to Jewish settlers," Hersh said.

Hersh said CMDA has been under scrutiny by the CCRA since the late 1980s, but "tolerance" was shown until about two years ago.

CMDA's only recourse if it loses will be to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to hear an appeal.

The Board and Members of the
Jerusalem Branch, formerly 513, 26, 255
deeply mourn the passing of our beloved Chaver
Louis Kirshenbaum ז"ל
We extend our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife Bea, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Board and Members of the
Independent Friendly Workers Circle
Anielewitch-Zerubavel-Federman Branch
deeply mourn the passing of our beloved Chaver
Nechemia Knobel ז"ל
We extend our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife Shifra, his children, grandchildren and to the entire family.

The Board and Members of the
Independent Friendly Workers Circle
Anielewitch-Zerubavel-Federman Branch
deeply mourn the passing of our beloved Chaver
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We extend our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife Bea, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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The Board, Administration, Staff and Students express their profound sorrow on the passing of

LOU KIRSHENBAUM ז"ל
Life Member of the Bialik Board of Directors

His commitment to the Labour Zionist philosophy and to our school will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

We extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to his family.

The Executive and Members of the
Labour Zionist Movement
Labour Zionist Alliance
Borochov Cultural Centre
Na'amat Canada
Habonim Dror Zionist Youth Movement
Camp Gesher
Canadian Association for Labor Israel
mourn the loss of a beloved Chaver

Louis Kirshenbaum ז"ל
Chairman Labour Zionist Movement

His devotion to the Zionist Movement and his deep dedication to the State of Israel will always be remembered.

We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Bea, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchidren and to the entire family.

Coast to Coast

Winnipeg Women's Campaign co-chairs named

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — At age 39, Beth Goldberg says being asked to co-chair this year's Combined Jewish Appeal Women's Campaign is a special honour that could only come to her in a smaller centre.

"In many other communities, I wouldn't have had this opportunity for many years," says Goldberg, the Winnipeg Jewish community's 1995 Max Nathanson Young Leadership Award winner. "There are not many people my age given the chance to take on these kinds of jobs."

Goldberg will co-chair the campaign with Mira Buchwald, who is co-chairing for the first time after being involved in the annual campaign for 40 years.

"I have filled many roles in the campaign over the years," Buchwald says, "but it never seemed to be the right time before for this position.

"This is the right time. I am grateful for the privilege of serving the community in this capacity."

Both Goldberg and Buchwald say they inherited their spirit of community service from their parents. Buchwald's father, Ralph Hamovich, was active for many years in leadership roles in the Jewish community, while Goldberg's parents, Sid and Hinda Ritter, have a history of working on CJA campaigns.

Goldberg began helping with the campaign while she was still in high school and has been a longtime board member.

"It seemed the right thing to do," she says. "And, once you get involved, you get hooked. I get a lot out of this myself."

Buchwald says this year's Women's Division campaign will focus on the Lion of Judah category – donations of $5,000 or more.

In a related development, the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA has announced its allocations for the coming year beginning in September.

As reported previously in *The CJN*, although last year's campaign raised 6.5 per cent more than the previous year, most of the $235,000 increase was earmarked for Israel or specific programs.

That left only $16,900 more than last year for 11 local beneficiary agencies. Of those, three are receiving more funding this year, while three others have had their funding reduced. (Funding for the other five will remain the same.)

The largest increase went to the Jewish Child and Family Service, which will see its allocation rise by $40,000 to $483,000, to help cover the increased costs as more Jewish immigrants come to Winnipeg.

The allocation to the Gwen Secter Creative Living seniors centre rose by $4,000 to $54,000 this year, while the Ohr HaTorah School, a relatively new day school, will receive $5,000 more, for a total of $15,000.

On the other hand, the Rady Jewish Community Centre will receive $25,000 less this year. It had asked for $29,000 more to help replace aging equipment and cover other costs related to increased membership.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

אויסגעמיטן אַ פּאָגראָם אויף לאָדזשער יידן

פֿון נחמיה קונאַבעל (סאראַנסק)

(סוף פֿון פֿריערדיקן וויטקל)

עס איז אינטערעסאַנט צוצוגעבן, אַז נאָך די כליגע- נעס מיט זייערע שלאָס־מכשירים, זיינען נאָכגעגאַנגן צעוזלקער פּויערס אָן פּויערטעס מיט דאָרפֿישע פּורן, מיט קוביבערס אָן זעק, צו זיך גרייט אָנצופּילן די פּורן, קויבערס אָן זעק מיטן ירידשן פּאַרמעגן.

די ארגאַניזירטע גרופּעס פֿון ירידשע פּאַרטיזאַנס זיינען געווען אין די נאָענטע שענקן, טיי־היזער, אויף די בענק אין אלטשטאָט גאָרנישן, אָן אויף די בענק אין נאָוואָסקע גאַס. זיי זיינען געווען גרייט אויפֿן רוף פֿון די פּידערס פֿון די ארגאַניזירטע פּאַרטיזאַנס, צו באַגעגענען די פּוילישע מאָרשירנדיקע דעמאָנסטראַנטן.

וען די ערשטע ריינען פֿון די פּוילישע פּאָגראָמ- שטשיקעס האָבן דערגריכט לוטאָמירסקי גאַס, וואָס איז נאָר אײַן בלאָק פֿון די האַלעס, איז געגעבן געוואָרן אַ זייַק פֿון די פּאַרטיזאַנסקע פּידערס. אויך זיינען יונגע יינגלעך גלאָפּן צו די וויטערער סרטער צו לאָזן וויסן די ירידשע פּאַרטיזאַנס, אַז עס איז געקומען די שעה. די פּאַרטיזאַנס זיינען אַרויס פֿון די באַהעלטענישן אין פֿון די זיצבענק איך אלטשטאָט גאָרנט. זיי האָבן אונגע- הויבן שלאָגן מפּות רצח די דעמאָנסטראַנטן, וועלכע האָבן זיך גאָרנישט גערירט אויף אַזאַ „ברוך הבא".

עס האָט זיך אַנטוויקלט אַן אמתע שלאַכט, אָבער די ירידשע פּאַרטיזאַנס האָבן זיך גאָרנ שנעל אָפּגערעכנט מיט די דעמאָנסטראַנטן. אויף די גאַסן אין טראָטוּאַרן פֿון זגורזשער, לוטאָמירסקי, דרעווניאוסקע אין אַנדערע, זיינען געלעגן די צעשלאָגענע גיישע „העלדן". פּאַר- שטעהלער, אַז די ירידשע פּאַרטיזאַנס זיינען באַלד נעלם געוואָרן. זיי זיינען אַנטלאָפֿן אין די שכונהדיקע הײַ- זער, וווּ די ירידשע איינוווינער האָבן גאַהאָט צוגעריכט פּאַר זיי פֿלעצער צום באַהאַלטן זיך.

עס זיינען באַלד אָנגעקומען פּיל פּאָליצײַאַנטן פֿון די צווישן נאָענטע באַצירקן: דער דירעטער קאָמיסאַריאַט אויף זגורזשער אין קאָשטשעלנע, אין דער פּינסטער קאָמי- סאַריאַט אויף וואַנאַדזע. זיי האָבן אָבער קיינעם פֿון די פּאַרטיזאַנס נישט גיפֿונען. עס זיינען אויך באַלד אָנ- געקומען די אַזוי־גערופּענע „פּאָגאָמאָוץ" אָמבולאַנסן, וואָס האָבן צוגעזאָגט די צעשלאָגענע אין שפּיטעלער. די פּויערישע נאָכלויפֿערס מיט די זעק אין קויבערס האָבן זיך אויך באַלד אָפּגעטראָגן.

עס מוז אונטערגעצייכנט ווערן די שענדלעכע האָנד- לונג פֿון דער פּאָליצײַ. די מאַרשירנדיקע דעמאָנסטראַנטן מיט די שלאָג־מכשירים זיינען פּאַרביי־געגאַנגען דעם דירעק קאָמיסאַריאַט אויף זגורזשער גאַס, וווּ מען האָט זיי קלאָר געזען דורך די פֿענצטער פֿון געווּוסט וואָס זייער צייל איז. אָבער די פּאָליצײַ האָט זיי נישט פֿאַרהאַלטן נאָר זיי געלאָזט גיין צו פּאַראַמירן אין ראַביזן יידן.

נאָך דער אַדורכגעפֿירטער אקציע האָט די פּאָליצײַ אַרעסטירט א צאָל פּידערס פֿון די פּראָפּעסיאָנעלע פּאַר- איינען. צווישׂ פֿון די הויפּט פּידערס פֿון בונד אין לינקע פּועלי ציון, אברהם לאָזער זעלמאַנאָוויטש און מיעטע בראַנד, זיינען פּאַרשיקט געוואָרן אין דעם שוין דאָן באַ- קאַנטן אין פּוילן שטראָף אין קאָנצענטראַציע לאַגער „קאַרטה בערעזע". אַנדערע פּידערס זיינען געוואָרן פֿרא- צעסירט אין די געריכטן אין באַקומען תפיסה שטראָפֿן פֿון 3 אָן 6 חדשים בײַ א יאָר. די ריכטערס האָבן נישט געהאָט קיין שום קאָנקרעטע באַווייזן וועגן זייער שולד. עס האָט געהיסן „אַדמיניסטראַטיוו" שטראָף.

דורך דער מוטיקער האַנדלונג האָט די ירידשע אָרגא- נידיטע ארבעטער באָוועגונג אויסגעמיטן א בלוטיקן פּאָגראָם אויף די לאָדזשער יידן אין יאָר 1936. צום באַ- דויערן, אין שוין גוט באַקאַנט, וואָס עס האָט פּאַסירט מיט קנאַפּע דריי יאָר שפּעטער — די נאַציש אָקופּאַציע אין פּוילן, סעפּטעמבער 1, 1939.

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L.A. airport gunman was Egyptian national

By ANAT CYGIELMAN and BENNY LANDAU
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The man who opened fire at an El Al ticket desk at Los Angeles airport last Thursday and killed two people before being overpowered and shot to death was a 41-year-old Egyptian immigrant, the FBI said.

The man, armed with two guns and a knife, was identified by the FBI as Hesham Mohamed Hadayet. The man, believed to have been living in the United States since 1992, was not a U.S. citizen, but had a green card enabling him to work in the country.

FBI officials also said the gunman did not speak during the attack, contradicting earlier eyewitness reports that the gunman shouted "He took my job" during the shooting.

The FBI said Hadayet apparently was not connected to any terror groups and probably acted on his own.

The man, who also goes by the last name Ali, was a legal resident who worked as a limousine driver, FBI spokesperson Matt McLaughlin said. The motive remained uncertain and there was no evidence anyone else was involved, McLaughlin said

"We've never said it's not terrorism," McLaughlin said. "We can't rule that out, but there's nothing to indicate terrorism at this point."

The FBI spokesperson suggested that the attack might fall into the category of a hate crime and said the man was heavily armed.

Israeli officials said Thursday that the shooting was a terror attack, but the FBI maintained there was no reason to believe the incident was an act of terrorism.

FBI agents last Friday swooped in on an apartment complex in the southern California city of Irvine, after finding the suspect's car in a parking lot at the airport hours after the shooting.

They searched Hadayet's apartment, looking for his wife and two children, said Irvine police Lt. Sam Allevato. Neighbours told police the woman and children were in Egypt.

The two people killed at the attack at El Al's ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport were identified as jewelry merchant Ya'akov Aminov, 47, and Israeli-born Vicky Chen, 25, who was working as a ticket agent at the El Al counter. Both were residents of Los Angeles.

Contrary to statements by Israeli officials, a senior FBI official said Friday the shooting was not an act of terror. "At this point we have no reason to believe this was an act of terrorism," Ron Iden, assistant director of the Los Angeles FBI office said.

In an interview with CNN, Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh reiterated last Friday that the shooting was an apparent act of terror, saying it was a "logical assumption" that the incident was a terrorist attack.

"We are going to assume that it's a terror attack until proven otherwise," the minister told Israel Radio.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Thursday that the terrorists deliberately chose the American holiday for their attack. He noted the swift reaction and the courage of the Israeli security agents on the scene and expressed confidence that Israeli and American security services would apprehend those behind the attack.

Israel's consul general in Los Angeles, Yuval Rotem, also said early Friday morning that the shooting appeared to be an act of terror.

The shooting happened with security on high alert around the United States for a possible terrorist attack on the Fourth of July holiday. It sent passengers ducking behind counters and hiding in airport offices.

A witness said " there were a lot of shots fired then silence and two more shots."

Another witness, Thad Weimlein, told CNN: "A lot of people thought it was fireworks and a prank... It was probably eight to 10 shots. People were hitting the floor."

One person was arrested, police said. The FBI, which is managing the investigation into the incident, said it was not looking for any other suspects.

The seven people wounded in the attack at the Tom Bradley international terminal received medical treatment on the scene before being evacuated to hospital. Two were El Al employees, the others were passengers, including a 61-year-old Canadian woman who had been shot in the ankle, CBC-TV reported.

Some 90 passengers were queuing at the ticket counter at the time of the shooting.

The flight – LY 106 – was due to fly to Tel Aviv with a stopover in Toronto. It was due to land in Israel at 4 P.M. last Friday.

The incident delayed El Al's departure frqm Toronto by almost 12 hours. With the airport closure in Los Angeles, all flights were grounded, said Rami Fischer, general manager of El Al Canada.

Israel-bound passengers were provided accommodations at an airport hotel in Toronto or were asked to return home until the flight departed for Israel. It had been scheduled to depart Toronto at 10:40 p.m. last Thursday. Instead it left Toronto at about 10:17 a.m. the following day.

El Al has been flying from Los Angeles to Tel Aviv via Toronto since last December.

New York police commissioner Ray Kelly told CNN that security around Jewish and Israeli facilities in New York was being stepped up in light of the shooting.

With files from Paul Lungen.

Israeli cabinet: no change in Law of Return

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Israeli cabinet decided last week not to amend the Law of Return and to oppose a private member's bill that aimed to reduce the number of non-Jewish immigrants coming to Israel from the former Soviet Union.

The move effectively annuls a decision the previous week by the ministerial committee on legislation to back the bill, put forward by MK Michael Kleiner, the leader of the Herut party, to alter the law. The cabinet discussed the issue after Housing and Construction Minister Natan Sharansky appealed the panel's decision.

Under the Law of Return, the spouses of Jews, their children and their grandchildren are all entitled to immigrate to Israel, receive citizenship and various benefits, even if they are not considered Jews under Jewish law.

Under Kleiner's amendment, a person whose grandparent is Jewish would be eligible for rights provided by the Law of Return only if he immigrates to Israel together with the grandparent. In a situation in which the Jewish grandparent is dead, the grandchild would have to prove that he is persecuted because of his Jewish ancestry.

Interior Ministry data show that until the large immigration wave of the 1990s, the number of non-Jewish immigrants was marginal, but in recent years the number of non-Jews entering the country has increased due to the Law of Return. According to unofficial estimates, half of the people who immigrated to Israel in the past two years were not Jews.

Sharansky told cabinet that eliminating the "grandchild clause" would cut non-Jewish immigration by 6 per cent.

"In these times, when there is serious anti-Semitism in the world and Israel is in a state of war and is trying to increase immigration, we very much need the support of Diaspora Jewry and unity among us. Any change to the Law of Return will cause a divide, both among us, and between us and Diaspora Jewry," he said.

In the cabinet vote on Sharansky's petition, 13 ministers voted in favour, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. It was however left up to Sharansky, as the chairman of the Knesset Committee on Immigration and Absorption, to discuss the issue of conversions with the Chief Rabbinate and the Israel Defence Forces chaplain.

Kleiner said he was disappointed in the cabinet's ruling, calling it a political and lamentable decision.

Interior Minister Eli Yishai, a member of the Shas party, criticized the decision, saying the government "voted down the proposal out of cheap, populist interests."

Yishai said the Law of Return is out of date and contains elements that could endanger Israel's Jewish character.

He said he would continue his efforts to amend the legislation.

The religious factions, which had a majority on the ministerial committee, were in favour of the amendment.

With files from Mazal Mualem.

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Israeli doctors help two Arab 'bubble babies'

Continued from page 1

Now both sisters have been cured of their disease – Tassnem with a bone marrow stem cell transplant and Salsabil by gene therapy.

Salsabil's gene therapy was the "first in the world," says her doctor, who worked with a team of Israeli and Italian researchers from the San Raffaele Institute in Milan, Italy, to develop a procedure that can be used for every genetic disease caused by defective stem cells. Stem cells are "blank cells" that can develop into virtually any kind of cell in the human body.

The "elegance" of this particular scientific advancement is how it unfolded within one family, Slavin says. It is also a story of Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Arabs, looking beyond the immediate conflict and trusting one another.

The Abu Saids were childless for 10 years, and desperately wanted children. When they finally conceived Ahmed, their first-born, he died within weeks because he had SCID-ADA and lacked a functioning immune system.

When Hayam became pregnant again, the Abu Saids knew the disease was prevalent. As first cousins Hayam and Tahir's fathers are brothers, they had a "double dose" of this genetic disease, Slavin says. But as devout Muslims, they wouldn't undergo prenatal diagnosis to detect whether the baby carried the disease in utero.

When Tassnem was born with the disease, the current treatment was ADA replacement therapy, an extremely expensive treatment that attempts to rescue the immune system and is only effective for one or two days at a time.

A bone marrow transplant from a matching donor is the preferred option, replacing the abnormal stem cells – the building blocks for all human tissue – with normal stem cells to produce the missing enzyme.

Slavin used gene therapy to try and cure Tassnem of the condition. He took her own stem cells and introduced the adenosine draminase replacement gene into her stem cells. The experiment was successful, allowing the gene to persist in her body for more than a year. But Tassnem remained immune deficient because the number of cells treated were few and ineffective compared with the overwhelming number of unhealthy cells still in her body.

At that point, Slavin could not follow up with enzyme replacement therapy, an enzyme booster shot that causes slow relief to the condition and is prohibitively expensive. Tassnem was kept alive, but remained sick.

Hayam became pregnant again, refusing prenatal treatment. This time she gave birth to a healthy boy, Abdul Rahman, now 5, who was a successful stem cell match for his sister. Slavin took his bone marrow, isolated the stem cells, and transplanted them in Tassnem, successfully treating and curing her of the condition.

Another daughter, Yousra, was born without the condition. But a month and a half after Salsabil was born, Hayam developed a sore throat and cough, and Salsabil immediately began coughing.

Since she wasn't nursing the baby, Hayam knew that Salsabil was showing signs of the autoimmune deficiency.

Unlike Tassnem, Salsabil had no bone marrow match among her siblings' blood cells.

By the time Salsabil was seven months old, Slavin and his team of researchers had figured out how to give the genetically treated cells an advantage.

The Abu Saids were willing to give the treatment a shot, particularly given Slavin's straightforward, honest appraisal of the experimental procedure.

"Dr. Slavin said he would do the same procedure if it was his daughter," says Tahir, 38, balancing Salsabil on his knee while cautioning Yousra, 4, not to open up the slim laptop computer sitting on the table. "So I told him to make sure he did it like he would do for his own child."

Slavin not only followed through, but found funding to pay for the procedure. Tahir, who is a pastry chef by training, worked at Jerusalem's King David Hotel before being laid off several months ago.

But even with a regular salary, the Abu Saids, who live in a two-bedroom apartment in Ras Al-Amud, an Arab neighbourhood in eastern Jerusalem, couldn't afford the cost of the gene replacement therapy on their basic health insurance plan.

As an experimental treatment, the family didn't have to pay for the procedure, which was covered by Slavin's research grant.

Slavin's team had developed a protocol that would allow the genetically coerced cells to prevail in the patient's field of stem cells.

He purified the stem cells and mixed them with a defective virus that wasn't infectious but had the power to penetrate and infect the stem cells, introducing the adenosine draminase gene – the missing enzyme – into the nucleus and DNA of Salsabil's stem cells.

"It's like putting a computer chip into the body," Slavin says.

After a few days of sitting in a culture, the virus-enriched, genetically altered stem cells were put into Salsabil's body. Slavin also gave her a drug to suppress her sick cells and to allow the new, healthy cells to develop and multiply for several days before encountering competition from the sick cells.

The healthy stem cells began developing rapidly and within weeks, Salsabil went home, without any fever or antibiotics.

The proof that her immune system was working came when all the other children came down with chicken pox and Salsabil stayed healthy because her body developed antibodies to the illness.

Nearly a year and a half later, Salsabil is an active, healthy toddler who runs to keep up with her three older siblings. She also has a younger brother, Ahmed, a healthy, eight-month-old baby named for his older brother who died of the disease.

"They're all fine now," Hayam says.

'Feeling of destruction'

Continued from page 1

In other countries, the scattered remains of victims of large-scale tragedies are simply collected together and divided up arbitrarily for burial. Jewish law, however, requires that every person be buried complete. So Saul and his fellow volunteers, all haredim, painstakingly collect every last tissue remnant. These remnants then undergo forensic identification using DNA technology, so that each victim can be brought to burial with all his or her own tissues. It is vital to Saul that every fallen soldier have a proper grave, and every bereaved mother have a tombstone upon which to rest her head.

The work is very difficult, requiring tremendous thoroughness and emotional resources. It helps the volunteers to talk with family or cousellors about what they have seen. Some are affected to the point where they can't continue. Saul started out with ZKA, but to balance dealing with the dead, he found he needed to save lives as well. So he learned how to be a paramedic and drive an ambulance, as have most of his fellow ZKA volunteers.

"Since we are all haredi, people are surprised when we arrive and begin administering first aid, but they soon realize we know what we are doing," Saul says.

"The hardest situations are those involving children. Of course there are no easy situations, when life is snatched away so cruelly. Every terror attack is devastating. Every person killed, an entire world lost.

"We arrive at moments of hysteria and confusion, when the injured and dead are scattered round. We know these adults, soldiers or children were just out for a walk or a coffee. Just a few minutes earlier, they were healthy, laughing, talking and living confidently, not knowing what awaited them. Then suddenly, their lives and those of their families are overturned.

"I think about this as I do my work, saving lives and collecting the dead. Every life saved means so much to me, every death devastates. I try to keep a balance. I tell jokes in my fish store. People are so sad and depressed. A smile, a good word can lift spirits. We can't give in to national melancholy. After all, that's exactly what the terrorists want. We love our country. We live through every difficult hour. My father, the only one of his 12 siblings to survive the Holocaust, would always say, 'We'll stay here in spite of all those who want to destroy us.'

"This is our only country. We have nowhere else to go."

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The Week in Israel

July 1

• Ben-Gurion Airport began using a computerized system for screening passenger luggage. Instead of being asked questions about their luggage, passenges will now hand over their luggage to be examined by machine.

July 2

• Some 40 rabbis from South Africa made a solidarity visit to Israel. "The purpose of the trip is to show our wholehearted support of Israel," said South Africa's chief rabbi, Cyril Harris. "We moved our annual rabbinical conference from Johannesburg to Jerusalem."

July 3

• The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) arrested an Islamic Jihad member who was planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Yatta, south of Hebron.

• Scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot have developed a technique for overcoming witch weed, the enemy of corn plants, that could dramatically reduce hunger in Africa where most people live on corn and suffer from the weed disease. The Israeli team collaborated with researchers at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico.

July 4

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that Israel had accepted the blueprint outlined by U.S. President George W. Bush in his speech last week devoted to the Middle East. "Israel welcomes the principles outlined in Bush's speech and supports their implementation," Sharon said.

July 5

• The IDF is reconstituting the special operations unit in which soldiers disguised as Arabs operated in the Gaza Strip. The unit will consist of reservists who served in an undercover unit shut down in 1994 after the Oslo agreements were signed and the IDF withdrew from most of Gaza.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Reservist takes part in 'high risk raids'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For the two dozen men milling about a roadside cafe in the Arab Israeli village of Taybeh, May 10 was proving to be just another uneventful day. Unknown to them, however, nearby, a small group of Israeli paramilitary police was preparing to spring into action.

With their Uzi submachine guns set on semi-automatic, the four men drove up to the garage/cafe in an unmarked white civilian SUV with blacked-out windows. Before the SUV had fully stopped, the first of the four Israeli plain-clothes officers was out the door. He was quickly followed by the other members of the unit.

Doron Kay

With their firearms in plain sight, they strode purposely to their target, a wanted Israeli Arab who had been involved in a variety of criminal activities, including drug sales (that financed the intifadah) and weapons smuggling (to give the Palestinians arms).

With their own firepower unsheathed, the men moved quickly to their target. Before he knew what was happening, the Israelis had him cornered and were working to restrain him. Although he tried to run and in the scuffle that ensued, he bit his assailants, he was not able to draw his gun and open fire. His calls for help from his comrades in the cafe were ignored, as the prospect of a response from the very serious Uzi-toting officers proved ample deterrence.

As Doron Kay explained it, "we made sure they were not in a position to negotiate with us."

Kay was one of the Israeli soldiers who took part in that raid and who later received a commendation for bringing in the suspect without recourse to lethal gunplay.

Kay, 37, is back in Toronto now, no worse for wear, after six weeks of reserve duty with Israeli forces.

A native of Canada who grew up in Jerusalem, Kay returned to active duty 17 years after last serving in the Israel Defence Forces. Despite a lengthy period away from army khaki, Kay has been leading a life that could hardly be considered pedestrian or free of risk.

For a short time following his army stint, he studied criminology in New York, but that only whetted his appetite for the world of security, investigations and executive protection. For three years in the early 1990s, he was part of an Israeli team that was hired to provide security on board the Achille Lauro cruiseship, which had been attacked by PLO terrorists who murdered wheelchair-bound American tourist Leon Klinghoffer.

Kay circled the globe twice on board the luxury liner, travelling from the North Pole to Australia.

In 1998, he was granted a short-term contract to provide corporate security and threat analysis for Miami-based corporations. From Miami he returned to Toronto, where he and a partner founded Global Impact, a corporate intelligence and security business.

All the time, he maintained his "strategic alliances" with Israeli colleagues and his commitment to the Jewish state. When he heard of the Passover attack, "my heart overruled my head" and he made the trip to Israel, he said.

"I felt like it was time to go back and be with my country. It sounds tacky, but it's very true."

"For months, the tension had been unbearable. I'd spoken to my friends and for the first time, I'd heard the sound of the loss of hope."

His decision to return to active duty came in late March. Like thousands of other Jews, Kay was getting ready for a seder on the first night of Passover when he happened to turn on the TV news.

He was shocked by what he saw. The lead item originated in a devastated Netanya hotel where a Palestinian terrorist had walked into a crowded seder and detonated an explosives belt he was wearing, killing 29.

For Israel, it was the last straw, prompting a massive military response. For Kay, it too was the last straw, motivating him to put aside his life in Canada and quickly fly to Israel for reserve duty.

At first, Kay served in uniform with the Israeli Border Police – duty that included "high risk raids" on Palestinian terrorists' hideouts, manning highway checkpoints and arresting suspects.

The Border Police unit was stationed in an Israeli Arab village near the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Many infiltrators used the roads near Tulkarem and his unit was active in putting up "spontaneous road blocks," at which incoming vehicles would be stopped and searched.

It was a nerve-racking experience. "We arrested quite a few people," he said. Many were simply Arabs without proper documents trying to enter Israel for work. Others were more sinister.

"Every time I pull a car over, I know I'll confront one of two things. A carload of workers or the next suicide bomber," he said.

"This is not like being pulled over in a Ride Program (a Canadian anti-drunk-driving police check)," he said.

Terrorists don't wear identifying badges, so innocent Palestinians look the same as deadly ones, he said.

While manning a checkpoint, "you have to bring clarity to a situation very fast. You don't probe to see if these guys are nice or not."

"I tried to be polite," he said, starting every conversation with "good morning. But if there's a nanosecond of doubt, I take no chances. I can't."

In the new form of terrorist warfare being waged in the Mideast, "you confront your enemy face to face."

During his stint in the SUV, which came towards the end of his stint in the reserves, Kay's duties changed. The team was charged with responding quickly to intelligence leads about terrorist suspects. On one occasion, Kay's SUV squad served as backup when another unit swooped into a residential construction site in Netanya. Intelligence had learned that a wanted terrorist with forged Israeli ID was at work on the site.

"He was wanted after explosives components were found in his home and he had been guilty of shooting Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint," Kay said.

As his unit secured the perimeter the other squad rushed in and arrested the suspect, along with seven illegal laborers.

On another occasion, the unit took part in the arrest of a terrorist cell preparing for a bombing attack in a major mall near Tel Aviv.

There are numerous incidents just like these that don't get reported, he said.

On many occasions, among those caught up in the anti-terrorist net are men whose only crime is working illegally, and Kay is sympathetic to their plight. They're caught in a difficult situation, usually with large families to support, and they're merely looking for work, he said.

But at the same time, he has no qualms about arresting them.

"I don't feel guilty. I have a job to do. I'm not a social worker or a political analyst."

Israeli soldiers, he continued, "are not blind to the tragedy of human suffering. What we were doing was managing a situation. It was not the implementation of a peace situation."

"Israeli soldiers," he continued, abide by a strict moral and ethical code. Soldiers are repeatedly reminded that the rules of engagement mean they can resort to deadly force only as a last resort.

"We're a nation of warriors because of circumstances. We need to be excellent at what we do."

The high ranking officers he dealt with are "intelligent, motivated." Most are family men who would otherwise be earning degrees in the sciences or humanities.

"It's a human culture more than a military culture. But it's business when we need to do business."

After six weeks in Israel, Kay can see that many soldiers are burned out. Being on constant alert every day for months is exhausting, he said.

"The country as a whole, the soldiers are tired. It's a country that does not want to fight, but it has to. It's a country that would much rather see peace. Israelis would rather be shopping than for fathers to leave their families to go to miluim (reserve duty).

But, "Israel's enemy is not a peace-loving nation. It's an aggressive nation. It's a lot about ego and Arab macho. It does not nurture a healthy, functional culture that thinks towards the future or social progress, real freedom, democratization or thinking about social justice."

Israelis see themselves fighting for survival. Yet life goes on. People still go out but priorities have changed. Where a Canadian parent sending their children to summer camp might inquire about the programs available, Israeli parents want to know what kind of security the camp will provide, he said.

Back in Toronto, Kay is marvelling at the differences between life here and in Israel. Despite the stresses of the intifadah, Israelis are still much more open, more welcoming. Their doors are always open, and friends pop by unexpectedly.

Surveilling the parking lot outside the outdoor cafe where we're enjoying a cup of coffee, Kay points to the cars decked out with Toronto Maple Leaf flags, symbols of solidarity with the local hockey team. In Israel, cars sport the Star of David flag as a symbol of national pride in difficult times.

Even the simple act of enjoying breakfast is different.

In Canada, sitting at an outdoor cafe doesn't prompt a second thought. In Israel, he said, it's come to the point where even that is considered an act of bravery.

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Arafat-run PA state: a terrorocracy

By MURRAY TEITEL

Guest Voice

The decision last month by U.S. President George W. Bush not to call for the establishment of an interim Palestinian state was highly commendable.

It would be a good idea to ask whether the creation of a Palestinian state at this time would, indeed, do anything to advance the cause of peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

A state whose raison d'être was to destroy Israel through terrorist acts would create more problems than it would solve. A Palestinian state would be entitled to act in the way sovereign states conduct themselves. Specifically, it would be able to import arms and set up weapons manufacturing facilities. It could import arms every day such as those seized on the Karine A, and no one would have the right to stop it. These arms would include rockets that it would fire at Israeli cities from the middle of densely populated Palestinian areas, making it impossible for Israel to retaliate in kind. This would eventually require Israel to invade the newly created "terrorocracy" on a scale far more massive than the recent incursion into the West Bank and this in turn could plunge the entire region into a war that would disrupt oil supplies to the West.

And no one should harbour the slightest illusion that this is not precisely the kind of state a newly emerged Palestine would be if created in the near future. Even if Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat were to be replaced with someone who was not personally a terrorist, it would not make any difference.

Since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, children have been taught in school to hate Jews. Maps in their textbooks omit Israel. Sermons from a mosque have been broadcast every Friday demonizing Jews and calling for the destruction of Israel. These are the people who on Sept. 11 danced in the streets upon learning of the suicide attacks on the United States.

In the week following the attacks, a Palestinian polling organization, Jerusalem Media Communication Centre, found that 84.6 per cent of Palestinians living in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem supported terrorism against Israeli civilians.

People who commit suicide in order to kill Israeli civilians are glorified and have posters with their pictures plastered everywhere in reverence. Terrorism is to Palestinians what baseball is to Americans, what hockey is to Canadians and what pâté de foie gras is to the French. It is so much a part of their culture now that if they get their own state, a light bulb is not suddenly going to be turned on inside each Palestinian's head to change his or her way of thinking.

On the other hand, as long as Palestinians do not have a state of their own, they will continue to seethe with resentment and justify their terrorism on that basis. How can a Palestinian state come into being that will not be a terrorocracy devoted to Israel's destruction?

One idea comes from Sheikh professor Abdul Hadi Palazzi, a Muslim cleric who is the secretary general of the Italian Muslim Association. He abhors the way his religion has been perverted to justify terrorism and bigotry. When I told him about the results of the poll, he was not perturbed and said that if a poll had been conducted in Germany shortly after May 8, 1945 it would have revealed that 84.6 per cent of Germans were Nazis who felt Jewry had to be eradicated. Germans, after all, had been brainwashed to the same extent the Palestinians have. Yet, Germany soon became a true democracy.

What occurred in Germany, he pointed out, was an Allied-imposed process of de-Nazification that over a period of several years, restructured the country and put in power people who respected democratic institutions. Germans got on with their lives, and racism and genocide were replaced with worthy pursuits. Sheikh Palazzi thought the same thing would have to be done in order for the emergent Palestine not to become a state devoted to terror or what I call a terrorocracy.

I'd like to think this would be possible. Differences between Germans and Palestinians come to mind, however. Germans had a history of democracy. The Palestinians do not. Germany was culturally and geographically a part of a democratic western Europe. Palestine will, of course, be geographically proximate to democratic Israel, but culturally it will be in tune with the Arabs, among whom there are no democracies.

The Arab dictators like Hosni Mubarak, Bashar Assad and Crown Prince Abdullah will never condone the setting up of a democratic Palestine because by so doing, they would be sowing the seeds of their own destruction. Their own oppressed populations would soon be demanding the same. Moreover, peace between Palestine and Israel would in and of itself doom these dictatorships because they would no longer be able to deal with the discontent of their populations by channelling it towards hatred of "the Zionist entity" and nonsense about Jews using the blood of Muslims to bake special foods for Jewish holidays, as has been recently reported in government-controlled newspapers of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

I therefore agree with Bush. He understands that creating a Palestine that will not be a terrorocracy will have to wait for some positive developments in the Arab world at large. While these will certainly be welcome, they will not happen soon. Until then, it would be foolish to rush to create a Palestinian state.

Murray Teitel is a lawyer in Toronto.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

POLITICAL PROTESTERS DISRUPT NOA CONCERT

The popular Israeli singer **Noa** was rudely interrupted during a concert last month at the Barbican in London, the *London Jewish Chronicle* reports.

Eluding security guards, two anti-Israeli demonstrators jumped onto the stage, unfurled a Palestinian flag and hijacked the microphone from her. "This is a peaceful protest," one of them told the audience. "Noa has no right to perform here. Look what's happening to the Palestinian people."

Band members quickly came to the singer's rescue and handed the intruders over to the police, who later released them without laying charges.

Although upset, the 32-year-old singer continued her performance amid shouts of "We love you, Noa." She later told the *Chronicle*," I have been speaking for peace for a very long time. It was shocking that they protested against me indiscriminately because I am Israeli."

Audience members were also disgruntled by what one called "a disgraceful act which did nothing to further the Palestinian cause."

* * *

New Works from Harduf: Toronto linguist and biblical scholar **David Mendel Harduf**, whose many exegetical works and handy dictionaries of Hebrew-English and Yiddish-English are wellknown tools of study, has produced two new works of scholarly and literary interest.

Rabbinic Exegesis of Biblical Names and Narratives (in the Talmud and Midrash) is a sourcebook of the many names by which biblical personages are known in biblical and related literature. For example, as Harduf notes, Miriam is associated with 11 names, David with 13, Joseph with 17, and Moses with as many as 20. Harduf drew upon many talmudic and 44 midrashic sources, including ancient and rare manuscripts at the British Museum and Jews College, London.

He has also produced a work that should appeal to fans of Israeli writer **S.Y. Agnon**, the 1966 Nobel laureate for literature. *Biblical and Midrashic Hebrew in the Writings of S.Y. Agnon* is a 334-page study that includes photographs of Agnon's family and friends.

Look for both titles at local Jewish bookstores. Both are softcover and cost $25 apiece.

* * *

Tova at the Senator: "We're translating some great jazz standards into Yiddish – for instance, *Nacht und Tag* by **Cole Porter** – isn't it wonderful?" laughs Toronto-based songstress **Theresa Tova** of her upcoming dates at the top of the Senator, Toronto's premiere jazz club.

After a successful Lincoln Center Damrosch Park concert last summer, Tova has been concertizing a lot in New York this year; she performed recently for **Gov. George Pataki**, starred in a production at the Folksbiene Theatre, and is booked to appear at the New York Workmen's Circle soon. Her Senator appearances will be her first performances in Toronto in a year, she says.

The planned concerts combine "jazz and klez" and feature some wonderful Jewish American composers like **Gershwin** and **Berlin**, along with greats like **Ellington** and **Porter**. Among other rare treats, Tova and guest singer **John Alcox** plan to sing an **Irving Berlin-Molly Picon** duet. The concerts are called Tova on Top and are being recorded for a CD.

Top of the Senator, 253 Victoria St. July 18, 19, 20 and 21. 416-364-7517. Tova's Web site is www.theresatova.com.

* * *

Arts Briefs

- Local impresario **Michael Rubinoff** presents the Pulitzer and Tony-award winning musical *A Chorus Line* for eight performances, beginning Aug. 9. Jane Mallet Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre. 416-366-7723 or 1-800-708-6754.
- The Royal Conservatory of Music has named the Toronto-based firm Kuwabara, Payne, McKenna, Blumberg Architects to oversee the restoration of its McMaster Hall (built in 1881) and to design a new Performance and Learning Centre along Philosopher's Walk in downtown Toronto.
- The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition scheduled for July 12 to 14 may be cancelled if the CUPE strike continues. A decision will be made on July 9.

* * *

At the Galleries

- Textural Images – Vintage Photographs and Picture Carpets From a Vanished Jewish World or Two features artifacts from **Rabbi Yosef Wosk's** collection of Judaic art. Currently on view at Vancouver's Jewish Community Centre, Sidney and Gertrude Zack Gallery, 950 W. 41st Ave.
- French masterpieces from **Gauguin** to **Matisse** from Russia's Hermitage Museum are coming to the art Gallery of Ontario, Oct. 12 to Jan. 5, 2003. Tickets on sale now.

Indie musician rediscovers her Judaism

By JON WALDMAN
Special to The CJN

Ironically, it was a missed seder that lead independent music artist Ronley Teper to bring Judaica into her music.

Teper, 27, had accepted a booking on the night of a seder last year, thinking her fledgling career came first.

Ronley Teper

"At this point… I really feel that it's really necessary for me to take certain things that I can't pass up," says Teper, whose debut CD, *Stories from the Tray*, was released last fall.

But Teper wasn't completely comfortable with her decision and felt guilty about missing the seder, especially since her parents weren't too happy about it.

A couple hours before the show, with the seder in mind, Teper decided to incorporate her role as her family's youngest child into her performance.

"Right before the gig, I just sat down and wrote *Mah Nishtanah*, and it just came out instantly," she says.

"It was a different arrangement, but it really made me feel like I was at my parents' seder."

When Teper returned home and told her parents what she had done, they were overjoyed, she says. They were further pleased when Teper planned to include Jewish songs on her upcoming CD, as well as the set list for all her concerts.

Teper was born in South Africa, but moved to Toronto – "with my family and every other Jewish family from South Africa," she says with a laugh – when she was very young.

Music was an important part of the Teper household: her parents played Broadway show tunes and classical music all the time when Teper was growing up.

She attended public school, but went to Hebrew school at Beth Tikvah three times a week, where she recalls getting the inspiration for the Judaica she later included in her songs.

"The Jewish stuff was from when I was in Beth Tikvah after school. We used to sing from the siddur all the time."

When she moved on to high school, Teper became disillusioned with Judaism.

While at first she had many Jewish friends, when she found herself to be virtually friendless for a year, she blamed her lack of popularity on Judaism. She realizes now, however, that there were some Jewish people that she was upset with, "and that's totally different than being Jewish," she says.

"I just didn't understand the culture or anything. I was just rebelling, and I think it's totally normal to do that."

Teper rediscovered Judaism when she was at Concordia University, where she took a class that taught her about Jewish history (she also attended the University of Guelph, where she finished her BA in anthropology).

While she has not re-embraced the religious aspects of Judaism, she feels she now has a better understanding of her Jewish culture and heritage.

"It's not so much for me a religion, but more an ethnicity," she says.

"When I just say a word like *kvetch*, somebody's like, 'What's that?' Well, [I explain that] that's something that's part of my culture. It's a language that came from my culture. I don't even realize it so much as a religious thing, as more just my ethnicity.

"For me, that's the way I learned to celebrate being Jewish again."

Teper is currently promoting her independent album throughout Canada and the United States. She performed in Toronto last month and she will be in Ottawa and Montreal shortly. Check www.ronleyteper.com for more dates.

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Performer enjoys clowning around

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

She travels the world telling tales of a world filled with jellybeans and chocolate carrots. She's ridiculously energetic, a little wacky, and full of laughs, but why wouldn't she be? She's been clowning around for more than 25 years.

Patricia Silver – known as Patty when she's in her clown costume – is co-founder and current president of Sphere Entertainment, a production company and talent agency. Her band, the Sphere Clown Band, is celebrating a quarter century of entertaining children across the globe.

The band performs an interactive family show filled with singing, dancing and educational messages about such things as sharing, safety and being polite. It has four records to its credit – its first, *I Can Do Anything*, was nominated for a Juno in 1984 for best children's album and its second, *Sharing*, went gold with sales of more than 50,000 copies. The band has also toured Asia three times.

"It's been exciting. We never envisioned this," Silver said from the living room of her Beaches-area home. "I did it because it was fun. [It's] nice to write our own stuff and all of the sudden [it got] enormous."

Silver has built quite a career since coming to Canada in 1971 from her childhood home in Missouri, after completing a master's degree in broadcasting at Bowling Green University in Ohio.

At first, she worked as a television producer, and then she worked for CBC as head of promotions for FM radio. On the side, she did some clown work and was involved in several rock bands before she helped start one called Sphere.

During Sphere's first national tour, the bandleader – knowing that Silver had done some previous clown work – asked her to do some matinee clown shows for kids. She never looked back.

Within months, the Sphere Clown Band was born. By 1983, Silver had submitted a demo tape to A&M records, and, much to her surprise, the band was signed.

Since then, her energy and love for children has propelled the band to the top of the industry.

"[It's] not enough to just put on a clown face. You have to do something that engages children in the performance. We have an enormous amount of energy. It's the frenetic energy that we put out," she said about her success.

The Sphere Clown Band smiled and joked around with Canadian Ambassador Robert Vanderloo at their recent show in Portugal. Seen are (clockwise from bottom left): Patricia Silver, "Tommy Tee," Vanderloo, John-Michael Erlendson "Peeper" and "Loco."

"Little kids are the hardest to entertain. Kids are the most honest audience. They will literally get up and walk away if they don't like you. You have no choice other then to be 100 per cent," she added.

Silver attributes part of her success to the universal appeal of clowns.

"It doesn't matter where you are. The music is engaging and lively, the antics are universal," she said. "It doesn't take language to do it, kids will laugh at it anyway. They like the silliness – we have always been quite slapstick. Quite silly."

Silver said writing music that people enjoy is "very rewarding," and truly "a dream come true."

"It is thrilling to be appreciated for something that is close to your heart. The fact I can get up on stage and sing my own music and people clap [is great]," she said.

The Sphere Clown Band is also a family affair. When Silver travels and performs, her only child, John-Michael Erlendson, 17, is right beside her. He plays the character Peeper in the band.

"Kids love him. For me to be able to take my kid around the world [is great]. He has performed in all places. [It's been a] great education for him," she said.

With funding from the government- and broadcasting industry-sponsored Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records (FACTOR), her band has been able to perform in Edinburgh, Scotland, as well as the Netherlands, China and Singapore.

The band has also represented Canada at various festivals as a guest of the Canadian government. For example, Silver and her bandmates just returned from Portugal, where they were invited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to perform in the Canadian pavilion at the World Education Market.

Silver is also involved in other projects.

She keeps busy as head of Sphere Entertainment, which now represents 900 artists, and she is an active member of the Beach Hebrew Institute synagogue, where – fittingly – she leads the children's services during High Holy Days.

She said she has "always been involved in one way or another [with] Jewish tradition.

"I like the connection, the people and the heritage."

But a career as a cantor will have to wait, since the Sphere Clown Band is still going strong. The band is set to launch its fourth tour of Asia, and is scheduling a month-long visit to Australia.

Silver has also written a television series that she hopes to have produced in the near future.

"[I'm going] to keep going. Why not enjoy it? It's successful, it's in demand. This can go on forever," she said.

The Sphere Clown Band will be performing July 13 at Ontario Place as part of the Preschool Jamboree. For more information, visit www.SphereEntertainment.com.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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Arts & Travel

Come Out Fighting: 761st

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Most World War II heroes who have been glamourized have been white, but a recent documentary praises a little-known battalion of black U.S. soldiers that liberated several concentration camps.

Fern Levitt's *Come Out Fighting: The 761st*, which was shown recently at Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church in Mississauga, tells the story of a segregated black tank unit called the 761st Battalion that fought valiantly on the field but faced enduring racism at home. With black-and-white archival footage and recreated events, Levitt's piece conveys the brutality of combat, the joy of liberty and the disgrace of war-era racism.

The first 20 minutes of the documentary describe the inequality black soldiers faced in the United States, from the sign-up offices to the training exercises. Segregation and racism forced black soldiers to labour positions while white officers held high-ranking positions.

As one veteran of the 761st remarks in the film, "We were wearing the same uniform and fighting for the same country. But we couldn't enjoy freedom."

When U.S. Gen. George S. Patton requested trained tankers, black soldiers enlisted in droves, and blacks trained in armoured warfare for the first time in history.

In London, white American soldiers spread rumours about the blacks to their British counterparts, saying the black fighters would eat British babies for sport.

But the 761st heeded Patton's bold words: "I don't care what colour you are, just kill every sonnuva bitch you see."

The documentary, produced by Barna-Alper Productions in association with History Television, shows events recounted by the veterans that are recreated so smoothly they look identical to archival footage. Several stories describe the bravery of soldiers, such as one man who dragged a wounded comrade 5,000 yards in snow to safety after his tank was disabled during the Battle of the Bulge.

Film recounts all-black unit's liberation of concentration camps

But the documentary's climax comes with the footage of the 761st entering Austria, and the battalion's discovery of concentration camps nestled in the forests. Holocaust survivor Max Eisen details his liberation.

A 15-year-old Hungarian prisoner of the work camp Ebensee, Eisen tells of his shock at seeing a tank roll into the compound.

"The black soldiers were horrified," he remembers, "and I'll never forget how big their eyes were."

Johnnie Stevens, one of the 761st veterans, recounted that the Jews looked skeletal and sickly. Concentration camp footage and disturbing visuals underline their pain and mistreatment.

The 761st, who had tasted a measure of equality in army ranks, where white and black soldiers fought as one legion, still faced racism in most neighbourhoods when they returned home.

But more than 20 years after the war ended, the soldiers of the 761st were recognized for their heroism and awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

Hamilton-born Levitt is accustomed to filming forgotten heroes. She directed *The Little Rock Nine*, about black students who stood up to segregated schooling in Arkansas in 1957, and *Each of Us Has A Name*, a documentary that follows two Holocaust survivors who accompanied more than 300 Canadian students on the 1998 March of the Living.

Like Levitt's previous works, *Come Out Fighting* tells an important story that needs to be told. Whether its purpose is to profile a group of men who risked their lives for a system that demonized them or to remind the world about the horrors of Nazi Europe, a glimmer of hope peeks through the darkness. As Eisen says, "Without [the 761st], I would not be here to tell the story."

The film will air on History Television Monday, Dec. 23 at 9 p.m. as part of its "Turning Points in History" series.

Tourism by the books

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Thinking of visiting or exploring cities near and far? Let's begin with our own backyard.

Toronto City Guide, published by Firefly Books and written by John Must, is a concise and handy compendium focusing on neighbourhoods, places of interest, museums and restaurants and clubs.

The world famous Lonely Planet guides, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, offer a cornucopia of guides on cities ranging from Chicago to Bangkok.

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Breast cancer centre reaches out to patients

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

For the past 22 years, Harriet Morton, the new chair of the patient and family advisory council (PFAC) at the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital, has witnessed a sea change in the treatment of breast cancer patients.

Morton, who takes over from Jane Hogarth for a two-year term, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1980 and again in 1982.

Since then, she says, she has seen a "drastic" change in people's attitude about the disease.

"Twenty-two years ago, we never said the word cancer; it was a secret that I kept from my parents and acquaintances. Only my children, my sister and my closest friends knew. I did not have a partner to tell me I was OK.

"[My situation] caused me to have low self-esteem and lack of confidence, and as the years went by, I pushed away relationships for fear of being discovered."

Harriet Morton

It was liberating, she said, to finally talk to someone who had experienced cancer. "It was like a volcano erupting the painful secret.

"Today it is different. We share experiences, we encourage each other, we have group discussions, and we support each other," Morton said.

When Marvelle Koffler, who sponsored the centre along with her husband Murray in 1995, asked Morton to join the PFAC, "I thought it was my chance to do some mentoring.

"I wanted to share what I had learned over the years. I did not want one woman to go through the pain of aloneness I had experienced," said Morton.

If the Marvelle Koffler Centre had been there for her, Morton said, "my experience with breast cancer would have been completely different. It would have been a different 20 years."

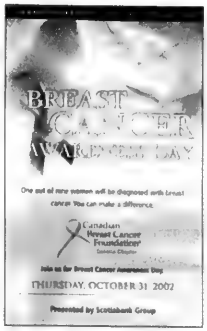
About 33,000 women come to the centre each year for diagnostic, surgical, medical oncology and psychosocial services.

The centre also offers workshops to help women living with cancer disguise the appearance-related side effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatments, and it runs the Astra Zeneca breast health centre, developed to encourage good health with an emphasis on breast health.

The Table of Plenty program, which offers yoga, reflexology, reiki, therapeutic touch and quilting, assists breast cancer patients with their personal recovery process.

"This program gives breast cancer patients an opportunity to be creative, and to remove themselves temporarily from their situation and make themselves feel good," said Morton.

The PFAC was initially created to reach out to patients and determine what would contribute to the success of the centre, she said.



"We now include a campaign to raise money for patients in financial need. It is difficult enough to cope with breast cancer, but when you also have financial stress, it does not help the healing, either physically or emotionally," said Morton.

Money is being raised through the sale of notepaper and pins created by Toronto artist Ian Leventhal.

The pins, inscribed with the words "Life is Beautiful - Handle with Care," are a tribute to Renee Steinberg, a former PFAC chair who died of breast cancer.

"I do believe this is the only fund-raising for breast cancer that does not go to research, but rather goes directly to a woman in need," Morton said.

"It gives her the opportunity to get a much-needed wig; pay for transportation to come and go for treatments; purchase medication she cannot ordinarily afford; and buy holiday gifts for her children."

With every pin and package of notepaper sold, she said, "we are reaching out and easing someone's life. It is an honour to do so.

"The PFAC reaches out to women – a grandmother, a mother, a daughter – and gives them the hope of continuing from generation to generation."

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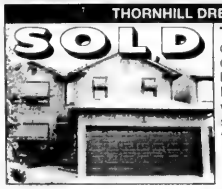

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330 OBITUARIES

LEE, Sara Ruth – on June 18, 2002, late of 755 Steeles Ave. W.

FIRER, Shura – on June 19, 2002.

BLUMENTHAL, Rivka – on June 21, 2002.

AUERBACH, Ester Devorah – on June 21, 2002.

JANOWSKI, Lola – on June 22, 2002, late of 64 Glen Park Ave.

ARCUS, Leah – on June 23, 2002.

ZIEDENBERG, Minnie – on June 23, 2002.

FIGLINA, Bassia – on June 23, 2002.

HAVAS, Margareta – on June 24, 2002.

KNOBEL, Nechemia – on June 24, 2002, late of 100 Antibes Dr.

KANE, Zalman Sidney – on June 25, 2002.

GENESOVE, Ira Aaron – on June 25, 2002, late of 136 Hillmount Ave.

ROSE, Rose – on June 24, 2002.

JAFFE, Stanley Howard – on June 24, 2002, late of 92 Nottingham Dr.

NAHMAN, Leon – on June 25, 2002, late of 6 Mango Dr.

GOLDBERG, Martin – on June 25, 2002.

BROITMAN, Liliane – on June 25, 2002.

GOFT, Yacov – on June 26, 2002, late of 6030 Bathurst St.

ZAUDERER, Mina – on June 28, 2002, late of 10 Prue Ave.

HANDELSMAN, Bella – on June 29, 2002.

LITVAK, Boris – on June 29, 2002.

ALBAN, Samuel – on June 30, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BORST, Beccy – on July 1, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.

FEDOTKINA, Ina – on July 1, 2002.

CALLEN, Ethel – on July 2, 2002.

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women seeking men

SEEKS A PROFESSIONAL
Nancy is Jewish, a youthful 56 yrs divorced with 2 grown children. She enjoys dining, movies, long walks, country drives and seeks professional man between 50-65 yrs, a great sense of humour and strong sense of integrity. She looks forward to hearing from you. **AD#1161**

CONSERVADOX FEMALE
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour and conservadox. She enjoys art, dining and dancing, and travel. She seeks a male, 53-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured conservadox with similar interests for friendship first. **AD#1034**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way. Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit. Please leave a message. **AD#1095**

SSSWEETER THAN SUGAR
She's sensational, super sophisticated, sincere, successful, spontaneous, sensitive, swanky, sentimental, self assured, stable, self motivated, supportive, shapely, slim, sleek and sexy. A sultry scorpion of 47yrs, seeking a relationship with a man who know what he wants. **AD#1226**

LEAVE HER A MESSAGE
Gig is 34 yrs and from Asia, long hair, medium sized, brown complexion. She's easy going, very charming, loves dining, travelling, dancing, cooking, spending time w/ friends. Seeks someone who's understanding, honest, good hearted, friendly, non smoking and between 34-45 yrs. **AD#1296**

NEW IN TOWN
Recently arrived in Toronto, 50's, looks good, smart, generous & caring, seeking a tall intelligent gentleman between 55-70 yrs. Has to be financially secure. She enjoys theatre, music, movies, long walks & talks, and books. Help her enjoy Toronto. **AD#1133**

LET'S LIVE IT UP, EH?
Single female with hazel eyes, reddish hair seeks love & laughter. She enjoy ballroom dancing, theatre, walks in the park. Looking for a non-smoker gentleman who's 69+ yrs, 5'8", with similar interests and more. **AD#1197**

TOUCH OF CLASS
Single female from Montreal in her 50's. She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservodox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 50-65 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests. **AD#1305**

HOME COOKIN'
Jeanette enjoys the outdoors, sports, hiking, swimming, kayaking and travelling. She seeks someone with similar interests and can talk to about the situation in Middle East. If you enjoy children, dining, and Cicily home cooking, please leave me a message. **AD#1050**

PASSIONATE FEELINGS
Bonnie enjoys music, dining, walking, long drives and anything that has passion attached to it. She seeks a male who's interested in fine arts & theatre, not so much into sports, and possibly enjoys the outdoors, who has a great smile & sense of humour. Leave her message. **AD#1371**

PERKY WIDOW
Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people. Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70s. Give her a call. **AD#1066**

SEEKING SOULMATE
Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 6", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good. She enjoys dancing & life. She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate. A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend. If you think you're a match, please leave her a message. **AD#1411**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto. She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel. Please call. **AD#1413**

PLEASURE & OPTIMISM
A self employed Jewish female, 60 yrs, would love to meet someone who greets each day with pleasure & optimism. Someone who's not afraid to speak his mind, and loves classical music & the opera. Ideally creative, and has a deep love for Israel, but is not religiously observant. Please call. **AD#1437**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere. **AD#1230**

HEART OF GOLD
A unique Jewish female, 5' 5", with beautiful brown hair & eyes seeks a Jewish gentle man. She's kind, sincere, creative and lost of fun to be with. She seeks a man with strong morals, who's over 45yrs, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoking, and financially stable. **AD#1462**

GREEN EYES
She's a pretty 5' 4", blonde w/ green eyes. Fun, very positive, caring & sharing. She enjoys theatre, music, movies, dancing, swimming, and seeks a sincere, established, non-smoking gentleman, with sense of humour, good outlook on life, who's between 60-70, for mutually enjoyable relationship. **AD#1471**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Ruth is easy going, a bit naughty, but very nice. She loves going out, dancing, dining, travelling and romance. It is essential that she be able to communicate with her companion. If you are as naughty and nice as her, please leave her a message. **AD#1133**

ENJOYS LIFE
Single female, 50 yrs, loves to laugh, likes to have fun, is warm friendly, have a child, 2 dogs. She's 5' 6", thin, blonde hair, attractive, nice person, likes dining, movies, travelling, reading, quiet walks, and drives in the country. **AD#1054**

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"C"ALL ME
Single attractive female, slim, 50 yrs young. She seeks a male between 55-70 yrs, someone who is young at heart and not afraid of "C" words such as card, cuddling, compassion and confiding. She's looking for friendship, fun and to share the wonders of life. **AD#1150**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
Single female, interested in meeting a trustworthy, loyal, caring, intelligent, professional Jewish male. She's a non smoker, lives in Toronto, has a great sense of humour. She has many interests and would like to share them with someone for a friendship first relationship. **AD#1366**

LIFE PARTNER
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, intelligent, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish established male who's over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable, and over 6 feet. **AD#1181**

men seeking women

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. Leave him a message. **AD#1206**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1051**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

LET'S HAVE COFFEE
Single male, 54 yrs, 5' 2", from Woodbridge. He's employed, enjoys walking and running. He's interested in conservation, has never been married, is a non-smoker and social drinker. He's also serious & shy, a nice guy, and a seeks female with similar interests. Leave him a message. **AD#1335**

LOTS OF FUN
Dave is 36 yrs, slim and handsome. He's outgoing and enjoys movie going, dining, concerts and shopping. Looking for a single Jewish female, who is slim, 30-37 yrs, tall and reasonably attractive. If you like what you hear please leave him a message. **AD#1436**

LET'S MEET
Martin, 49 yrs, enjoys dancing, long walks, flea markets, nice restaurants and weekend country drives. He looks for a good natured, friendly individual, a nice person to be with and converse with. Feel free to reply and he will get back to you. **AD#1393**

FUN LOVING LARRY
Larry is 50 yrs and new in town. He likes horses and any outdoor activities. He's looking for a nice lady with a good sense of humour and lots of love. If this fits your description, please reply. **AD#1397**

LONG WALKS
Single Jewish male, in his mid 40's, is an attractive, intelligent, ambitious, professional gentleman. He seeks an attractive Jewish female, 32-44 yrs old for casual dating leading to long term relationship, someone who enjoys dining, movies, good music, dancing, nearby travel and romantic long walks. **AD#1254**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys. **AD#1179**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

CALL ME
Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy, secure, knows the importance of family/friends. Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family. **AD#1222**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

TRILINGUAL GUY
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OPOCZYNSKI, Fajga – on June 13, 2002, late of 4110 Bathurst St.

TENENBAUM, Morris – on June 14, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave

WARREN, Shirley – on June 12, 2002, late of 2431 North 37th Ave.

STEINBERG, Mel – on June 14, 2002, late of 4001 Bayview Ave., #111.

HAFT, William – on June 16, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

WISEMAN, Hyman – on June 17, 2002, late of 15 Bayview Forest Lane,

BROTT, Rozzie – on June 15, 2002, late of 18 Lower Village Gate, #709.

LANDAU, Cookie – on June 17, 2002, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #2106.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GOLANT, Isadore – on June 15, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St., #913.

REISMAN, Louis – on June 17, 2002, late of 225 Shaftsbury Ave.

GLUCK, Jack – on June 17, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #805.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GREENSPOON, Robert – on June 18, 2002, late of 2727 Yonge St., #713.

POLLACK, Rose – on June 18, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave.

LEVITT, Walter – on June 18, 2002, late of 625 Avenue Rd., #602.

ELLISON, Max – on June 19, 2002, late of 625 Glencairn Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MORTON KNECHT ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 21st, 10:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Workman's Circle Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LOTTIE SHENDALE ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 21st, 11:00 a.m.

Roselawn Cemetery
B'nai Abraham Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

CHARLES WERB ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, July 14th, at 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
UJPO Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

336 CARD OF THANKS

The Serruya Family

wishes to thank everyone for their heartfelt chessed during the recent loss of their beloved son.

YOSSEF HAIM ז"ל

The Family of the late

SELMA ROTMAN ז"ל

would like to thank friends, family and co-workers at Winners Merchant Inc. for their many acts of kindness during the loss of our beloved "Ma".

The donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, Hill House Hospice and many other charities of choice are most appreciated. Thanks to everyone who came to the funeral and those who sent cards, letters and e-mails. We gratefully acknowledge the compassionate staff at the Hill House Hospice and the wonderful care, dedication and kindness given by Dr. Albert Kirshen.

Percy Rotman, Karen, Brooke and Matthew Turack

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BIALIK EXPANDING: Bialik Hebrew Day School recently held the groundbreaking for its expanded campus. The expansion, which includes a new gymnasium/auditorium, a new cafeteria, classrooms and green space, will be complete by summer 2003. Seen at left are honourary "groundbreakers" (from left) Anne Sokoloff and Victor Topper, accompanied by Mark Nightingale, chair of the building committee. Right photo: the school's choir performs at the ceremony.

[Anna Morgan photos]

Orthodox, non-Orthodox see things differently: rabbi

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Explaining Orthodox theology to the non-Orthodox is difficult because they have a different basic frame of reference, especially concerning the concept of divine revelation, says Rabbi Benjamin Hecht.

The director of Nishma, an international educational outreach program, spoke recently on the topic Explaining Orthodoxy to the Non-Orthodox. The lecture was the first in a three-part series called Orthodoxy in a Non-Orthodox World – Hijacking, Hypocrisy, Harmony and/or Holiness?

Rabbi Hecht used as an example a presentation he had given earlier to the First Narayever synagogue, a traditional egalitarian congregation in downtown Toronto that is embarking on a year-long study about dealing with homosexual members.

In particular, Rabbi Hecht said, the synagogue asked him to speak about the Orthodox view of issues arising from same sex couples, such as the question of their sponsoring a kiddush on the anniversary of their commitment and announcing such celebrations, and whether or not to allow "joining ceremonies."

The first issue to consider, Rabbi Hecht said, is why Jews perform a mitzvah. The Orthodox reason, he explained, is simply that the mitzvot are "edicts from God – a command from the King."

The intent of observing a mitzvah is to fulfil a command from God, he said, or according to the sages, one has not fulfilled His will.

However, he said, according to Maimonides, there are two kinds of commandments, those for which there is an obvious reason, and those for which there is not.

When there is an obvious reason, he said, it is "to develop an ethical concept that goes along with the commandment." For instance, people do not commit murder just because God says we shouldn't, but because we develop a feeling that murder is morally wrong.

A *chok*, a mitzvah for which there is no immediately obvious reason and does not cause "a moral repulsion" is a different story, he said.

Keeping kosher, for example, is a *chok*; one is "supposed to look at something treif, and say, 'Boy, that looks tasty,' but not eat it anyway."

However, even if one can sense the reason for a mitzvah, "ultimately, the fact that God gave the commandment is the fundamental reason to observe it."

And that is the basic problem, he said. "One can explain why something makes sense, but if the person doesn't believe in divine revelation, the mechanism [for explanation and observance] is lost."

On the other hand, he said, he would not be taken seriously "if I argue that the only reason that I am against supporting homosexual relationships is because God said no."

If he were a synagogue rabbi, he said, and a gay individual who wanted to join the shul approached him, "I would look at him the same way I would someone who doesn't keep Shabbat or kashrut."

When explaining Orthodox theology to the non-Orthodox, Rabbi Hecht said, if one uses their frame of reference, and ignores the belief that observance comes because of an edict of God, it is like "marketing Orthodoxy."

For instance, by saying that keeping Shabbat is good because it supports the family unit, that kashrut is an expression of Jewish identity, or that the laws of family purity increase the romanticism of the marital relationship – even though studies may show that these things are true – "you are creating parameters around the mitzvah to go along with [the non-Orthodox] frame of reference."

The classical Orthodox response to homosexuality is different from that of the fundamentalist religious world, he said, in that it recognizes and empathizes with the dilemma of a gay person. "You wouldn't try to 'sell' the Torah view that homosexuality is wrong. You say that this is the reality of your life; let's deal with it."

If one says flatly that homosexual relationships are forbidden, Rabbi Hecht said, one has maintained the Orthodox position, but at the same time made sure that the Orthodox approach is not even considered.

JWI/Toronto celebrates 50 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Hilda Ronson has seen a lot of changes since she joined Toronto B'nai Brith Women's Auxiliary in 1945.

Most notably, she has watched the organization – now Jewish Women International/Toronto (JWI/T) – evolve from an auxiliary of Toronto B'nai Brith to an independent and flourishing community service organization.

Now, 50 years since the autonomous Women's Committee was established, Ronson, 83, said joining the organization was "life altering. It brought me together with friends, it taught me to be a leader; it got me out of my shell."

When she was a young bride, she said, she would go to meetings with her husband Lou, who has belonged to B'nai Brith for 63 years. "It has been an important part of our life and our marriage."

As a member of the Eglinton chapter, to which she still belongs, Ronson recalls sending old nylon stockings to Korea during the Korean War, going to Sunnybrook Hospital to play bingo with the veterans, and serving tea on silver trays to new citizens during a citizenship ceremony at City Hall.

"We had a project a month. We were very proud to receive the Sidney Kusworm Citizen Award for civic affairs, out of 240 chapters in eastern Canada and the United States."

At JWI/T's recent 50th annual council installation which saw Charlotte Lefler installed as president, Lucille Bensky, who has been a JWI/T member since 1958 and has collected memorabilia that she plans to donate to JWI's archives, gave a retrospective of the organization.

Benksy, who has been both Toronto and national president, said that in the early postwar years, members focused their efforts on aid to Israel and Europe by sending weekly parcels of food, blankets and clothes.

"Closer to home, the members visited military hospitals so our boys knew they were not forgotten."

The more things changed over the years, however, the more they remained the same, Bensky said. "In 1949 our members were knitting socks for refugees; in '59 we knit sweaters for Korean orphans; now we knit mittens for inner-city children.

"In the late '40s, we worked with Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and Canadian Jewish Congress to find homes for new Canadians and help them adjust to a new life. Currently, we are proud of Toronto volunteers who work with clients at our ASTEH apartment for abused women and their families."

In the field of health, Bensky said, JWI/T "had been an initiator, leading the way in developing community projects.

"In conjunction with public health nurses, we began a visual screening test for kindergarten children, and trained our volunteers to use ophthalmology equipment to test seniors for glaucoma.

"Tay Sachs, an unheard of disease prior to 1971, has almost been eradicated in Toronto thanks to the dedicated efforts of JWI/T in three city-wide screening programs organized in 1971, 1986 and 1997. The initial screening format became the model for the world," said Bensky.

Throughout the war years, she said, JWI chapters participated in Red Cross blood banks, and in 1959, the Toronto chapter held its first clinic.

"The newly formed Canadian Blood Services has recognized the important role we are playing in their blood donor clinics. Communal drives over the last five decades have always received our membership's support."

Along with the 1943 founding of the Children's Home in Israel and the opening of the Canada Group Home in 1971, Bensky said, "our members have generously supported the Residential Treatment Centre in Israel through the purchase of donation cards and fund-raising projects."

Ronson said that over the years, she has witnessed more and more women entering the workforce. "When I joined, we were all at home; we had lots of time to volunteer. Now, it's much more of a challenge. Women have lots more on their plates and they have to pick their volunteer time wisely.

"I encourage women to join, though; it is worth the effort it takes. Women can help the community, make lifelong friends and develop new skills. It is enriching."

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Teenage golfer named to Canadian junior team

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

David Albert is a tall, lanky kid, the kind of guy for whom the physics of golf can become a virtual 15th club in his bag.

With his range and reach – along with the suppleness of youth – he can make the the arc on his swing as wide as a windmill, and as a result, generate plenty of clubhead speed at impact. The results are evident 260 to 280 yards down range, which is where the 15-year-old's tee shots usually end up.

Albert rode a strong first shot coupled with good putting skills to a much-coveted position on the national junior team that will represent Canada in a Ryder Cup-style match in Bermuda later this month.

Albert shot rounds of 76 and 76 at the 6,450-yard par 70 North Course at the Station Creek Golf Club in Stouffville to finish second, two strokes behind the top 15-year-old, to qualify for the Canadian team.

The second-place finish, though somewhat disappointing for Albert, is nevertheless a big improvement over last year, when his game was more erratic and his concentration less focused.

"I guess I'm playing better and working harder at it," Albert said. "This year, I'm practising more and staying focused more. I care a lot more this year how I do. I'm setting my mind to what I want to do and doing what I have to do to achieve my goals."

Albert's first round at Station Creek placed him in the final group on the second and last day of competition. At the 11th hole in the last round, he found himself tied with two other youngsters. That's when the reality of the situation really hit home.

"We were all tied and I started to get nervous," he said.

In the last few holes, Albert's driving game continued to be strong, but he hit two poor approach shots, missed the greens and didn't get up and down. He gave away two strokes to the eventual winner, who was steady, earning pars all the way through. The third competitor had a rough finish, suffering several disastrous holes that put him out of the running.

When Albert's scores held up to a challenge from golfers in Quebec playing in a parallel qualifying tournament, his place on the Canadian team – and a second-place national ranking for 15-year-olds – was assured.

He's looking forward to the tournament in Bermuda. "I'm just going there to have fun. I'm going to try my best to win. It's not the end of the world if I don't. I'm going more for the experience."

In the meantime, Albert is spending about 11 hours a day at the Oakdale Golf and Country Club, where his family are members, usually playing twice a day as well as practising.

His shot off the tee is pretty strong and he's pretty happy with his putting. "My approach is what I have to work on. Too many times I put myself in a good position and throw it away."

At his age, Albert's got lots of time to correct the flaws in his game. Considering that a couple of years ago he was shooting in the mid-80s and now he's consistently in the mid-70s, he seems to be making good progress.

Albert began playing golf, or at least striking the ball, when he was five, when his dad, Michael, introduced him to the game at a driving range.

He enjoyed whacking balls right from the start and a few years later, his competitive juices began to get really cranked up.

"I liked it and I wanted to play more competitively so I'd see how I ranked against other juniors," he said.

Last year he entered several regional tournaments, winning an invitational event at Oliver's Nest in Lindsay. Overall, however, he wasn't very happy with his performances in 2001 although as a member of Toronto's Maccabi team, he won a silver medal at the junior games in Philadelphia.

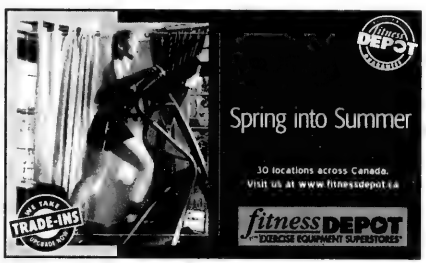
David Albert

With coach Mark Hanna's help he worked on the technical aspects of his game and improved considerably. In mid-May he tied for 15th at the Team Canada qualifier for the junior world tournament in San Diego, shooting rounds of 83 and 81 at King's Forest Golf Course in Hamilton.

A week later, he finished fifth at the Canadian Junior Golf Association (CJGA) Classic at the Maples of Ballantrae Lodge and Country Club, with rounds of 88 and 75.

A week after that came his breakthrough performance at Station Creek.

Albert's still got three years of high school ahead of him, but he's already planning his golfing future. His dream is to earn a scholarship to a big U.S. school and continue his development south of the border.



Pakistani tennis star threatened with sanctions for partnering with Israeli

CJN News Services

LONDON — Pakistan's Aisam Ul-Haq Qureshi, who partnered Amir Hadad into the third round of the men's doubles at Wimbledon, faces a ban for teaming up with the Israeli player.

Qureshi's decision to partner with Hadad was officially condemned by Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) director Brig.-Gen. Saulat Abbas, who said the player could face sanctions.

The BBC Web site quoted Abbas as saying that, "Since Pakistan has no links with Israel, Qureshi may face a ban."

"Although he is playing in his private capacity," added Abbas, "we officially condemn his playing with an Israeli player and an explanation has been sought from him."

Hadad and Qureshi advanced to the the third round of the men's doubles at Wimbledon, with a convincing 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 straight-sets victory over tournament 11th seeds Ellis Ferreira of South Africa and American Rick Leach. However, in the third round, the Czech duo of Martin Damm and Cyril Suk – the seventh seeds – defeated them 6-1, 7-6, 6-4.

According to Hadad, the on-court partnership that has been grabbing headlines was formed when the two players hooked up for a practice session, hit it off and decided to play the Wimbledon qualifying doubles together.

Qureshi, 22, has been Pakistan's best player for the last two years, playing a key role in the country's recent Davis Cup semifinal win over Taiwan in the Asia Oceania group 11.

"I didn't even think about Qureshi being a Muslim until I went home and found it was big news in Israel, that a Jew was playing with a Muslim," Hadad said. "I just thought of him as a human being."

Pakistan's minister of sport, S.K. Tressler, said "the government will definitely approach this issue. As we don't have diplomatic relations with Israel, we don't recognize it.

"But it would be premature to say what we can do. All I can say is that Aisam's decision to play with an Israeli was not morally correct."

Qureshi himself brushed aside the criticism. "I am surprised at the fuss being made over my partnership," he said. "I would like to be talked about for my tennis rather than politics. If we can change people's minds, then that would be a good thing.

For his part, Hadad said each Wimbledon win was "dedicated to peace in the world. This is sport, not politics, and people can get along. It's crazy. All the killing is for nothing.

FICTION AND POETRY

• ***The Ascent of Eli Israel and Other Stories***, by Jon Papernick Arcade Publishing, $36.50, HC.

These shocking short stories set in present-day Israel capture the mood of the country and the various cultures of a fascinating region. This anthology is the first published book of a young, talented storyteller in the league of Nathan Englander.

• ***The Ivory Pomegranate***, by Adora Freedman, Gefen Publishing House, $29.50, SC.

The typically complicated North American Jewish characters searching for truth and meaning in this intriguing novel include a rabbi who becomes romantically involved with a prisoner and an absent mother, completely estranged from her Jewish heritage, who falls in love with an observant Jew and former cult member.

• ***American Standard and Other Poems***, by Joseph Sherman, Oberon Press, $13.95, SC.

In this collection, the author "returns to what he calls life's miscellany... Sherman's work is very polished and no word is ever wasted."

• ***Editors: The Best From Five Decades***, by Saul Bellow and Keith Botsford, Toby Press, $49.95, SC

A stunning collection of essays, stories and poems (fiction and non-fiction) chosen by two of this generation's finest writers, spanning a 50-year journalistic collaboration. A literary treasure.

NON-FICTION

• ***The Rav Speaks: Five Addresses on Israel, History, and the Jewish People***, by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Toras HoRav Foundation, $33.95, HC.

These five lectures were originally delivered by the late, great leader of modern Orthodoxy between 1962 and 1967. According to Rabbi David Telsner, who published the talks in Hebrew in 1973, although "many a significant change has taken place in the 'dramatis personae', the essentials of the 'drama' itself have remained constant."

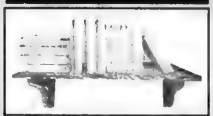
• ***Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Ten Portraits***, by Allan Levine, McClelland $ Stewart, $36.99, HC.

A wonderful celebration of Jewish survival, focusing on the lives of important, remarkable individuals in major cosmopolitan centres during significant periods of Jewish history.

• ***Oslo's Gift of "Peace": The Destruction of Israel's Security***, by Christopher Barder, ACPR Publishers, $19.95, SC.

This thorough analysis of the dangerous so-called peace process is a must-read for anyone attempting to understand the current situation in the Middle East.

Recommended Reading



• ***Not a Simple Story: Love and Politics in a Modern Hebrew Novel***, by Sharon M. Green, Lexington Books, $46.95, SC.

This critique of *A Simple Story*, the famous novel by literary giant S.Y. Agnon, argues that the author "seeks not to demean Jews but to hold them to a higher standard. By demonstrating all that Jewish society lacks, Agnon implicitly shows what it needs for it to thrive."

YOUTH

• ***Rafi's Search for the Torah Munching Monster***, written and illustrated by Rabbi Steven Mills, Alef Design Group, $16.95, SC.

"The clues point to only one thing. The Torah has been stolen by the Terrible Torah Munching Monster!" An adorable detective story for young children.

Ages 7 and up

• ***Too Young for Yiddish***, by Richard Michelson, Talewinds, $25.95, HC.

The importance of preserving family history is the lesson in this touching story about a young man, deeply attached to his grandfather, who discovers that one can never be too young or too old to learn Yiddish. Wonderful illustrations by Neil Waldman.

Ages 7-10

• ***One Small Dog***, by Johanna Hurwitz, HarperCollins, $7.50, SC.

A heartwarming story about a small boy who must give up his beloved pet. Lovely illustrations by Diane deGroat.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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California Grilled Veggie Sandwich

1 loaf focaccia bread
1/4 cup mayonnaise
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tblsp. lemon juice
1 ea. small zucchini, yellow & green sliced
1 red onion, sliced
1 cup sliced red bell peppers
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/8 cup olive oil

In small bowl, combine mayonnaise, minced garlic, lemon juice. Set sauce aside in refrigerator.

Brush vegetables with olive oil on each sided. Grill pepper, zucchini, onion and squash for 3 mins. turning, and cook for another 3 mins. on BBQ vegetable grill. Remove from grill and set aside.

While vegetables are cooking, cut focaccia into 4 slices. Spread sauce evenly over top, sprinkle with feta cheese. Place on grill, cover with lid for 2-3 mins. Watch carefully so bottom doesn't burn. This will warm bread, and slightly melt cheese. Remove from grill, and layer 2 pieces with vegetables. Cover with remaining bread. Serve warm.

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DearKarilani

About Teens

I am in high school and have been dating a boy in my grade who is nice, good looking and fun to be with. He always treats me really well and I like him a lot. The problem is that he is a terrible student and doesn't seem to care about school. Unlike me, he often skips class, rarely studies or does any homework, and he hangs around with a group of guys who don't take schoolwork or university admissions seriously. It's hard for me to maintain the kind of concentration I need to get good grades when I spend time with him. I feel like his attitude toward school is contagious. Should we break up?

Confused

Dear Confused,

I ran this story by my parents, grandparents and my Uncle Syd who is in the appliance business, and they all answered this question with another question: What does your boyfriend's father do for a living?

Seriously, though, you have to have a talk with this guy. It's good to hear that he treats you well when you are together, but there's more to a relationship than just having fun. True friends also support each other in achieving their goals. If he can't manage to turn around his own performance in school, you should at least let him know that his negative attitude is having an effect on you and that he should try to be sensitive to your priorities in life.

If he cares about you enough, he may start to read and get interested in the same things that you are interested in, and you may end up being a major influence on him rather than the other way around.

Also, my family members do have something of a point. How will your boyfriend find a career and support himself once high school is over? One day his approach to school may come back to haunt him. Some people do get serious about their education at a later stage of life and manage to go back to school and improve their job prospects, but that can be a long and difficult process. Or he might find himself in a successful career that doesn't require a formal education.

But if you feel committed to school, don't let yourself get influenced by his habits. The time for you to concentrate on your education is now.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

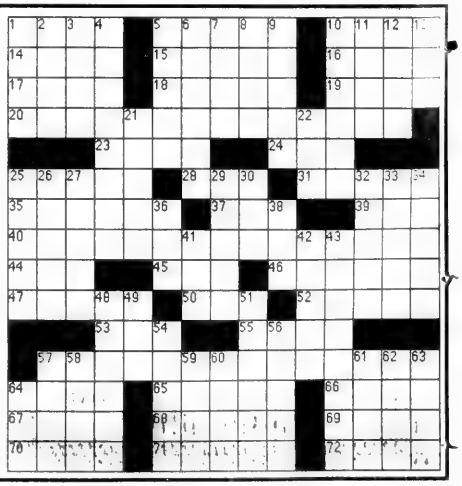
(Answers to the crossword are on page 30.)

The Canadian Jewish news

Authors and Playwrights
(all Jewish, of course)
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Courteous chap
5. Network company
10. 2nd person word, olde form
14. Hebrew terebinth
15. Diamond headwear
16. Needle case
17. Stringed instrument
18. Gecko genus, abbrev.
19. Stopping points, abbrev.
20. Yale scholar-author, funny movie-maker, serious novelist
23. My generation, in Gadera
24. "That isn't worth a ___"
25. Fortune-telling card
28. Wts.
31. Sneeze sound, variant
35. Idolizes
37. "___ the ramparts we watched"
39. The Joy Luck Club novelist Amy
40. Scripted 'The Verdict', wrote 'The Crucible', wrote 'Mila 18'
44. Mommy, in Metula
45. Right stuff pilot
46. A cash register notation
47. One of the arts
50. Naughty thing
52. Rashness, abbrev.
53. Consumed
55. Egyptian god
57. Heard Portnoy, remembered my people, remembered
64. Honcho
65. "Beware! ____ curse be upon you!"
66. Hsg. units
67. Makes strade into a railing support
68. In between the stars, we're told
69. Antique enameled metalware
70. Harvest subject
71. Machinery maker for 70 Across
72. Cones popular in summer

Down
1. New York singer-songwriter Bob
2. Hebrew month
3. Russia just joined it
4. Singer-songwriter Bikel
5. Aromatic substance
6. Great Yishuv author-poet
7. Screenwriter-director Reiner
8. Banyan or madrone
9. Mine wrkrs. who separate ore
10. Second opinion, first base umpire
11. Aleutian island
12. What many stocks did in 1999
13. "__ of thee"
21. Polyphonic choral composition
22. Hold it, horsey! variant
25. Domesticated
26. Earth, in Eilat
27. Vishniac, photojournalist, on Jewish life in '30s
29. Hulk-type hero who saved Jews
30. Salt, at the Sorbonne
32. Football great Hank
33. Ethiopian royal first name
34. Racing great Del
36. Another word for wee
38. Action on a lease, for short
41. Here, in Honfleur
42. To roast, in Rouen
43. What a miller does, for some cereals
48. Stuff regularly sent up by Keillor
49. Old Anglo-Saxon letter
51. Wrote The French Lieutenant's Woman
54. Fished, for a certain quarry
56. What you don't want to drive without
57. Leonine form of expression
58. What Sharon has rejected
59. Went with the Belle
60. One Arthurian court master
61. On top
62. French WWII battle site
63. African fly has two of these



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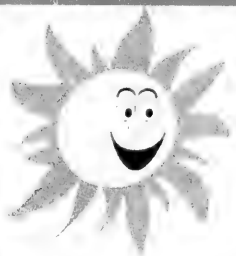

Healthy tips for a summer of fun in the sun!

You are lying on the beach enjoying a warm, summer breeze. As the sun beats down on your face and you sift the hot sand through your toes, you feel relaxed and think of the wonderful healthy glow you are acquiring. But is it really so healthy? Dr. Jeff Bloom, Family Physician-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital answers some frequently asked, burning summer questions.

What are the long-term risks associated with sun exposure?

Some of the long-term risks include skin cancers, non-malignant skin diseases and pre-mature aging. Repeated overexposure to the sun can weaken the elasticity of your skin and cause the outer layer to thicken, become leathery and develop wrinkles. In more severe cases of overexposure to the sun, you can develop certain types of skin cancer such as *Melanoma*.

Do higher levels of SPF in suntan lotion mean stronger protection from the sun?

SPF stands for Sun Protection Factor. The higher the SPF, the better your skin is protected from the sun. Sunscreen that has an SPF of 15 allows you to stay in the sun 15 times longer without getting burnt than if you didn't wear sunscreen at all. So, if you typically begin to burn after 10 minutes of exposure, you can remain in the sun for 150 minutes before beginning to burn. To ensure the ultimate protection, you should also wear sunglasses and a wide brimmed hat that covers your face, ears and neck.

Are children at greater risk of sunburn than adults?

Children are a going concern all year round, but particularly in the summer when they spend so much time outdoors going to the park, swimming and playing sports. They need to take extra precautions in the sun because their baby soft skin isn't fully developed yet. It takes just one or two blistering sunburns during childhood to increase their risk of developing skin cancer later in life. Make sure your kids wear sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher and a big hat to shield their sensitive, little bodies from harmful UV rays.

Who are the people most susceptible to the harmful effects of the sun?

If you have fair colouring or have had a previous bout with skin cancer, you should take extra precautions in the sun. Keep your head covered with a wide brimmed hat and wear sunscreen with a high SPF all year round.

If you do get sunburnt, what's the best method of treatment?

If you get sunburnt, you should apply a cool cloth right away to avoid blistering and keep the burnt area moist with a treatment such as Aloe Vera. However, the best treatment is to avoid getting burnt in the first place. Remember, a hat, sunscreen and sunglasses are your best friends if you want to have a happy, burn free summer and a healthy, vital future!

Auxiliary Annual Gala

Our black-tie Gala event was held on May 23, 2002. More than 1,200 guests enjoyed dinner, dancing, and a performance by entertainer Kenny Loggins. Gala Co-Chairs *Barbara Bregman* and *Lisa Draper* organized this incredible evening with the help of many volunteers. Auxiliary President Marlene Borins extended thanks to everyone who supported the event, especially the evening sponsor – CIBC WorldMarkets. Proceeds from the evening benefit patient care and research at the Hospital.

Barbara (Gala Co-Chair) and Michael Bregman

Lisa (Gala Co-Chair) and Philip Draper

Mount Sinai Classic...Another Year of Success!

The Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation Mount Sinai Classic Golf Tournament was another success raising over $170,000 with the help of its sponsors: ***Equitable Trust*** (Title Sponsor) and ***Scotiabank*** (Presenting Sponsor). Other major sponsors include ***Nike, Mintz&Partners, MDC Corp, Descartes Systems Group***, and ***Research in Motion***. Pictured (left to right) at the cheque presentation is: Brian Cohen, Event Co-chair; Nicholas Offord, President MSHF; Geoffrey Bledin, President The Equitable Trust Company; Michael Nisker, Past Chair Leadership Sinai; and Stephen Miller, Event Co-chair.

Don't miss our upcoming events...

Henry's Tournament fore Health – August 12 at The Board of Trade, Country Club, in support of the **Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre**. The 18-hole event is **SOLD OUT**. We are still accepting registration for 9-hole clinic and golf. Thank you to our Title Sponsor, ***Henry's Camera*** and our Presenting Sponsor, ***Scotiabank***.

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This Week

National

Over 2,000 people attended David Rosenzweig's funeral service. *Page 3*

Bialik's growth grounded in commitment to Israel. *Page 14*

Volunteers respond to terrorist attacks. *Page 15*

On Campus

Experiencing Israel is not just a birthright. *Page 22*

Arts & Travel

Re-issue of Richler collection captures an era. *Page 28*

Brittany Kay, 11, just can't wait to be a kid. *Page 30*

Birds in Jerusalem: jazz in Eilat. *Page 31*

Health & Lifestyles

Campaign publicizes male breast cancer. *Page 32*

Sports & Leisure

Female football player adds glamour to pro team. *Pages 38*

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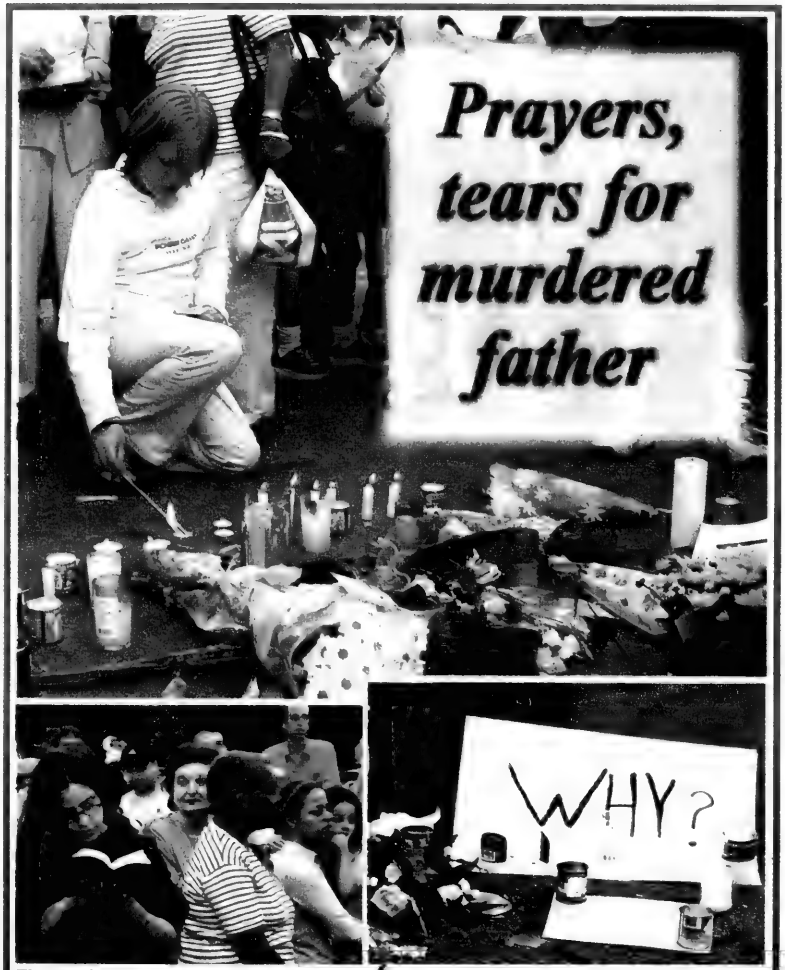

The question posed in a sign at the site of the murder last week of David Rosenzweig - Why? - was the most poignant of all questions in the minds of the Jewish and general communities of Toronto. The day after the stabbing and throughout the week, people attended prayer vigils at the scene of his murder on Bathurst Street near Lawrence Avenue. *Please see related stories on pages 3, 4, 5, 11 and 39.*

[photos by Paul Lungen and Adam Irving]

Research brings ME scientists together

By TAMARA TRAUBMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Scientists and politicians from several Middle Eastern states, including Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Iran, met last week with the aim of setting up a synchrotron research facility that will be operated jointly by scientists from the region.

A synchrotron is an exceedingly powerful source of light. Bunches of charged particles – electrons – circulate for several hours inside a long, ring-shaped tube under a vacuum.

Due to the action of special magnet systems, the electrons emit synchrotron light, whose wavelength can range from infrared radiation to x-rays. The emitted light is collected by many different beamlines connected to the ring and conveyed to experimental chambers.

The applications range from pharmaceutical research and development to microchemical analysis for medical, environmental and archeological studies, and from the industrial production of micromechanical parts to powerful radiological techniques.

The project is called Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) and although all the necessary funding has yet to be raised, the partners in the project are optimistic. The accelerator has already arrived in Jordan, where the project will be based.

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Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Ekev
Candlelighting: 8:28
Havdallah: 9:33

New IDF chief of staff: no legitimacy to Arafat — please see page 26

The News in Brief

ISRAEL

Barghouti Trial

JERUSALEM — Israel plans to put Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti on trial for abetting numerous terror attacks on Israelis, an Israeli justice official said last week. Barghouti, often cited as a potential successor to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, was arrested by Israel in mid-April during its anti-terror operation but has not been charged.

Woman Convicted

JERUSALEM — An Israeli Arab woman, Buhaisa Sa'adi, 25, has been sentenced to six months in jail for failing to warn Israeli officials about a plot to carry out a suicide bombing. The attack was carried out in April by a female bomber who killed six people in Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda market.

Belgian Bill Protested

JERUSALEM — Israel has registered a diplomatic complaint about a bill introduced by four senators in Belgium's governing coalition meant to circumvent a court ruling that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could not be tried for his role in the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres in Lebanon. The court ruled recently that, under the Law of Universal Authority, a war crimes defendant must be present in Belgium to face trial. Israeli officials said Israel kept out of the affair while it was before the courts out of respect for the separation of powers.

WORLD

Pearl Killers Sentenced

HYDERABAD — A Pakistani court last week gave a death sentence to Sheikh Omar, the British-born man who masterminded the kidnapping and murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl. Omar's three accomplices were given life in jail and ordered to pay fines totalling $62,200 (US). In a video released earlier this year, Pearl was forced to affirm his Jewish heritage before being murdered.

Al Qaeda Link?

LONDON — An Egyptian who killed two Israelis July 4 at Los Angeles International Airport may have met with a deputy of Osama bin Laden. Authorities are investigating whether Hesham Mohamed Hadayet met with Ayman Zawahiri in the United States in 1995 and 1998, the London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper reported. U.S. officials say no evidence has been found linking Hadayet to a terrorist group.

SS Man Sentenced

HAMBURG — A former Nazi SS officer was sentenced to seven years in prison for his role in the massacre of 59 Italian prisoners in World War II. Friedrich Engel, also known as the "Butcher of Genoa," has been found guilty by a German court of ordering the murders in 1944. Engel, 93, maintained he was a passive observer and did not supervise the executions. Because of his age, he won't have to serve his sentence, the judge said.

Shchitah Ban Lifted

AMSTERDAM — Jewish ritual slaughter of bulls has been allowed to resume in the Netherlands. Officials had halted the practice, claiming it caused unnecessary suffering. The ban was lifted after Jewish leaders met earlier this month with the agriculture minister.

Scholars Fired in Anti-Israel Boycott

LONDON — Two Israeli academics have been fired from a pair of British scholarly journals as part of a boycott of Israeli universities and cultural and scientific bodies by more than 700 European academics over the "military re-occupation of the West Bank and Gaza."

Last month, Mona Baker, a professor of linguistics at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, asked Miriam Schlesinger, a lecturer at Bar Ilan University, to step down from the editorial board of *The Translator*. She also asked Tel Aviv University professor Gideon Toury to resign from the advisory board of the journal *Translation Studies Abstracts*. Baker owns and edits both journals.

When Schlesinger and Toury refused to resign, Baker fired them. She said their universities, not their nationalities, prompted her decision. Baker had signed a petition urging academics not "to co-operate with official Israeli institutions, including universities" but to "continue to collaborate with, and host, Israeli scientific colleagues on an individual basis."

Schlesinger, who, like Toury, is said to be a liberal and does not support the current Israeli government, said the firings had "nothing to do with our views... We were dismissed because we have the wrong passports."

Jewish groups and Britain's National Union of Students have condemned the boycott, which NUS anti-racism campaigner Daniel Rose said is "nothing short of racism."

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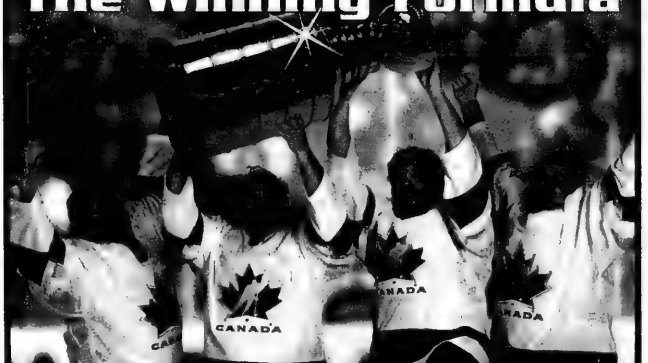

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Thousands mourn David Rosenzweig

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

More than 2,000 people jammed Clanton Park Synagogue's main sanctuary, social hall and front lawn, spilling into the parking lot and the street to honour David Rosenzweig, the 49-year-old man stabbed to death in the early hours of July 14, in front of a pizzeria at Bathurst and Lawrence. Many stood for the longer-than-two-hour funeral service.

Obituary

Afterward, several hundred followed the hearse on foot as it started its trip to Bathurst Lawn cemetery.

Dignitaries included Ontario Premier Ernie Eves, Attorney General David Young, Opposition Leader Dalton McGuinty, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman, Police Services Board chair Norm Gardner, MP Art Eggleton and Chief of Police Julian Fantino.

The crowd fell silent as members of the family were escorted into the sanctuary. Unusual today in the Orthodox community, the casket was brought in, and placed in front of the bimah.

Rosenzweig's three oldest sons, their voices breaking, spoke about his dedication to his family, his friends, his career, his Judaism.

Ezra Rosenzweig, the son who was with him when he was killed, called his father a "great father, husband, son, grandfather, uncle, great uncle – a great person."

He loved learning Torah, Ezra said, with his children and friends, and at a daily *daf yomi* class, where people all over the world study the same portion of Talmud on the same day.

Most of all, he taught the family to try their best, and never to hate.

Ezra promised to "remember how you did things, and how you wanted things done," and to follow his example.

Son Sholom noted that when their grandfather was hospitalized at Mount Sinai, his father walked down from their Downsview home to be with him on Rosh Hashanah.

David Rosenzweig's pride in being Jewish was what struck son Mayer. "He never hid that he was Jewish. It may be what caused his death, but he wouldn't have had it any other way."

The boys spoke of David's helping each of them prepare for their bar mitzvah, something he had just started with son Shragee, his taking time for each child, and how devoted he was to his parents and in-laws. Every Shabbat, regardless of the weather, he would walk down to his parent's house, take his father to shul in a wheelchair, carrying him to the bimah when he had an *aliyah*.

David Rosenzweig

Later, even after long days at work as a chartered accountant at Newman and Swersky, he would stop in to see his mother every evening.

Shabbat and holidays were wonderful for the family, said Mayer, describing how they would sit around and learn and talk and generally have fun for hours after the meal.

Brother Arthur said that the world- wide press coverage of the tragedy of the murder "missed the point. The world lost an exceptional person." David "gave the same honour to his work as to his religious principles," and was an example of integrity to his clients, colleagues and family.

As well, he "represented a person totally integrated into society, both in his professional life and as a religious Jew... He taught his children to blend the religious and secular in their lives, as he did."

With a wistful smile, Arthur recalled his brother simply as "a guy who tried to do the right thing."

Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner, spiritual leader of Clanton Park, said that the Jewish reaction to this tragedy must be "to love life more passionately; to enhance and encourage [the ideal of] the sanctity of life.

Continued on page 6

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Greater Toronto Area

Coverage of a horrible crime

From the editor's desk

The horrible, senseless killing last week in Toronto of David Rosenzweig struck many of the city's Jews like a thunderous earthquake, cutting out from under our feet, at least temporarily, the familiar supports on which we rely for our emotional equilibrium, sense of place and belonging.

Random, violent crimes, including murder, alas, are not unimaginable on the streets of Toronto or anywhere else in Canada. But random, violent crimes and murder on the streets of Toronto or anywhere else in Canada, specifically, deliberately, purposefully aimed at Jews, are unimaginable.

Thus, when the news spread that wonderful, kind David Rosenzweig had been murdered, many of us feared that the unimaginable had indeed happened. As of this writing, we still cannot definitively define or disquiet our fears.

That uncertainty, however, became a distraction, and as the week wore on, we – as individuals and as a community – lost our focus.

The immeasurable suffering and inconsolable loss of the Rosenzweig family was virtually overshadowed by the almost surrealistic sideshow, conducted in and also by the media, of trying to divine the killer's true and total motives.

To be sure, it is imperative that we know precisely why Rosenzweig was killed. It is imperative for at least three reasons: for the sake of the law that a court of justice will apply in the circumstances; for the sake of the steps, if any, that the Jewish and larger community must take as result; and, of course, for the sake of the truth.

But only the trial of the accused murderer will be able to tell us why wonderful and kind David Rosenzweig was killed.

Until then we can only speculate.

There was a great deal of such speculation along with news coverage and related commentary in the pages of the local Toronto newspapers last week.

Two writers in particular deserve our attention: Christie Blatchford and Thomas Walkom.

Christie Blatchford writes in the venerable newspaper traditions of reporters such as Ernest Hemingway and Jimmy Breslin. She is one of Canada's best feature writers, a master at capturing the myriad details of scenes and subjects that elevate her reports from mere narratives to compelling stories.

She is unrivaled at marking out the full physical and psychological terrain of a story. Her writing can be both nuanced and brazen, questioning and assertive, all at the same time.

Moreover, she writes prolifically.

In obvious recognition of her unique talents, and of her readers' attachment to her writing, the editors at *The National Post* grant her stories wide space in the paper. And her readers are well rewarded for that space.

Tuesday through Saturday last week, she wrote at least 10,000 words in six separate stories on various aspects of Rosenzweig's murder: the pained and painful funeral; the presence of victim identification (ZAKA) volunteers from Israel who happened, by coincidence, to be in Toronto last week; the arrest of the murder suspect; the question of the motive for the crime; the anxiety within the Jewish community; and the possible wider implications of the crime for the general community.

Her stories were respectful of the grieving family, exhaustive of the many issues, thoughtful and contemplative. They painted a painstakingly detailed and accurate picture of the unspeakable sorrow that befell the Rosenzweig family and of the immobilizing distress and turmoil that gripped the Jewish community of Toronto last week. She deserves high praise for providing that picture.

Thomas Walkom, by contrast, is neither a news reporter nor a feature writer. He is a commentator. On Tuesday last week in the *Toronto Star*, he wrote what can only be characterized, charitably, as a very problematic commentary.

He stated that anti-Semitism, which "has persisted for centuries" and which is "the Christian West's great shame," was "the psychological context of the Rosenzweig murder." He then pointed to "a political context too" for the murder, namely, Israel. But he did not cite the obvious, key, staring-in-the-face, Israel-related fact of that "political context" – that there has been a rise, around the world in anti-Semitic incidents due to Israel's conflict with the Palestinians.

Rather, in a breathtakingly illogical non-sequitur, he cited the obvious, but trite and wholly irrelevant fact that "it is perfectly appropriate to criticize Israel," immediately adding his personal anti-Israel propaganda to the preceding irrelevancy: "for taking much of the land of another people and illegally occupying the rest."

Far more objectionable, however, Walkom then raised a dangerously mischievous "straw-man" argument, that was also entirely irrelevant to the issues under discussion. "Even the idea of Israel as an explicitly Jewish state seems, to many non-Jews, outdated and fraught with contradiction."

Subsequently, Walkom purported to dismantle the "straw-man" by saying it is "stunning naivete" for many Jews (as opposed to the non-Jews who question the idea of Israel as an explicitly Jewish state) "to even ask these questions."

But the reader could not but doubt the bona fides of his dismantling the "straw-man" due to the absolute absurdity in a commentary on Rosenzweig's murder, of his having introduced the odious subject in the first place – and thereby placed it on the table – of the legitimacy of Israel's existence.

—MBD

SeeJN

STANDING VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF TERROR: Last Wednesday, the day before Tisha b'Av, groups from different synagogues and organizations each came for one hour of a day-long vigil on Bloor Street to commemorate the innocent Israelis killed in the recent wave of terrorism. Toronto's vigil, co-ordinated by the Israel-Now Consortium, was one of 20 programs organized by the American Zionist Federation across North America and Great Britain last week. Participant Carole Sterling said it was appropriate to remember all the lives lost at the same time as we remember the loss of the two Temples in Jerusalem. Pictured is the group from Temple Sinai Congregation. [Anna Morgan photo]

Jew murdered but was it a hate crime?

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The senseless, unprovoked murder of 49-year-old David Rosenzweig has shocked many in the Jewish community, generated headlines around the world and raised questions as to whether his stabbing is symptomatic of a wider surge of Jew-hatred in Canada.

In Israel, the incident received front-page coverage while *CNN* was quick to report that an Orthodox Jew had been struck down in normally tranquil Toronto.

For many, the murder of a visibly distinguishable Jew was part of a increasingly disturbing pattern. B'nai Brith Canada hurried to release an Interim Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, in which it reported a 63 per cent increase over the same six-month period the year before. B'nai Brith president Rochelle Wilner proclaimed that "it certainly feels" like "open season on Jews."

Canadian Jewish Congress took a different approach, acknowledging the fear in the community while offering reassurance: "We have great confidence in the manner in which the Toronto Police Service is conducting this investigation. We urge every Jewish leader to join us in reminding the public that the streets of Toronto are safe to walk. It is not 'open season' on Jews," said Ed Morgan, chair of CJC's Ontario region.

Morgan agreed the murder bore many of the hallmarks of a hate crime, and he said Congress had received many calls from elderly Jews who are afraid to go outside.

But, he said, "even if they determine it is a hate crime, there is not a general atmosphere of hate against Jews in Toronto."

Congress would "wait and reserve judgement" until the police concluded their investigation, he added.

Meanwhile, B'nai Brith reported 197 anti-Semitic incidents in the first six months of 2002 compared to 121 the year before. Most took place in Toronto and Montreal.

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith, told a news conference late last week that the murder is part of a larger pattern of attacks and threats against Jews

Dimant said "a one-month high alert" was proclaimed by police in Ottawa over fears Jews would be targeted. "That doesn't indicate to me it's business as usual in Canada."

Visible Jews are experiencing the anti-Semitic atmosphere more than others, he continued. Mothers are telling their children to wear baseball caps instead of kippot while "the workplace has become infested with anti-Semitism."

Dimant said he would turn over to police two sworn affidavits by eyewitnesses stating that the term "f...ing Jews," was used shortly before Rosenzweig was stabbed. That evidence shows the murder fits the description of a hate crime, he stated.

(National Post columnist Christie Blatchford reported that Shloimo Sufrin, who was outside the pizza restaurant the night of the murder, said he heard the slur "you f...ing Jews.")

Protesters demonstrate against anti-Semitism at the scene of the murder. [Adam Irving photo]

Although police initially said they would investigate whether the murder was motivated by anti-Semitism, within a few days, Chief Julian Fantino was discounting the possibility it was a hate crime.

Under the Criminal Code, if a crime is found to be motivated by hate, a judge may decide to impose a stiffer sentence than for the same act not motivated by hate.

It took police less than two days to track down the main suspect in the killing, Christopher McBride, 20. He was arrested along with his girlfriend, Mercedes Asante, 19, by a police tactical squad in an apartment a few kilometres from the murder scene.

McBride was charged with first degree murder, while Asante was charged with being an accessory after the fact.

A third man who allegedly was with them the night of the incident was questioned and released prior to the police raid.

At first blush, the murder bore all the hallmarks of a hate crime, Morgan said. The alleged killer's head was shaved, he sported a tattoo that resembled a Celtic Cross, a symbol appropriated by skinhead groups, he barged into a kosher pizzeria late at night and harassed the clientele, and then he attacked the bearded and kippah-clad Rosenzweig, who was a visible Jew in a Jewish neighbourhood.

"Why else would a skinhead be at a kosher restaurant other than to harass the Jewish customers?" Morgan asked. "When an Orthodox man is killed for no reason whatsoever, it seems like a hate crime."

Given the spate of attacks on Jews around the world, particularly in France and Belgium, as well as anti-Semitic incidents in Canada, such an attack raises the red flag of a hate crime, he added.

Det. James Hogan of the police hate crimes unit, said his office had been assisting homicide detectives in investigating the suspect's background and said they had found no evidence of any affiliation with white supremacist or skinhead groups.

As to racial motivation for the attack, "It just isn't there," Hogan said.

Continued on page 6

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Investigation in preliminary stages

Continued from page 5

The police investigation, though only in its preliminary stages, seems to suggest the killing took place after the alleged perpetrator became angry at a drug deal gone bad and had gone out on the streets in a foul mood looking for trouble, Hogan said.

The alleged killer was staying with a friend (the third man) who lived almost across the street from the kosher pizzeria where the incident began.

"It looks like he was angry and walked the streets looking for trouble. He ended up at the pizzeria; one of the places that was open was the pizzeria," Hogan said.

As to published reports that the suspect said "I got a rabbi," or something to that effect, after the stabbing, Hogan said: "I would classify that as a rumour at this point." He said it wasn't clear whether that statement was actually made.

Leo Adler, director of national affairs for Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, said that "while we don't want to overstate the case, on the other hand, the police seem to be trying to downgrade incidents that involve anti-Semitic acts.

"There may be a denial by the authorities, much as there was in France.

"Generally speaking," he continued, "Canada is a safe place, relatively speaking, for Jews. What you are getting is a build up of intolerance for Jews."

Repeating a theme echoed by all three Jewish advocacy groups, Adler said the atmosphere changed after the Durban conference on racism last year and with the continued violence in the Middle East. (B'nai Brith's data showed spikes in anti-Semitic incidents in April and May, coinciding with Israel's military operations in the Palestinian territories.)

"Events in the Middle East and Europe are having an impact here as well," Adler said.

At a vigil last week where Rosenzweig was fatally stabbed in the back, people left memorial candles and flowers on the spot where he was killed. Rabbi Shmuel Spero of the Anshei Minsk Synagogue led a group of young people in chanting tehillim (psalms). Ironically, Rosenzweig was killed in front of a light standard on which was tacked a poster advertising a community rally against anti-Semitism.

Many at the vigil were quick to label the incident racially-motivated.

Alan Burger, past president of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue and an acquaintance of Rosenzweig, said police "must be wearing blindfolds when they said it [wasn't a hate crime]. How could it not be? He went to a Jewish pizza place and stabbed an innocent man.

Police were "trying to lower attention and make it antiseptic, that's all."

Jack Muskat, president of the Association for the Soldiers of Israel, said "what else could it be" but a hate crime. "Look at the area he picked. It's a Jewish neighbourhood with religious people. He didn't pick a church."

Rob Baruch, 29, said he was shocked at the incident given that he had grown up in the neighbourhood and considered it friendly and peaceful.

"I think the Jewish community thinks it's a hate crime. I think it was."

Tracey Baruch, 30, agreed and compared the police reaction in Toronto to the statements by police in Los Angeles when they refused to label an attack on an El Al counter as a terrorist incident. "But when you target a particular population, what else can it be?"

Their friend, Jamie Alexander, 28, dissented somewhat. "My initial reaction is that it was a hate crime. I would lean towards that, but I'm not the type of person to jump to conclusions." Alexander said he wanted to hear the final police determination before deciding whether it was or not.

Edmond Lipsitz said he thought it was a hate crime, while Minnie Obouchowski, who brought a memorial candle to the site, said she grieved for the family. "Why did it happen and he left so many children?"

"Why did they pick on him? He had to come here to get killed? Why?"

In the King David Restaurant last Monday, where the alleged killer harassed patrons, a man who gave his name only as "Eddie," 18, continued to prepare pizzas behind the counter, just like he did on the night when he confronted a trio of young people who were there "to make violence with the customers."

They were "acting violent," he said in broken English.

Eddie, a Muslim from Afghanistan, said he followed the three outside and when he told the ringleader to calm down, the man pulled out a knife and took a swipe at him, nicking him on the arm. A moment later, Rosenzweig was stabbed. The entire incident, from beginning to end, lasted barely a couple of minutes, he said.

Inside the restaurant, owner David Hazan explained that nothing remotely resembling the incident had ever occurred there before. The restaurant, which is popular with Orthodox customers after Shabbat ends, was full that night. While many customers have made a point of coming to the restaurant to show solidarity in the wake of the murder, Hazan said he has also fielded a hate message from an anonymous caller who said, "I'm going to kill all Jews."

Among the customers at the King David were Yisroel Stefansky and Rabbi Benzion Oiring, both members of Zaka, the Israeli rescue team that plays a key role at terrorism scenes by gathering all human remains and blood for Jewish burial.

Stefansky had been in Toronto for a little more than a week to raise the organization's profile and drum up financial support, while Rabbi Oiring had flown in the morning of the attack to get some respite from the violence in Israel.

Barely off the plane, Rabbi Oiring joined Stefansky at the crime scene, where they performed the same tasks they would after a terrorism incident back home.

Turning to Rabbi Oiring, Stefansky said, "He wasn't expecting, and I wasn't expecting, to be doing the same thing that we do in Israel.

"He was coming to Toronto for a holiday."

Thousands mourn Rosenzweig

Continued from page 3

"Our reaction to hatred, must be love and compassion; to war, peace."

This message was echoed by a written statement issued by wife Chavie.

"My husband's enduring message to our family, our friends, our community and the world at large is one of peace, of kindness and of love between man and man.

"My hope is that those who carry a message of hate in their hearts be one day blessed with the true joy of knowing what it means to be able to transmit love and peace to other human beings, as my husband did every day of his life."

Rosenzweig was also eulogized by Rabbi Mendel Green of Hamilton, Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation and Rabbi Mordechai Sekula of Congregation Emek Tefilah.

Many left the service with tear-stained faces, clutching tissues and holding on to the arms of friends and family. Some hugged their parents and children.

David Rosenzweig's brother Shloimie spoke to *The CJN* during the shivah. They were very close, speaking every day, he said. "He was gentle, kind and patient. There was something spiritual about him that drew people to him."

He always had time for everyone, Shloimie said, explaining that in spite of his hectic schedule, he always had time to study Torah daily with each of his children.

"People like David are our heroes," he said.

Rosenzweig is survived by his mother, Fay, wife Chavie, children Mayer, Sholom, Ezra, Shragee, Yechiel and Shira and her husband Ezra Jacobovic, three-month-old grandson Avi, and brothers Arthur and Shloimie.

The family has established the David Rosenzweig Fund for Victims of Terror in Israel, through UJA Federation.

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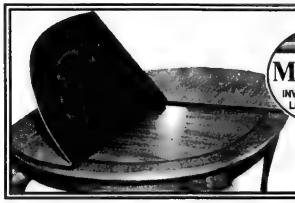
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Public broadcaster, public hypocrisy

In an article published in the *National Post* on July 19, noted scholar, Eric Lawee, assistant professor of humanities at York University wrote about an illuminating, yet disturbing, exchange of correspondence he had with the ombudsman of the CBC, David Bazay.

Lawee wrote to the CBC for a clarification of the public broadcaster's policy regarding the use of the term "terrorist." Specifically, Lawee wanted to know why CBC reporters "carefully avoid the terrorist label" in reference to Palestinians, preferring instead to call them "militants," "gunmen" or even "assailants."

Bazay's response, as recorded by Lawee, was shocking.

Asking the CBC reporters to refer to the suicide bombers as terrorists, Bazay suggested, was asking the CBC "to take sides and to embrace the Israeli government's position and its definition of terrorism, which denies the legitimacy of Palestinian resistance."

Ironically and tellingly, Bazay's very own response appears to take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For he strongly implies that the suicide bombing tactics used by the Palestinians are justified in furtherance of the "legitimacy of Palestinian resistance." As such, it is, undeniably, a deferential nod toward the ruthless, conscienceless campaign of murder by Palestinian members of Islamic Jihad, Hamas, Hezbollah, Tanzim and Al Aqsa Brigade against defenceless Israelis, so many of whom have been youngsters and children.

Bazay told Lawee that the term "terrorist" should be invoked only "after the fact" of an attack and that the reporters were free to do so if they wished. But such discretionary labelling-by-result, as it were, is wholly unacceptable. How can the slaughter of civilians be defined only *after the fact* as an act of terror?

Lawee deftly points out the inconsistency, if not the hypocrisy, of the CBC's policy as expressed by Bazay, because the public broadcaster has not hesitated to "take sides" against al-Qaeda and to refer to the U.S.- led campaign in Afghanistan as a campaign against terrorism. "The upshot is," Lawee writes, "that where Palestinians are concerned, no act will be described as terrorist unless those who commit it describe it as such." This is repugnant.

Blowing up innocent, unarmed civilians is not a legitimate act of resistance – not because "Israeli government position" defines it so, but because we, our conscience, our sense of decency define it so.

The definition of terrorism used by the U.S. State Department is "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."

Nothing could be clearer. Palestinian suicide bombing is terrorism. Palestinian suicide bombers are terrorists. Canadians have the right to demand that the publicly funded CBC adopt policies that are not hypocritical, offensive to conscience and decency, and that are not so blatantly discriminatory against Israel.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Murder of David Rosenzweig

I generally take a lunchtime walk up the hill from my office on Cote des Neiges to Remembrance Road and up to Beaver Lake. On the way, starting from the cemetery gates, I see inflammatory, racist graffiti against Jews and Israel, scrawled upon the lampposts with marker or paint. Once a year, city maintenance crews paint over the graffiti.

This graffiti has always upset me. This is not paranoia. Such signs of hate and racism are showing up in many areas of our city and our country. It is not just one culprit. It is becoming a disease. On July 14, we heard of the killing of an Orthodox Jew outside a kosher pizza parlour in Toronto. I hope and pray this abhorrent deed, committed by a skinhead (after first taunting the restaurant patrons), is not a sign of where our tolerance is leading us. Whether or not this hideous act turns out to have been a crime motivated by hate, I hope that liberties do not have to be surrendered to allow for the enjoyment of freedom without fear.

There is no paranoia in my voice.

My father and mother witnessed the massacre of their parents in Europe before their eyes. David Rosenzweig's son watched as his father was murdered before him. We live in a civilized democracy where we should be able to protect our children from witnessing such butchery.

Harry Grunstein
Hampstead, Que.

* * *

When a white skinhead makes a late-night visit to King David, there is a clear intention to attack its Jewish customers – that is, to commit an anti-Semitic hate crime. The image of young hoodlums descending on Jewish businesses to wreak havoc is painfully familiar to all of us. That the crime resulted in murder makes it much more painful and despicable.

This is not the first anti-Semitic act in Toronto. There have been many others, including the recent torching of a synagogue. No culprit has been found for those earlier attacks. This time there are suspects – young thugs – whom our Canadian educational system has failed to civilize. How many more of their ilk there are and how many anti-Semitic or white supremacist organizations exist is for our police force to dig up and uncover.

Our task is to express our anger now – not after careful consideration, not when the investigation has been completed. We must speak out now, while the wound is fresh. We must tell each other and our friends that we are not ready to tolerate hateful, spiteful little criminals among us. Let us call on the leading citizens of this city to speak up and say in no uncertain terms that we will not stand for intolerance and hate.

Let us make our voices heard.

Andrew Salamon
Toronto

* * *

Judging by his appearance, the murderer of David Rosenzweig identifies with a group whose common denominator is poor educational training, low intelligence and high emotionality. He is a danger and threat not only to Jews, but to members of all communities. Non-Jews ought not to be smug, as monsters who kill without cause are capable of killing anyone.

Nathan Pila
Toronto

* * *

Synagogues should use Israeli wine

We are quite surprised to see some synagogues do not serve Israeli wines at their functions. We think this is disgraceful. You would think synagogues would be the first to use Israeli products.

Harold Kates, Sam Ross, Dez Schonberger
Toronto

* * *

Jews must stand united

The article by Sara Taieb Carlen, *Dispelling myths about Jews in Muslim lands* (*CJN*, July 11) has confirmed for me again that the Jewish people must unite and speak with one voice against our enemies.

No more shall we be humiliated, no more ghettos, no more forced conversion, more massacres, no more crematoria, no more intimidation.

If we stand united, they will get the message. If not now, when?

Rachel Kimel
St. Laurent, Quebec

* * *

Saddam's ouster would hurt Israel

If there is one nation in the world that ought to regard with fear and loathing the idea of an American war to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power it is not Iraq, but Israel.

There is no question in my mind that as soon as such a war begins, and Saddam realizes it will not end before he is dead, or at the very least taken captive, he will choose to launch every last missile at his disposal, armed with every last weapon of mass destruction in his arsenal, to kill every last Israeli.

Let's face it. No matter how powerful the Israeli Defence Forces or how dedicated they are to saving their country, if just one missile got through – out of thousands that could potentially be launched – an entire city could be wiped out.

The people of Israel need to ask themselves if this is the price they are willing to pay for seeing Saddam out of office.

Jonathan Clarfield
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The three sins of Damascus

By GAL LUFT

Last month was a dark one in the history of the United Nations. In June, the rotating presidency of the Security Council, the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, fell into the hands of Syria, a country epitomizing anything but peace and known for blatant violations of some of the council's most important resolutions.

As early as biblical times Syria has been a source of instability in the Middle East. "For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath," God said. (Amos 1:2-4) It appears that Syria's sins in that period were minor in comparison to those of our time. But despite its notoriety for harbouring some of the most deadly terrorist groups, and thus being included two decades ago on the United States' list of state sponsors of terrorism, Syria was granted a two-year seat on the council last January by 160 of the 177 UN members. Those who hoped that in the post Sept. 11 era Syria's inclusion in the prestigious body would moderate its international behaviour were quickly disappointed. In fact, Syria's conduct since its selection has never been as disharmonious with the spirit of the UN charter as it is now.

President of Syria, Bashar Assad, stands beside a portrait of his late father, Hafez. [RNS/Reuters photo]

First, Damascus has long been a safe haven and a provider of training, logistic support and political guidance for several terrorist groups, such as Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Abu Musa's Fatah-the-Intifadah, George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Hamas and the Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. Syria is also one of the few remaining countries to allow uninterrupted passage through its international airport to members of Al Qaeda en route from the Persian Gulf to other Middle Eastern countries. Syria's conduct contradicts three important Security Council resolutions – 1368, 1373 and 1377 – that declare terrorism to be a threat to international peace and security, that stress the accountability of the supporter as well as the perpetrator of terrorist acts, and oblige UN members to limit the ability of terrorist organizations to operate internationally by freezing assets of terrorist organizations and denying them safe haven.

Damascus' support of terrorism has also put it on a collision course with Israel. Since Israel's unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon in May 2000, Syria has facilitated Hezbollah's military buildup along the Israel-Lebanon border. It has allowed massive amounts of Iranian weapons, including rockets with ranges beyond 70 kilometres, to be shipped to Hezbollah via the Damascus airport. Israel considers these rockets strategic weapons because their range can put approximately 1.5 million Israelis at risk in cities as far from the border as Haifa and Tiberias. Syria's president, Bashar Assad, has done nothing to prevent Hezbollah fighters from frequently attacking northern Israeli settlements and military outposts. These unprovoked attacks have included the use of anti-tank missiles, mortars, rockets, and anti-aircraft weapons directed at Israeli military and civilian aircraft. In the past few weeks Syria has stepped up support for Hezbollah by providing heavy weapons, including missiles and artillery, directly from its own arsenal.

Deeply involved in a war against the Palestinian Authority, Israel has so far been reluctant to open a second front in its north. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon recently stated: "We are demonstrating restraint and are not interested in an escalation in the violence, but we cannot hold back for much longer." But continued Syrian support for Hezbollah's aggression could force Sharon's government to take harsh military action against Syrian targets. Such action could also be triggered as a result of a successful terror attack by one of the Syrian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist groups operating against Israel. This occurred following the June 5 suicide attack in Megiddo Junction, carried out by the Damascus-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which killed 17 Israelis and injured 38. The Jihad's leader, Ramadan Shallah, issued a statement from his Damascus office claiming responsibility for the attack, hence leaving no doubt about Syria's consent to the organization's strategy of terror.

It is precisely this strategy that made U.S. President George W. Bush, in his June 24 Middle East speech, demand that Syria cease its strategy of supporting terrorism. "Syria must choose the right side in the war on terror by closing terrorist camps and expelling terrorist organizations," Bush said. The Bush administration clearly understands that Syria is doing all it can to fan the flames of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and that a continuation of such behaviour is likely to lead to a regional war in the Middle East.

Syria's second sin is the violation of Security Council resolution 425 from 1978 that calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and supporting the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. Under false claim that it had been "invited" to protect Lebanon from itself, Syria's grip of its feeble Arab neighbour, enforced by the presence of 25,000 Syrian troops, is still tight. Most Lebanese object to Syria's infringement on the sovereignty of their country and would like it to remove its forces from Lebanese soil. Regrettably, the international community has, so far, failed to act decisively on behalf of Lebanon's four million people. American and European officials who privately resent Syria's conduct have been reluctant to express their views publicly or even use the word "occupation" to characterize Syria's presence in Lebanon. Only a public declaration by the United States, the European Union and the other permanent members of the Security Council that Syria should withdraw its troops, followed by massive diplomatic pressure, and perhaps even sanctions, could unleash the forces of liberation operating within Lebanon. Without such action, there is no chance that Assad will voluntarily relinquish his control of Lebanon.

> 'Syria is one of the world's main propagators of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial'

Syria's third wrongdoing is its violation of the UN-imposed embargo on Iraq. For more than a year, Iraq has been using Syria for the smuggling of military systems and other banned material. Furthermore, Syria violates the U.N.'s "oil-for-food" program by allowing illegal exports of Iraqi oil to Syria through a reopened oil pipeline between the two countries. This 150,000 barrel-per-day pipeline allows the two countries to share $2 billion (US) a year in revenue from oil sales. A significant portion of the money is used to support terrorism and to procure weapons, including weapons of mass destruction.

No less disturbing is the fact that in recent years Syria has established itself as one of the world's main propagators of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. Studies of the Syrian school system reveal a shocking picture of intensive incitement of racial hatred, religious intolerance and, worse, outright genocide. Syrian textbooks and other learning materials issued by the centralized authoritarian regime in Damascus advocate the ultimate extermination of the entire Jewish people, promising Syrian children martyrdom by fighting and killing Jews.

Even more disturbing is the repeating use of anti-Semitic statements by Syria's official leadership. Damascus' official daily, *Tishrin*, has a long tradition of accusing Israel of massacres and crimes against Palestinian children and against sites sacred to Muslims and Christians. Syria's dictator Assad could not contain his anti-Semitic feelings even during a papal visit to Syria in May 2001, when he blamed Israelis for trying to "kill the principles of all religions with the same mentality in which they betrayed Jesus Christ and tortured him, and in the same way they tried to betray and kill the Prophet Mohammed." He also suggested the Jewish people had unjustly benefitted from exaggerating their past sufferings and that Israel's society is "more racist than Nazism."

Assad's close associate and one of the founding fathers of Syria's current Ba'ath regime, defence minister Mustafa Tlass, is the author of a widely distributed book that describes in detail how Jews abduct Christian and Muslim children, slaughter them and drain their blood in order to prepare Passover matzot. "Generation after generation has passed on this message of the treachery of the Jews," he wrote.

It is a sad statement that a country with as bad a record as Syria was given a seat at the head of the body in charge of the world's security. It would be sadder still if Syria's recklessness and intransigence became the catalyst that pushed the Middle East even closer to the abyss.

Syria's performance on the international stage merits a place in Bush's "axis of evil," alongside countries of concern like Iraq, Iran and North Korea, rather than on the Security Council. But there is a lot that can be done. The key players in the international community, especially the permanent members of the Security Council, must put heavier pressure on the Syrian government to modify its behaviour and conform to the resolutions of the body on which it sits. They should also use economic, diplomatic, and, if necessary, military, sticks to coerce Assad into compliance with the decisions of the Security Council.

The international community has shown time and again the ability to punish pariahs who threaten world peace. Assad, the young ophthalmologist from Damascus, is one of them. He must learn how to play by the norms of the international system, and, yes, good education can be expensive.

Gal Luft is a defence analyst and a doctoral candidate at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Two celebrations

For many years now, I have been a citizen of both Canada and the United States, something that, in earlier decades, was not permissible. Now it is my pleasure and privilege to celebrate both Canada Day and July 4, the day when Americans celebrate their national independence.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This year, as quite often before, it was evident to me that south of the border, Independence Day was observed with much greater enthusiasm than Canada Day was here.

I have repeatedly asked myself why in Canada we take our nationhood for granted, while south of the border there is a high level of patriotism, which some critics deride as chauvinism. In Canada, on the other hand, the day goes by with most citizens unaware that it is a holiday altogether – except that they do not go to work.

Since I hold citizenship in both countries, I feel entitled to offer a suggestion: a modest degree of Canadian patriotism would do all of us some good. We live in an open society, a splendid land that extends from sea to sea and offers most of us magnificent opportunities for self-expression.

There is, however, some difference in the way people here and in the United States view themselves as citizens. I think that we in Canada simply take our citizenship, with all that it implies, for granted, while south of the border, citizens invest their identity with a sense of national pride.

Both attitudes have strengths and weaknesses. Obviously, patriotism fires one's desire to be worthy of the privilege to be a citizen, while taking our privileged condition for granted not only isolates us from emotional extravagance, it also deprives us of the kind of pride that ought to be ours.

Moderation is desirable in most instances, and that is also true when it comes to the love of one's country. Many other nations feel that they are the best, and it is their privilege to cherish that sentiment.

I think we, in Canada, do not need the sense of being "Number 1," but we do need a feeling of gratitude that we have the chance to enjoy Canadian liberty and opportunity. An enlargement of that sentiment is something I would welcome, and perhaps next July 1 we can manage to amplify the noise of fireworks with a bit of our own emotion.

Israel in Algonquin Park

Something about Friday evenings sets them apart from other times in the week. Earlier this month, a warm Friday evening proved particularly memorable. Instead of being at home in Jerusalem, I was in Ontario's fabled Algonquin Park at Camp Tamakwa, where my wife Galya and I are working and our children are campers this summer.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

At 7:30 p.m., Galya and I joined Tamakwa's 400 campers and staff at an outside amphitheatre facing South Tea Lake. The view was spectacular, the tranquillity overwhelming and the air intoxicating. A soothing breeze blew in off the water and the pre-sunset light washed everything in a soft golden glow. The occasional call of a loon was a further reminder that there is no greater delight to the senses than nature's timeless spectacle, especially in Algonquin Park.

Every Friday, in a time-honoured tradition, Tamakwans assemble after dinner at an area called the Slope. Galya and I sat at the top of the Slope's wooden bleachers, marvelling at the perfect combination of water, sky, earth, rock and trees before us. The peacefulness was almost hypnotic, doubly so for its sharp contrast to our recent reality in Jerusalem. Only two weeks earlier, nearly 30 people were killed and dozens wounded in our city in two horrific terrorist bombings, one of which occurred a few minutes from our home. From where we were now sitting at the Slope, Israel seemed to be on another planet.

A non-religious, predominantly Jewish camp, Tamakwa welcomes the onset of Shabbat in its own way – first at dinner with the lighting of candles and the reciting of the *Kiddush*, and afterwards with a secular service at the Slope. It is the quietest, most reflective time in the camp's busy schedule. Each week, members of a different cabin stand before the camp community and express their thoughts and feelings about a chosen subject. The simple but moving ceremony concludes with a reminder of the evening activities on tap known as the Hobby Hub.

A few days earlier, I had offered to lead an open discussion on Israel for the Hobby Hub. But on Friday, when I heard about the other options available, I wondered if anyone would come to my session. We were, after all, at summer camp after a long, action-packed day. Surely, developments in the Middle East could not compete against the dizzying choice of the other activities: fortune telling, Irish folk dancing, arm wrestling, mind reading, separate talks on professional hockey and the *Simpsons* TV show, a home-run derby, a canoe outing and something billed as "back tickling."

But to my surprise, 25 campers and staff showed up to talk about Israel. The group included campers and staff of all ages, both Jewish and gentile, from Canada and the United States. One of Tamakwa's two senior directors also attended.

After giving a five-minute introduction, I posed several questions and threw the floor open to discussion. The response was impressive. I was amazed by the degree of interest in Israel and concern for its well-being. People asked me about Israeli politics; whether Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is popular; whether the Arabs really want peace; and about military responses to terrorism. One 10-year-old girl asked: "Is the United States really on the side of Israel?" Staff members asked about the history of the conflict, the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, about Palestinian grievances and about the motivation of suicide bombers. People were particularly curious to know how my family and I cope with living in Jerusalem in the face of so many terrorist attacks, and why we stay.

The session was supposed to last 45 minutes but lasted twice as long. Over the next few days, campers and staff engaged me in further discussion about Israel and several requested I host another session soon. People also talked to our three children about Israel and practised their Hebrew with them.

Being at camp in Canada is a welcome reprieve from the strife back home and an extraordinary experience for us, one that wouldn't have been possible if Tamakwa's two owners, Vic Norris and David Bale, had not been so receptive to having an Israeli family as part of their camp community this summer. The hospitality and concern for Israel shown to us by Tamakwans have made us feel less far from home.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

The mythology of Jerusalem and Oslo's failure

The Arab-Israeli conflict remains a popular arena for mythmaking and historical fiction, particularly for journalists and policy-makers. Despite the costs of the simplistic fairy tales that have guided policy for years (and Ottawa is far from immune), the factory continues to churn out nonsense.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The latest fiction is that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were close to agreement between the Camp David and Taba talks two years ago. In this narrative, the failure was due to pressure tactics applied by former U.S. president Bill Clinton and former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak. This fantasy is designed to absolve Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and his cohorts of responsibility, and to convert the subsequent campaign of terrorism into a "spontaneous popular uprising," as portrayed by pro-Palestinian propagandists.

Robert Malley, a low-level official in the Clinton administration, is the major creative artist behind this version of history. In addition to his articles in *Foreign Affairs* and *The New York Review of Books* (refuted point by point by Barak and Benny Morris), Malley has been able to insinuate his creative myths in a report of the International Crisis Group (another NGO supported by Canadian taxpayers).

This myth, like many others, is easily unmasked by anyone with the slightest knowledge of the details. In this case, the Palestinian position on Jerusalem, the most sensitive and important of the "permanent status issues" demonstrates Arafat's true intentions. When Jerusalem finally came up at Camp David, Arafat's response was unambiguous. As far as the Palestinian terrorist leader is concerned, 3,000 years of Jewish history never happened. In responding to Malley's myths, Barak revealed that during the talks Arafat declared: "There is nothing there [i.e., no trace of a temple on the Temple Mount]." Aides naively thought that by bringing in various references, including learned encyclopedia articles, they could "educate" Arafat, but he did not budge.

Former U.S. chief negotiator Dennis Ross noted that during the 15 days of talks at Camp David, the only new idea offered by Arafat was that "the Jewish Temple never existed in Jerusalem as the Jews believe," but perhaps it was located "somewhere in Nablus." Indeed, the same malicious nonsense is repeated in Palestinian and many other Arab and Islamic textbooks, as well as religious tracts and newspapers.

If Arafat and Palestinian leaders resorted to distorting 3,000 years of history in order to justify their hatred of Israel and their campaign of terrorism and brutality, the claim that they were ready for peace two years ago is sheer nonsense. The truth, as Barak finally understood, is that the Palestinian creed "does not recognize the existence of a Jewish people or nation," holds that Israel "has no right to exist, and seeks its demise." No agreement on Jerusalem was ever within reach, and the entire Oslo process was a sham.

Indeed, until the Palestinians and the Islamic world stop the farcical and demeaning attempts to rewrite history, and dismantle the mental obstacles that cause them to deny the reality of Jewish claims and rights – starting in Jerusalem – there is no sense talking about far-reaching peace agreements.

Every Palestinian, including Arafat, who has ever set foot in Jerusalem has seen the crowds of Jews – tens of thousands of them – filling the plaza in front of the Western Wall on the major Jewish holidays. On Shavuot, just before dawn, Jews from every part of Jerusalem pour in from every alley and street to congregate at the Western Wall, the last remnant of the Second Temple destroyed by the Romans 2,000 years ago. The crowds are also out in force on Tisha b'Av to mourn for Jerusalem and the Temple. Only deliberate or feigned blindness can explain the denials of Jewish historical links in the holiest of cities.

Thus, instead of wasting time and money in international conferences looking for magic peace formulae, or accepting the latest myths and attempts to rewrite history, the key is far simpler. Once the Palestinians and Arabs acknowledge the Jewish history of Jerusalem, the rest will be easy.

The Kirshner File

Occupation of Area A raises key questions

When Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon swept to power a year and a half ago, trouncing the hapless Ehud Barak in a general election, he let it be known that Israel would never occupy the Palestinian autonomous areas in the West Bank.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Indeed, it seemed inconceivable that Israel would take that drastic step and thereby roll back the territorial status quo enshrined in the Oslo accords.

In the unstable, unpredictable milieu of the Middle East, however, the certainty of what tomorrow will bring cannot be foretold.

But after the latest suicide bombings in June, which killed 26 Israelis in just two stomach-turning days, Israel launched Operation Determined Path, storming into the major Palestinian towns of the West Bank – Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Bethlehem, Qalqilya and Hebron – placing its inhabitants under an on-again, off-again curfew and announcing its intention to remain there until the cessation of Palestinian attacks.

In retrospect, the occupation, which has been justified by no less a personage than U.S. President George W. Bush, was inevitable – given the mounting death toll exacted on Israeli civilians by Palestinian suicide bombers, the corresponding pressure on the government to squelch the unbridled terrorism, the failure of Operation Defensive Shield in March and April to disable the terrorist infrastructure and the Palestinian Authority's inability or unwillingness to stop the carnage.

But what ultimately encouraged Sharon to take the momentous decision to erase the line between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous areas was the attitude of the United States, its chief ally and patron.

Washington, having repeatedly criticized Israeli incursions into these areas since Sharon's electoral victory, altered its policy after concluding that Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, was directly involved in terrorism and was thus part of the problem.

Yet long before the United States gave up on Arafat as a viable, trustworthy partner, Sharon had been under increasingly intense pressure to retake Area A, which, under Oslo, was designated to fall under the full control of the Palestinians.

Gen. Moshe Yaalon, who was recently inducted as Israel's 17th chief of staff, and Avi Dichter, the head of the Shin Bet, Israel's internal intelligence agency, both called for an occupation of Palestinian cities to stem the tide of bloodshed.

In strictly utilitarian terms, the presence of the Israeli army in Area A proved to be beneficial, at least until last week. On July 16, Palestinian terrorists gunned down eight Israelis near the West Bank settlement of Immanuel, and on the following day, two suicide bombers killed three civilians, two of whom were foreign workers, in Tel Aviv. Until then, not a single Israeli had been killed in a terrorist incident, though the Israeli army had issued dire warnings that suicide bombers – the new darlings of the Palestinian masses – were poised to strike yet again.

Beyond providing a 3½-week respite from the deadly cycle of bombings in its very heartland, Israel's occupation of Area A and its decision to assume responsibility for its own security, as opposed to sub-contracting it out to Palestinian police forces, raises several issues.

Has Sharon stifled the peace process, such as it was, by conquering Area A? Certainly, he has driven the last nail into Oslo, which he had always despised. He did so, amazingly enough, with the grudging co-operation and complicity of the Labour party, which had championed it.

Most observers do not believe that the Palestinians will return to the negotiating table until there is an Israeli exit from Area A. But judging from comments made by Sharon and the former Israeli chief of staff, Gen. Shaul Mofaz, Israel intends to remain there indefinitely. Sharon spoke of "a very long [period] of time," while Mofaz declared that only Arafat's expulsion or his replacement as president of the Palestinian Authority might prompt Israel to withdraw from Area A.

Additional questions worth asking are whether a prolonged occupation will deepen Israel's isolation, intensify Palestinian bitterness, reinforce the trend toward radicalism among Palestinians and therefore undermine the chances of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through diplomatic means. And if bilateral negotiations stall, what comes next?

Is Israel destined to be a besieged garrison state coarsened by an occupation and doomed by a demographic scenario in which Jews are a minority in their own country?

If the seemingly endless violence continues, can Israel's economy thrive and can Israel attract new immigrants? And how many ordinary, middle-class Israelis will tolerate this situation before they emigrate?

There is also this to consider: Does the occupation signify the beginning of the end of the Palestinian Authority? Weakened by closures, curfews, corruption, inefficiencies, authoritarianism and Operation Defensive Shield, the Palestinian Authority is shaky at best. But what will happen if it collapses? Will Israel be forced, against its will and better judgment, to rule the West Bank and provide essential services ranging from garbage collection to education?

Gen. Moshe Yaalon

More to the point, would the vacuum created by the passing of Arafat's regime be filled by Islamic fundamentalists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad? Or would moderate elements fill the gap?

It seems clear that Arafat, the ultimate survivor, may be on his way out, having lost the trust of most Israelis and having incurred the wrath of the United States. According to the Israeli army's general staff, Arafat's stature is dropping so precipitously that he will be gone within six months. Is this assessment a function of wishful thinking, or is it honed by cold calculation?

Arafat, in a career stretching back to the 1950s, has survived one disaster after another, from the 1970 civil war in Jordan to Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. But the crisis he faces today, following Bush's bold call for a new Palestinian leadership and Sharon's curt dismissal of him as "irrelevant," could be the most severe he has ever faced.

The precarious state in which Arafat finds himself was underscored by Colin Powell, the U.S. secretary of state. In a speech last month, Powell said that the Bush administration will not deal with Arafat in the future unless, in Bush's words, the Palestinian Authority embraces democracy, confronts corruption and firmly rejects terrorism. But what will the United States – and Israel – do if Arafat wins the presidential election called for January? Boycott him and allow Palestinian rage to fester and explode into new waves of violence and Israeli counterstrikes?

The majority of Palestinians, signs of their displeasure with his performance notwithstanding, support Arafat – a symbol of Palestinian nationalism and aspirations for statehood – as do pivotal Arab nations such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, not to mention European and Asian countries and, last but not least, Canada.

Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister and one of the architects of the Oslo accords, was quoted in late June as saying that he could still work with Arafat. But within days, he suddenly changed his tune, saying that he, too, favored an alternative Palestinian leadership to Arafat. All this may be purely academic, since Arafat intends to stay on.

Victory for common sense, and a setback

Crying out for comment:

The Israeli government was as wise to shelve a controversial bill concerning the Israel Lands Law as it was originally foolish to support it. The legislation in question, which was proposed by the National Religious Party to circumvent a Supreme Court ruling, would have prevented Israeli Arabs from buying homes in Jewish municipalities on state land. The issue arose after Adel Kaadan, an Israeli citizen, sought to buy state-owned land so that he could build a house in Katzir, an all-Jewish community in the Galilee. The bill that would have enshrined Katzir's reactionary, blinkered attitude was ill-conceived and racist, would have exacerbated Israel's unsettled relations with its large Arab minority and would have played into the hands of those who claim that Israel is governed by racist and apartheid precepts. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon did not show the required leadership. He initially backed the bill in principle, and left the cabinet meeting before the vote took place. Let us hope that this misguided legislation will never see the light of day. It is the last thing Israel needs.

The decision by the Egyptian owner and editor of *The Translator* and *Translation Studies Abstracts* – semi-annual journals based in Britain – to oust two Israeli scholars from the editorial advisory board on the grounds of their Israeli nationality is grotesque and absolutely unacceptable, and should be rectified immediately lest it create a precedent. In the name of decency and academic freedom, it cannot be allowed to stand.

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Jewish Life

Books for grown-ups

It's time for our second annual anti-summer reading review, idiosyncratically filled with Jewish gems and spiritually inspiring material. This month we'll deal with adult titles and tackle books for children at a later date. The list is unabashedly arbitrary and filled with gaps.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

The Dawn, by Yoram Hazony. One of the most difficult things for a writer to do is to tackle a subject that has been raked over the literary coals, not just for decades but for millennia. Yet Hazony, the author of the well-known polemic about contemporary Israel, *The Jewish State*, here offers a fresh reading of Megillat Esther based on creative and often startling insights grounded in classical political theory. Haman and Achashverosh evolve from cartoon villains into more complex, but equally dangerous, perpetrators of a totalitarian system.

Tree of Knowledge, Tree of Life, by Michael Rosenak. A pre-eminent scholar of Jewish education at Hebrew University, Rosenak is brilliant at modelling ways that relationships can be created between Jewish texts and the reader, and how contemporary issues can be gleaned from traditional words. Whether he is parsing the Akedah or making a case for the wicked son at the seder, Rosenak consistently helps to provide new avenues for education to guide the student to a meaningful encounter with Judaism.

The Letter in the Scroll, by Jonathan Sacks. The chief rabbi of the Commonwealth has produced a very inspiring work for those seeking an intelligent and coherent rationale for being Jewish in the modern world. He reminds us of the revolutionary character of Judaism at its inception and stresses the fundamental importance of the contribution that each Jew can make to the mosaic of Torah.

Holy Brother, by Yitta H. Mandelbaum. Truth is definitely stranger than fiction, if these tales about Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach are to be believed. A testimony to a life lived on the basis of reaching out to the other, where to be in a position of doing someone a favour makes the whole day worthwhile. These stories show Rabbi Carlebach influencing young and old, Jew and Gentile, black and white. To say that he is incomparable isn't the half of it.

The Book of Jewish Values, by Joseph Telushkin. A book that should be required reading not just for every adult looking to appreciate the ethical basis of Judaism, but for every teenager who is cynical about religion's ability to imbue us with goodness. The book, in line with newfangled publishing techniques, is divided into an ethical topic for each day of the year (though, in keeping with Jewish tradition, Shabbat is treated as a review day).

Torah of the Mothers, edited by Ora Wisking Elper and Susan Handelman. This book represents the cumulative efforts of a number of women scholars. The opening section is filled with rather moving tributes to the various teachers who have inspired the authors, and subsequent chapters explore Tanach, rabbinic texts and Jewish themes through a female contemporary lens.

May God bless our reading with wisdom and understanding.

David Rosenzweig was a true mensch

Guest Voice

By DAVE GORDON

I didn't want it to be someone I knew. Not someone from my shul. The shock was too much already.

When I saw the ambulances Sunday morning, I thought it might have been a car accident, maybe a drunk driver. But it wasn't that he hobbled home after shul with a big black eye. Much worse. Who would have believed such a report?

We were shocked it happened in North York, at the corner of Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue, and not some seedy area of downtown Toronto. We expect things like this to happen in Israel, but not here. Maybe in the United States, but not here. What safer place is there than our own suburban pizza shops, where knife-wielding hooligans would stick out like a sore thumb? These things don't happen in our area. No, not where our kids hang out after Shabbat and grab a pizza or a falafel.

A few years ago when I began davening at Clanton Park, I would duck into my little place in the back row. It was the easiest place to sneak into if/when I was late. There, often sitting next to me or across from me, was David Rosenzweig. From the first day I took my seat, he always smiled and nodded to me, making sure he made eye contact with me as I came in, striking up conversation, always offering a Shabbat meal.

A few times I went over for Shabbat. The Rosenzweigs always made me feel at home. One of David's young sons spent an afternoon showing me his collection of baseball memorabilia.

Before we began a meal once last year, he made a *L'chaim* for me so I should have *haztlachah* finding my bashert within the year.

"I'll keep my eyes out for you," he said. "This means we've got some work to do."

Something special must have been in those shot glasses, because the timing seemed just right. About a year later, I met my fiancée-to-be.

David would always make it a point to greet me in shul, either during services or when everyone began filing out.

"Good morning, Dave," he'd always say. "How are you? How's the writing going?"

His sincerity showed me he wasn't giving one of those perfunctory greetings you use just to exchange a few words.

Certainly, dozens of people knew him much better. But when we leave the world, I believe our contribution is judged on how we treat others, friends and strangers alike, from the closest family member to a passing acquaintance.

And I thought, "Here's a mensch, here's someone who always made sure the stranger felt welcome."

"Anytime you need a place for Shabbos, don't hesitate to call me, OK?" he'd say. "You don't even have to call. You can just come. Can we have you over again sometime soon?"

He'd probably be happy to know that these are the fond memories I have of such a warm man who ceaselessly extended his friendship to me. I remember his words so clearly, simply because such warmth emanated from him.

I'll never forget the times I felt a little finger prodding in my back while I was davening. He'd send one of his sons to whisper in my ear to see if I'd like to eat a Shabbat meal with them. I'd often look back, over my shoulder, and see David, a row or two behind, raise his eyebrows, smile and make a little wave to me.

"You're taken care of? Anytime you need a meal, just let me know, OK? Don't be a stranger."

I aspire to be the mensch that he was.

Dave Gordon is from Toronto and currently works as a staff writer for the Pittsburgh Post.

Stephen Jay Gould: parting thoughts

***I Have Landed: The End of a Beginning in Natural History*, by Stephen Jay Gould, Harmony, 2002, $39.95**

Books
Bernard Baskin

For 28 years, starting in 1974, evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould wrote a monthly article for *Natural History* magazine. These 300 eagerly awaited consecutive essays were later published in nine volumes with such unlikely titles as *The Panda's Thumb*,*The Flamingo's Smile*, and *Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes*. This, the final volume, appears just a month after the author's untimely death at the age of 60.

Gould, who was a Harvard University professor of zoology and geology, resurrected the scientific essay from near-extinction. He was a gifted and creative popularizer of often difficult and abstruse material. The positive response to his work assured him that "the intelligent layperson" does exist, that there was a widespread, passionate commitment to continuous learning.

The 31 sprightly essays in *I Have Landed* touch on subjects as far-reaching and disparate as feathered dinosaurs, the scourge of syphilis, Freud's evolutionary fantasy, Nabokov's drawings of butterflies, the Red Sox baseball team, the topsy-turvy world of Gilbert and Sullivan, the novels of Dorothy Sayers -- and primarily his interest in Darwin and the evolutionary process.

The book's title refers to the words that his grandfather, Papa Joe, a Jewish Hungarian immigrant, scribbled in his notebook on the day he arrived at Ellis Island in New York. "I have landed September 11, 1901." This is a date that coincides exactly 100 years later, with the Twin Towers disaster. For Gould, "It was the most eerie coincidence I have ever encountered."

Earlier in his career Gould opposed organized religion and viewed it as the enemy of science. Later, he believed the "two enterprises" should experience no conflict if they remain within the confines and boundaries of their respective spheres. Gould opted for a golden mean that accorded dignity and distinction to each realm. Science defined the natural world, religion the moral world and the two need not conflict or overlap.

Included in the volume are several pieces written for newspapers and magazines that deal with the Sept. 11 tragedy. He remains convinced that despite the evil of a few persons, good and kind people outnumber all others by thousands to one. The tragedy of human history lies in the enormous potential for destruction in rare acts of evil, not in the high frequency of evil people.

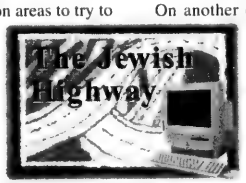
Canadians will feel a sense of pride at the author's reaction to the hospitality of the residents of Halifax, where his plane was grounded right after the Sept. 11 attacks. "And so, Canada, although you are not my home or native land, we will always share this bond of your unstinting hospitality to people who descended upon you as frightened strangers from the skies, and received nothing but solace and solidarity in your embrace of goodness. So, Canada, because we beat as one heart... I will stand on guard for thee."

The essays contain many Jewish references, as well as many condemnations by Gould of anti-Semitism, encountered in medieval literature and in modern pseudo-scientific theories. He introduces readers to a world that one critic has called "rich in quirks and contradictions, human foibles and natural diversity, the sublime and the bumptious."

This volume serves as a valedictory tribute to its author, who was singular both as writer and personality. He will be warmly remembered and missed by his numerous admirers.

Internet warfare, part 1

Anyone armed with a keyboard, a modem and knowledge of the Internet's HTML language can be a participant in the Mideast conflict. For most people that means using legitimate Web sites, petitions and discussion areas to try to sway public opinion. Others are using sophisticated techniques to hack into computers, deface Web sites and disrupt the flow of data.



Today, a look at "cyberterrorism," "hacktivists" and the "Inter–fada."

According to WiredNews, in October 2000, when the Israeli-Palestinian cyberconflict moved into full swing, pro-Palestinian hackers defaced at least 40 Israeli sites including the Bank of Israel and Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, while Israeli antagonists marred 15 Palestinian sites. Analyst James Adams said the attacks between Palestinians and Israelis are "just a taste of things to come... Their weapon of choice, the laptop, is easily available, and the ammunition, viruses and hacking programs are free on the Internet." **[http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,40030,00.html]**

According to *USA Today*, the Israel Defence Forces, Knesset and Foreign Ministry Web sites have also been attacked, as has the Hezbollah site. **[http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/cti723.htm]** It "was successfully penetrated by a hacker who replaced its blistering anti-Israel rhetoric with a rippling Israeli flag and a soundtrack of *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem."

On another occasion, visitors expecting to reach the Hamas home page were diverted to a hard-core pornography site. **[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/middle_east/newsid_1207000/1207551.stm]**

WiredNews tells of a site that is distributing information and viruses to destroy Israeli Web sites. "Visitors to the site are greeted with the message, 'I swear that I will not use these programs on anyone but Jews and Israelis.' The site comes complete with a list of directions on how to use the attack tools." **[http://www.wired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,40449,00.html]**

The FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) monitors this kind of activity. It reported attacks on Palestinian- and Israeli-related Web sites in addition to one against the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) that included theft of personal data, including credit card information. The NIPC site warned: "It is anticipated that as the conflict in the Middle East continues, the level and severity of cyber attacks being experienced may escalate and expand." **[http://www.nipc.gov/warnings/advisories/2000/00-058.htm]**

Although the Internet has always been a breeding ground for hate, the Simon Wiesenthal Center recently noted some disturbing trends in its report Digital Hate 2002. "The biggest difference now is that we're seeing more Web sites enlisting suicide bombers and those that validate or encourage terrorism and more games targeting minorities," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, an associate dean of the centre. **[http://whatpc.co.uk/News/1133360]**

The conflict on the Internet takes some other interesting tactics. For example, let's say you want to find a site run by the Tanzim militia, the armed wing of Fatah, a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization. You could go to the very popular search engine Google **[http://google.com]** and type in "Tanzim." You would be directed to Tanzim.net which appears to be run by the militia. **[http://www.tanzim.net]** But look closely and you will find the headline, "Pictures of our activities involved in mass killing" and an article titled "How to train Arab children to become martyrs." The site, clearly, is being produced by opponents of the Tanzim. I could not find an English language site run by the Tanzim themselves.

Next week, a look at online boycotts and the battle over Internet polling.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Bialik's growth grounded in commitment to Israel

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

When Bialik Hebrew Day School opened its doors in 1961, the administration shared the building with the Labour Zionist Movement and the kids shared gym facilities with the Eitz Chaim School across the street.

Since then, the Labour Zionist Centre has moved to Codsell Avenue and the school has renovated several times to accommodate a growing student body. Bialik's recent groundbreaking indicates its plans to expand once more.

Initially, the Viewmount Avenue school was driven by the ideology of Poalei Zion, a left-wing worker's movement whose goal was "to spread Yiddish culture, open a separate Jewish school system and create trade unions."

According to Bialik's parent handbook, the movement was "both a political party and fraternal organization whose goal was the reconstruction of the Jewish people."

In Bialik's early years, there was a real commitment to the Labour Zionist ideology, said Nanette Rosen, a lawyer who was a student in one of Bialik's first classes.

"My mother, Dorothy, was a member of Shomer Hatzair [a socialist youth movement] in Poland before the war," Rosen said.

While Rosen went to Jewish camps associated with other political movements, a large percentage of her class belonged to the Shomer Hatzair youth group and went to their summer camps.

Back then, parents sent their kids to Bialik because they believed in the Labour Zionist movement's principles. They wanted compatibility between school and home values, Rosen said.

But times have changed, she said, noting that her son, Ethan, is a student at the school and her daughter, Elizabeth, attended Bialik until Grade 6.

"These days, there seems to be more of an emphasis on material things, but the school's commitment to Israel is still strong."

This past school year, Bialik's curriculum included many Israel-related projects including raising money for the Shai Lachayal (gifts for soldiers); the purchasing of close to 2,000 trees for the Jewish National Fund and collecting money to buy flowers in Israel for Shavuot for the families of the victims of terror.

In addition, the school runs an annual "Israel, I love you contest," between Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayaim, principal Uri Korin said.

The final phase is done with a "JeopardIsrael" contest with out-of-town judges.

The point of these programs is to reinforce the school's current support for the Jewish state regardless of political affiliation, Korin explained, adding that it is also part of Bialik's agenda "to create a Jewish adult who is comfortable worldwide and who will support the workers of the world."

These days, changing demographics in the Jewish community and in the school's Forest Hill location have eliminated most signs of the "proletariat" from the Bialik community.

For Rosen, however, it was the school's approach to the teaching of Zionism that convinced her to send her children to that school. The teaching of Yiddish was also important to her.

"Yiddish is a way to teach children about their history and backgrounds," Rosen said, adding that since the school today is committed to Israel regardless of the government's political affiliation, all of Israel's communities should be reflected in the curriculum in order to help the students understand the country's complexities.

Changes have definitely occurred in the school over the years, Rosen said. When she was a student, the school wasn't kosher and the Bible and siddur were studied as a basis for literature, culture, philosophy and ethics.

"It made for very interesting discussions between the Bialik and Eitz Chaim students across the street," Rosen said.

Today, the parent handbook states that "all food brought for school events must be kosher."

The administration also encourages families not to schedule parties on Shabbat or Jewish holidays.

All in all, Rosen said, "I had a good experience there and learned a love of Israel and a sense of empowerment there."

"Many of my teachers were Israelis who had served in the army. They taught me a strong love of Israel. They led the way and taught us that we could make a difference."

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Volunteers respond to terrorist attacks

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The terror-related scenes from Israel have become all too familiar in recent months: wailing sirens, disoriented bystanders, blasted buses, killed or maimed victims and grieving family members.

Almost as familiar has become the sight of men in yellow flak jackets, armed with walkie-talkies and paramedic's supplies, who go about the business of aiding the injured.

Little known outside Israel, the volunteers are members of Zaka Rescue and Recovery, a grassroots organization founded in 1995 to respond to the increasing need of assistance at scenes of Palestinian terrorist bombings.

Zaka's 600 volunteers are all trained as paramedics and can offer life-saving assistance to those wounded in the blasts. They also provide a vital service to those past help, gathering up the bits of bone and flesh and blood as well as the intact limbs that may form the debris when a terrorist sets off a shrapnel-studded bomb in the midst of a crowd of civilians.

Yisroel Stefansky, a 23-year-old volunteer with Zaka, has attended at approximately 40 terrorist incidents since he joined the organization three years ago. Stefansky was in Toronto recently to meet members of the Jewish community, raise the profile of the Israeli organization and solicit financial aid for its work.

A yeshiva student who lives in Jerusalem, Stefansky talks about his work in the matter-of-fact tone of someone who has experienced the scenes of carnage too often. He admits that repeated exposure to horrible incidents has hardened him to some extent.

At his first terror scene, a bus bombing, "it was shocking, but I got into it pretty quick. I had not seen it before, that it could be so bad. You don't expect to see people without heads, people without limbs.

"At first it is shocking. Many people, Jews, were killed. You wonder how bad it will be. It's sadness, but there's nothing you can do. You just go in and clean up."

It's a gruesome task, but one which must be completed in order to comply with Jewish law.

"Every human being is created by God and when he passes away, everything has to be buried. Every piece of blood, every piece of flesh has to be buried. That's Jewish law," he said. "It's a very holy job and there are not too many people who can do it."

Burial is considered one of the highest of mitzvot – a religious obligation. But when high explosives are coupled with shrapnel, nails and bolts, often limbs are torn apart from bodies. Yet these too must be given a proper burial.

"We try to match up limbs to the body," Stefansky said. Occasionally DNA testing is used, but more often "it's very easy to match up" the limb and the body.

Those body fragments too small to be easily coupled with a torso are buried together in a mass grave.

Zaka is so diligent in its work that it even returns jewelry, such as wedding bands, to family members, he added.

The kind of work carried out by Zaka is clearly not for everyone. Although the rash of suicide bombings have prompted an outpouring of volunteers eager to help – the organization is now receiving inquiries from female volunteers – many don't last past their first or second incident, Stefansky said.

Even for those who grit their teeth and carry on, the emotional strain is wearing. Volunteers are offered psychological counselling on a bi-monthly basis to help them cope with the awful work they do.

At the day-long sessions, about 20 volunteers get together in a hotel conference room and talk about their experiences. It's not something they like to discuss with their families.

"They won't go home and tell their wife, 'I saw a baby without a head,'" he said.

"Therapy helps the volunteers with their nightmares. They talk it out."

The family of victims are also aided by Zaka, which keeps in touch with them, arranges counselling services and sends them food packages to help them celebrate Jewish holidays.

During his stay in Toronto, part of Stefansky's pitch was for help in raising funds for an expanded motorcycle unit. Zaka currently operates seven bikes and they are credited with saving 26 lives.

Designated volunteers constantly monitor police emergency channels and when they hear of an incident, they page or phone the volunteers to respond. The motorcycle units often get to the scene faster than regular ambulances, allowing Zaka paramedics to staunch a victim's bleeding and administer other life-saving aid.

Any funds raised in Canada, and from other supporters around the world, will go to motorcycles, ambulances, other rescue vehicles and medical equipment, like body bags and defibrillators. Zaka, Stefansky pointed out, also attends to any accident and fire scenes.

For more information, Zaka can be reached via e-mail at zakaunit@hotmail.com. Freelance journalist Marshall Shapiro, Zaka's liaison in Toronto, can be reached at 416-736-4436 or by e-mail at emmess@sympatico.ca.

Zaka volunteers Yisroel Stefansky (left) and Rabbi Benzion Oiring stand near the site where David Rosenzweig was murdered last week. [Paul Lungen photo]

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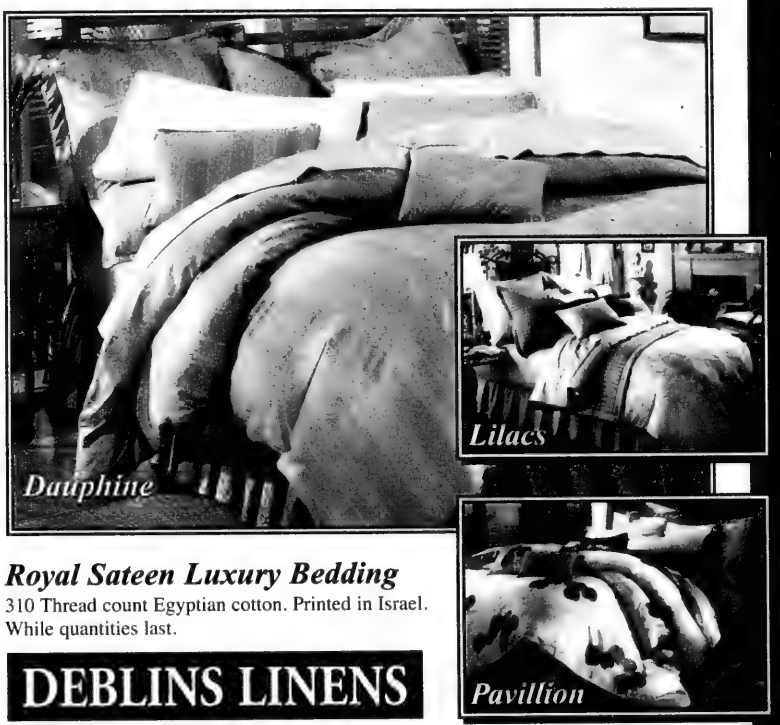

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More than 20 Israeli campers are spending the summer at Ontario overnight camps. On the left, campers at Camp Gesher join their Israeli counterparts; on the right are the 13 Israeli campers at Camp Ramah.

Israelis camping in Ontario with mixed emotions

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

More than 20 Israeli students spending part of their summer at Ontario overnight camps are having mixed reactions to their experience.

"They're having a great time, but they're concerned about their family at home," says Howard Black, interim director of Camp Ramah, the camping arm of the Conservative movement of Judaism in Canada, located in Muskoka.

The campers, who are also at Camp Gesher, a Habonim Dror camp located north of Belleville; and Camp George, Canada's first Canadian camp in the Reform Jewish camping system, located near Parry Sound, have all been directly affected by terrorist activities in Israel.

Black said that two of his 13 Israeli campers, who were all funded by the Minto Foundation/Greenberg families of Ottawa, had been injured in a terrorist attack, while others had a parent or siblings who were killed, some as recently as six months ago.

All campers were chosen to attend camp after being interviewed and screened by an Israeli psychologist.

The Ramah campers, who are spending four weeks at Ramah, including a two-day trip to Niagara Falls and Toronto while the rest of camp has visitors' day, have found everyone welcoming and hospitable, Black said.

"They are missing their family, however, and they are concerned for their well-being," he said. "It is unusual for them to be away from home for a month so this is a long time, particularly given the *matsav* [situation]."

But they have no concerns about their own safety, he said. "The open large spaces are different and exciting for them, and they are having a vacation from their daily stresses of life. If this camp could be re-created as a secure utopia in Israel, it would be ideal. The only thing missing here, is that it is far away from home."

It's a good experience for everyone involved, Black said. "The Canadian campers are learning some Hebrew, and finding out firsthand about life in Israel. They have told me that they are anxious to find out what life in Israel is like on a daily basis.

"The Israeli campers are picking up some English and are getting to know Canadian campers. All in all, it's a mutual[ly] beneficial experience."

What is most important, he said, is that by hosting these campers, "we are showing the whole North American community how important Israel is to all of us in the Diaspora.

"We are intrinsically connected. All campers are alike, whether they are North American or Israeli."

The seven Israeli campers at Camp Gesher were brought over by Mishpachah Youth for Youth, a group in Israel that is dedicated to helping victims of violence, said Lorraine Levene, executive director of Na'amat Canada, Toronto, the adult arm of Habonim Dror.

David and Miriam Algam of Ottawa, helped raise funds and took responsibility for bringing over the campers.

One camper, who had lost his parents in a terrorist attack several years ago, recently lost his grandfather in another attack. "He speaks no English, yet he is participating in every activity. He has gotten right into camp routine," said Levene.

The camp has always had Israeli participants, she said, but this is the first year they are bringing over children who have been victims of violence.

"Israeli campers feel at home at Camp Gesher because it is run almost like a kibbutz. Everyone shares duties, all signs are in Hebrew, the Israeli flag flies high and programs are based on life in Israel.

"As well, about 50 per cent of our campers attend Hebrew day schools so they have enough Hebrew to communicate with the Israeli campers."

The Israelis were a bit homesick when they arrived, said Levene, but it took only a few days to become comfortable.

"Like every camp, she said, some campers are more enthusiastic than others, but all in all, they are enjoying themselves.

"To me, the positives are that they feel safe, they are learning English, they are laughing, they are playing and they are busy. They can't do anything like this at home because of their fears."

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A remarkable return to Poland

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Fifty-nine years, six months and two days after the doomed Jewish citizens of Wierzbnik were taken to Treblinka, the granddaughter of the town's mohel found herself overwhelmed with emotion in a southeastern Polish municipality she'd only heard about.

On April 29, thousands of miles from her Toronto home with its Canadian flag outside, Reva Karstadt recited Kaddish and sang Israel's national anthem in the Wierzbnik Jewish cemetery.

Karstadt was accompanied by 39 other North Americans – all native Wierzbnikers or their descendants – as well as 190 Israeli students, the local Israeli chargé d'affaires, several Polish politicians, a rabbi from Kiev and a local priest. The Israelis brought Israeli soil to sprinkle on the graves.

One surreal image followed another.

"We were taken – I still can't believe it – by a Polish police escort to the Museum of Culture, and, if that wasn't enough, as we exited the bus, there at the top of the stairs a huge Israeli flag was flying beside the Polish one," recalled Karstadt in an interview around her dining room table with two other members of the trip's organizing committee.

Karstadt, 65, remembers that many years ago her parents were moved to tears by the sight of a Toronto police officer directing traffic, allowing them to cross the street safely on their way to shul. In Wierzbnik, they told her, Jews hid their Sabbath finery under old clothes to avoid being stoned.

But this spring in Wierzbnik, Jews were honoured guests, hobnobbing with local dignitaries in a series of ceremonial activities, including the dedication of a museum room commemorating the former Jewish community of Wierzbnik, which was annexed by Starachowice in 1939.

A visiting rabbi affixed a mezuzah, and members of a local family were designated Righteous Gentiles.

Howard Chandler, left, and Martin Baranek

Among the tallitot, suitcases, photographs and Judaica on display in the room is a drum, found by the Jewish cemetery's caretaker, whom Karstadt affectionately refers to as "our starving artist." He recognized the significance of the musical instrument, whose top had been fashioned from a piece of the Torah.

The trip had its roots in a 1992 journey by lifelong friends Howard Chandler and Martin Baranek, who attended cheder together in Wierzbnik and survived the concentration camps separately as teenagers before settling in Toronto.

When the two men first visited the Jewish cemetery in Wierzbnik, they discovered it was "like a wild place, overgrown, and most of the matzevehs [gravestones] were toppled," recalled Chandler, who is president of Toronto's Wierzbniker Society.

They lobbied to save the century-old cemetery. Chandler even took the unusual step of approaching the local priest, who said he would call for a stop to desecration, noting that Catholic cemeteries were plagued by the same problems. The cemetery, which has been declared a historic site by the Polish government, is quite presentable now, Chandler said.

This year's gathering marked the first time since 1944 that there has been a minyan at the cemetery.

The new museum room was also a first, Karstadt said. "There wasn't a thing to show that Jews had ever lived there." A monument in the former Jewish market commemorates 16 Poles who were hanged there – but no Jews, she said.

But the visitors were not there to settle scores, Chandler stressed.

Along with Baranek and one other survivor, Chandler served as guide, historian and interpreter for the others, who ranged in age from their 20s to 70s. The trip also included stops in Warsaw, Krakow and a number of concentration camps.

Aside from the occasional example of graffiti, the group encountered no anti-Semitism, Chandler said. "We encountered nothing but goodwill."

Wierzbnik (pronounced Vyerzh-b'nik) was "a typical Jewish provincial shtetl," he said. Before the war, there were almost 4,000 Jews among its approximately 20,000 inhabitants. "There were industries, munitions factories and lumber mills. It attracted Jewish people – artisans, tradespeople. Everyone knew everyone."

Chandler's father sold flour and kitchen utensils. Baranek's father sold hardware and farm implements. Karstadt's grandfather, in addition to serving as mohel, had a distributorship for fine wines and spirits from France.

Although the town was small, Chandler said, there were "all kinds of Jewish organizations and schools. Everybody was observant, but some more than others."

The synagogue and its attached school were burned down as soon as the Germans entered Wierzbnik in 1939, he recalled. "I was 10. The synagogue had been renovated one or two years before the war. It was beautiful," he said.

Another long-gone building is the library where Karstadt's parents met. Her mother left in 1929 to join her then-fiancé, who had emigrated the year before. She was the only member of her family to leave, said Karstadt. Everyone else was wiped out.

CORRECTION:

In an article about the upcoming Maccabi Canada picnic in the July 4 issue, we published an incorrect contact number. For more information about the event, please call Debbie Silver at 416-398-0515. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, July 29, is deadline for the Aug. 8 issue and Tuesday, Aug. 6 is deadline for Aug. 15. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416- 391-0829.

Sunday, July 28

JEWISH STORYTELLING

Jewish Storytelling on the Danforth, hosted by **Alec Gelcer**. Come listen, come tell. All welcome. Riverdale Jewish Community Centre, 179A Danforth Ave., 7:30 p.m. For information, call 416-699-8914.

SINGLES DANCE PARTY

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel in conjunction with the Intersynagogue Singles presents a Dance Party with Yitzchak Aragaman at the Sunday Brunch for Singles 35+ at 11:30 a.m. Dress code, casually elegant. Call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

And What Else Is New

SRUL GLICK'S MUSIC

The grand finale concert at the Festival on the Sound in Parry Sound on Saturday, Aug. 10, features some of Srul Glick's music. Concert master is **James Campbell**. If interested, call the Parry Sound Chamber of Commerce for details. 1-800-461-4261.

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JVS Preparing for School Study Skills Workshp for middle-school and high-school age students. Improve your study strategies, enhance your organizational skills and expand your test-taking skills. Upcoming sessions will be held Aug. 26-28 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Workshops also available for fall 2002 and winter 2003. Call **Deborah Ottolino**, 416-787-1151, ext. 209.

MOSHAV BAND

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents Missing the Queen: An Evening With The Moshav Band (from Israel and Los Angeles) at Steam Whistle Brewing Co., the Roundhouse Room, 255 Bremner Blvd., Monday, Aug. 12. Doors open at 7 p.m. (must be over 19 years of age). Tickets in advance at Ticketmaster 416-870-8000, or at the door. Co-sponsored by Jewish Federation of Toronto, Young Leadership Division and Steam Whistle Brewing.

ADATH ISRAEL BROCHURE

Adath Israel Synagogue Young Members! Watch for the brochure coming out soon featuring 22 new and exciting mother and child programs for children from 4 weeks of age to 5 years. Call Adath Israel for information, 416-635-5340.

HOUSING REGISTRY

Jewish Information Service, a service of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, provides information about agencies, shuls, organizations and schools. JIS is promoting its housing registry, a listing for those who have basement apartments, rooms in houses or accommodation to share and for those who need housing. 416-635-5600.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Casino Rama July 31, Aug. 14, 28; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. July 27, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Dance lessons with **Irving Naftolin** and **Kitty Cohen**, Thursdays July 25 and Aug. 1. Bingo 1 p.m. every Tuesday. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). July 25, out for dinner. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, call the office at 416-630-9444.

Continued on page 19

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What's New

Continued from page 18

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

A Special Wine Tasting Evening-Everything You Wanted to Know About Kosher Wines But Were Afraid to Ask, with **Randi Landy** and **Robin Sirutis** of the LCBO, Wednesday, July 31, 7-8 p.m. Tickets available at Ticket Sales Desk, or phone with VISA , ext. 0. For information, **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Fun With Yiddish, Thursday, Aug. 1, at 1 p.m. Share stories, jokes, anecdotes, watch videos, hear speakers. Volunteer facilitator **Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky**. Contact person **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Low Vision Interest Group session 1, You and Your Eyes presented by **Victor Liang**, vision habilitation worker., Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna**, ext. 110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre/Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

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55 Plus, Department of Adult Services, Lunch N Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, Aug. 2, noon to 1 p.m., Room 202. Bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea provided.

Koffler Centre of the Arts announces the opening of the Academy of Ballet and Jazz. New artistic director, **Nadia Veselova-Tencer**, is a graduate of the Kirov Ballet. Fall registration is now open. Classes offered: Master ballet, modern dance, Hip Hop, jazz, tap, pointe, classical ballet repertoire (ages 12+), classical character dance, ballet floor stretch (for adults) and ballroom dancing. Ages 3 ½ +. Ext 258 or 271.

The Royal Conservatory of Music joins the Koffler Centre of the Arts, School of Music. Register now for fall classes. Piano, violin, trumpet, guitar, suzuki violin and piano, singing from scratch, flute recorder, prepatory music for preschoolers, eurythmics for preschoolers. young musicians band, theory, harmony, history, choir, percussion for kids, adult band. All ages welcome. Ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Music and the Jewish Soul: Programs coming this Fall- Teen Band (ages 10-17), Sundays 3:15-5 p.m.; Hava Nashira: Sing Music of Israel, Mondays at noon; Women's Chorus, every 2nd Monday, 8-9:30 p.m.; Shlomo Carlebach & Beyond Chorus, Tuesday evenings

Study Art with Annex artist **Sally Glanville**. Intro to Drawing and Painting Mondays 7-9 p.m.; Art Appreciation: 6 great artists, 6 great styles, Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

ABOUT PEOPLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel/Beit Halochem Canada recent annual general meeting, **Toby Feldberg** was re-elected president. A longstanding and devoted member of Beit Halochem Canada, she has also served many leadership roles in the general community.

A new executive was also elected: **Sharon Bizouati, Miriam Grunwald, Chaim Kagan, Hope Maissner, Julia Sax, Peter Sevitt, Diane Shiffman, Henry Silberman** and **Anna Spivak.** New board members for the year 2002-2003 are **Dan Chitiz** and **Kenny Bodenstein.**

COMMUNITY AND UNITY: Frances Lankin, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Greater Toronto, recently visited the new family centre at the Bathurst JCC. The centre was made possible with additional funding from the United Way. From left, Lankin; Sherry Kulman, executive director of the Bathurst JCC; and Helen Finder-Guttman, president of the Bathurst JCC.

RECOGNITION EVENING: Pictured at the Toronto Hadassah-WIZO Recognition Evening are (from left) Ellen Fialkov, Bernyce Kalifer, Lindsay Fialkov and Beverley Crackower, president. Lindsay Fialkov's name has been added to the Toronto Hadassah-WIZO Bar/Bat Mitzvah Honour Roll by her grandparents Bernyce and Marvin Kalifer, who made a contribution in Lindsay's honour.

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT:

Beth Torah honoured six Women of Achievement at a recent Women's Shabbat and Luncheon sponsored by member Perry Cohen, in memory of his wife Sandra Cohen. Honourees shown above are (from left) Helen Fox, Celia Genesove, Kailah Rubin and Mollie Rothman. Missing from the photo are Sophie Chapnick and Susan Waserman. A special presentation in memory of Sandra Cohen was made to Dr. Ellen Warner, a doctor of oncology at Sunnybrook Hospital. She was named Woman of the Year. [Michael Gangel photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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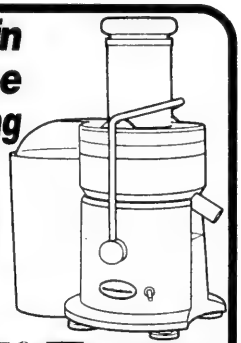

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-William Arthur Ward-

The Teacher of Excellence Committee extends heartfelt congratulations to the 2002 recipients of The Teacher of Excellence Award.

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Marlee Pinsker – Toronto Heschel School
Joseph Schacter – Eitz Chaim
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Avichai Zehavi – CHAT – Richmond Hill

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Greater Toronto Area

Children with cancer get boost from POGO

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Since 1983, the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) has worked to provide better care, more research and increased government funding for children who have cancer.

As the principal adviser to the Ontario Ministry of Health, POGO is a collaboration representing the pediatric cancer programs in five Ontario hospitals, working with oncologists, nurses, health-care workers, patients, parents, survivors, caregivers and volunteers. It focuses on planning for provincial needs and co-ordinating the allocation of funds from the government.

The non-profit organization was founded to provide a voice for children's cancer control. However, Vanessa Melman Yakobson, POGO's development officer, says they "never really had a public face, and... we are really raising our profile."

A survivor of childhood cancer, she knows the importance of an organization such as POGO, and has dedicated herself to raising awareness and capital funding for the organization, which is clearly dear to her heart.

Since *The CJN* first wrote about the organization just over a year ago, POGO has continued to build on its strong roots and develop projects that seek to help all young cancer patients.

"[I am] proud that we have been able to expand in all areas. No one area has stayed still; [they] are all advancing," says POGO's executive director, Dr. Corin Greenberg.

Greenberg is referring to POGO's five main areas: care, research, education, database and fund-raising. Each has its own focus and requires significant levels of funding. While Greenberg jokingly talks about the book of accomplishments she could write, she points to three main achievements she is proud of.

POGO has implemented new after-care (previously known as late-effects or long-term follow up) clinics. Now that 70 per cent of children are surviving cancer, Greenberg says, clinics such as these are important to ensure that patients are seen regularly. This year, they have set up seven clinics and have a goal of increasing the number to 10 – two in each of POGO's main areas (Toronto, London, Hamilton, Kingston and Ottawa).

She also points to "a huge" step forward for POGO, which has secured $600,000 from the Ministry of Health to work with (Interlink community cancer nurses and enable the nurses to go into patients' homes and work directly with them.)

Finally, Greenberg says that out-of-pocket-costs, including parking, lodging, food and gas, are exorbitant for families of children with cancer. To combat these costs and to lessen the burden on these families, POGO has set up four satellite offices, which provide care closer to people's homes.

"Some families have a huge amount of travel to get the big centre for cancer care. We tried to figure out if there are parts that could be done close to home," she says.

This year, POGO established a clinic at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga, an addition to the clinics already in place in Kitchener-Waterloo, Orillia, Sudbury and Windsor.

POGO has also continued to work for research on childhood cancer. It raised the $2 million needed to set up the POGO Chair in Childhood Cancer Control at the University of Toronto – the first of its kind in Ontario. The first incumbent of the chair will be POGO's medical director, Dr. Mark Greenberg, who is senior oncologist at the Hospital for Sick Children and a 2002 recipient of the Order of Canada. POGO thus has a vision and a focus that will make it a leader in the research on pediatric oncology.

Melman Yakobson spearheaded the fund-raising campaign by combining creative ideas with business savvy. She has already raised an additional million dollars for research, and plans to augment the total to $4 million.

"It is challenging doing fund-raising when you're a small organization and raising awareness about POGO and pediatric cancer," she says.

"Fund-raising is in its infancy. The more money we get, the more the organization can do."

And Melman Yakobson has done a lot. In February she raised $60,000 at a gala and last month finished the third annual Party for POGO. She organized a family fun day at the beginning of June, sponsored by Nestle Canada and TD Commercial at Green Acres Day Camp.

"[It's] extremely exciting," she says. "[It's a] great challenge and [there is] so much stuff we can do."

Both women believe in the power of POGO and the service it provides.

"There are very few of us who have not sat on both sides of the bed. People are passionate about this place," says Greenberg.

Melman Yakobson agrees, drawing on the experience from when she herself was a 13-year-old with cancer.

"[It's] absolutely critical. Without POGO, you wouldn't have standards of care or ability for people in remote areas to be treated," she says, adding that the work she does is personally rewarding and that she knows that she is making a difference to families and children.

The organization is working on new projects and collaborations. For example, Greenberg says a plan is in the works to approach the government for help in subsidizing families for their out-of-pocket costs.

Melman Yakobson has ideas for more fund-raising ventures, but Greenberg stresses that "we [POGO] are very careful about not collecting private money for things that the government should be funding."

For more information or to help POGO, please call 416-592-1232 or visit the Web site at www.pogo.on.ca.

Greater Toronto Area

Intifadah hurting Weizmann Institute, president says

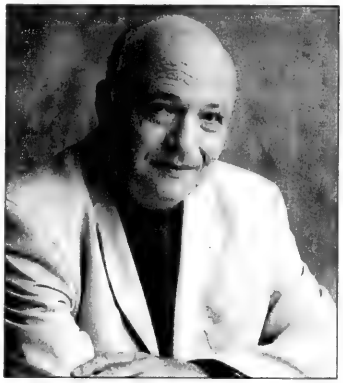
By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The current Palestinian uprising has had a fiscal and academic impact on Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, says its president.

And these problems, common to all Israeli universities, may yet worsen if the violence associated with the intifadah continues to flare, Ilan Chet warned in an interview.

As a result of the security situation, he explained, Israel has cut allocations to institutes of higher learning.

Funding to the Weizmann Institute decreased by three per cent this year, and may plummet by five per cent next year, said Chet, who is an award-winning scientist.



Ilan Chet

In recent years, the government has provided 47 per cent of the institute's $190 million (US) annual budget.

But due to pressing military needs necessitated by the intifadah, now in its 22nd month, Israel has had no alternative but to reduce the level of its financial support for universities.

In the face of this reality, the Weizmann Institute, based in Rehovot, will be dependent on overseas funds raised by its supporters more than in the past.

Chet, who succeeded Haim Harari as president last December, was in Toronto at the invitation of the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

"It's his first hello to Canada since becoming president," said Sheri Federman, the society's director of programs and operations.

Apart from government cutbacks, the intifadah has engendered an anti-Israel backlash in the form of a budding boycott against Israeli scholars, Chet said.

Some foreign academics predisposed to the Palestinian cause refuse to share scientific material with their Israeli counterparts, he said.

"We've written hundreds of letters to colleagues in the United States and Europe asking them to separate politics from science. These letters have helped."

Chet added that university funding agencies outside Israel have not taken part in this boycott.

(The Associated Press reported recently that hundreds of European academics have called for a boycott of Israeli universities in protest over Israel's treatment of Palestinians.)

Much to his regret, the intifadah has also had a dampening effect on academic exchanges.

"International scientific conferences in Israel have dried up, and scientists have cancelled visits. On the other hand, some scientists have made a point of visiting us."

Joint projects between Israeli and Palestinian scientists are continuing, but in several cases meetings have taken place on neutral ground in Europe.

And, Chet said, foreign student enrollment at the Weizmann Institute, usually about 15 per cent of the student body, has been somewhat affected by the intifadah.

Chet, 62, was born in the port city of Haifa, and studied agriculture and microbiology at Hebrew University.

A member of Hebrew University's teaching staff for 30 years, he won the Israel Prize and the Wolf Prize for agricultural research in 1996 and 1998, respectively.

He was honoured for his research on biological control of plant diseases.

For the sake of its environment and water supply, Israel should stop using chemical pesticides, Chet said.

"The use of a lot of chemical fertilizers endangers Israel's drinking water supply, as well as the food chain."

Chet, Hebrew University's former dean of agriculture, said Israeli agriculture is among the most advanced in the world.

But due to Israel's dwindling water resources, its agricultural sector will eventually shrink.

"The water problem is very serious," he said, noting that Israeli farmers, within 10 to 15 years, will be using recycled rather than fresh water to nurture their crops.

With the water shortage in mind, Israeli agriculture must begin developing cash crops based on biotechnology.

Citing an example, he said, "There's no point for Israel just to grow tomatoes. Anyone can do it."

The challenge is to develop "clever" tomatoes that are resistant to disease, able to grow in brackish water and have a long shelf life.

Asked to compare Israeli agriculture with that of Arab countries, Chet, who has worked in Egypt and has friendly relations with Egypt's minister of agriculture, couched his reply in diplomatic language.

"Our Arab neighbours are progressing and learning new techniques, some transferred from Israel."

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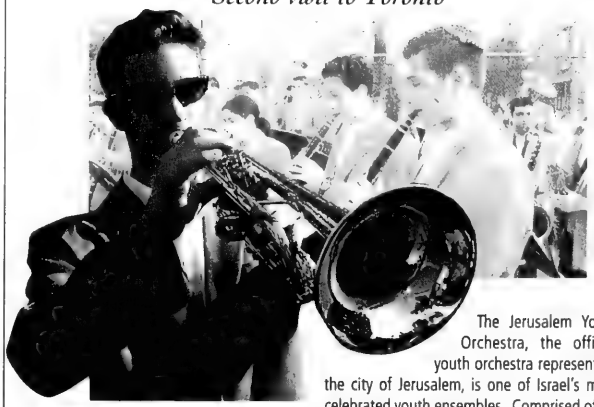

The Jerusalem Youth Orchestra, the official youth orchestra representing the city of Jerusalem, is one of Israel's most celebrated youth ensembles. Comprised of 45 young people reflecting the diversity of Jerusalem's Jewish population (olim hadahsim, traditionally observant and secular), these talented youth have performed for the Israel Knesset, on Israel Television and to audiences in Europe and North America. Several of its members have pursued musical careers in prestigious academies and orchestras.

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On Campus

Fay Rotman appointed new Chair of Reena

The Board of Directors of Reena announce the appointment of Fay Rotman as Chair of Reena for 2002-2004.

Fay holds a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Toronto with a specialty in Social Policy, Planning and Administration. Since graduating in 1975, Fay has had a broad and varied career, both in the field of developmental services and as a fundraising professional.

For the past 21 years, Fay has worked as a freelance consultant, successfully providing support to a wide range of not-for-profit agencies in the areas of strategic planning, proposal development, program development and fundraising campaigns.

At the same time, she managed two associations; one a provincial association of professionals in developmental services; the other an association of 50 agencies in Toronto. These positions involved the support and motivation of professionals and volunteers in the organization of large scale events, advocacy with government, fund raising and coordinated planning.

Working with DVA Navion (a fund raising consulting firm) over the past 4 years, she directed a number of fund raising feasibility studies around the province.

Fay is married with two children who are currently attending university.

Reena is a non-profit social service agency dedicated to integrating individuals with developmental disabilities into all aspects of the community with dignity and respect.

The Canadian contingent that participated in the recent Israel Birthright program.

Experiencing Israel isn't just a birthright

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — These days, the Canada Israel Birthright Experience is much more than just a free trip to Israel.

Birthright is a way for Israel and the Diaspora to interact and help each other in times of need, Rabbi Michael Melchior told a Canada-Israel Experience group of 100 young adults at Kibbutz Ramat Rachel recently.

At a time when almost all tourism to Israel has shut down, Israelis are taking heart from the fact that Birthright kids are still coming, the deputy foreign minister and chair of the Birthright Steering Committee told the group.

"Knowing that you are willing to come here when Israel is hurting, bleeding and even crying, has taken some of the cynicism out of Israelis."

Birthright is about people being together and caring about each other when it means the most, Rabbi Melchior said.

The program, which represents a three-way partnership between the State of Israel, philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, and Diaspora community organizations, offers a free trip to Israel to young adults between 18 and 26 in order to strengthen ties between Jews around the world.

As the three buses of Canadians from Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and communities from coast to coast made their way across Israel last week, the kids barely noticed the increased security which was planned around their every move.

The participants have very little free time, said the director of the Israel Experience program Lorne Klemensberg, adding that the buses are tracked on a global positioning system so that every minute of the schedule is accounted for. In addition, two guards are with each bus all the time.

The lack of free time allows for little interaction between Canadians and Israelis. Therefore, 26 female officer candidates and eight Israelis from the Israel Defence Forces are placed on the buses, Birthright assistant director Asher Afriat said.

This integration allows participants to experience the trip from the Israeli perspective as well as from the viewpoint of the Diaspora, Afriat said.

For Prof. Asaf Zohar, the Canada- Israel Experience scholar-in-residence, the challenge is to develop a program that teaches about Israel from all perspectives so that the students will have the tools to deal with the Arab propaganda they're exposed to on campuses at home.

Because things change very quickly in Israel, it is important for participants to stay involved when they get home, Zohar said.

Over the past year, Birthright has made several changes in order to deal not only with the current crises, but with the changing nature of the Israel-Diaspora relationship.

For example, students from Poland participated for the first time, and Argentinian students held a ceremony on Mt. Herzl National Cemetery to commemorate the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires.

Now is the time for Jews from around the world to come to Israel and stand tall, said participant Elona Rubinov, who was born in Uzbekistan but grew up in a Conservative home in Toronto.

"My friends thought I was crazy for coming to Israel now," said Winnipegian David James Rittberg.

But he said it was important for him to somehow get reconnected to the community and Birthright offered him that opportunity.

Talya Fuchs, an Israeli/Canadian who now lives in Vancouver, said it meant a lot to her to experience Israel with kids who were never here before.

Torontonian Marty Sussman said this trip was the "most inspiring experience" of her life.

"I've never been so proud to call myself a Jew. I feel as if I've come home," she said.

And for Shai Yanovski, one of the Israelis on the bus, the experience allowed him to really get to know Canadians.

"I just can't believe how polite everyone is," Yanovski said.

NEW JEWISH STUDENT CENTRE UNDERWAY: From left, David Gotfrid, chair of the building committee; Jack Chisvin, project manager; architect Susan Friedrich; Agi Mandel, chair of the fund-raising committee; and Zac Kaye, director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto, donned hard hats for the recent demolition of the existing buildings at the downtown Toronto site where the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life will be built this year. The new 10,000-square-foot building at Huron and Harbord streets, a key component of UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative, will replace existing cramped quarters in a basement at University College. [Adam Irving photo]

TAKING IT TO THE TOP: The grassroots group Canadians Against Antisemitism (CAA) presented the above banner to Art Eggleton, MP for York Centre, on July 11, requesting that he share it with his counterparts in Parliament. Signatures were collected at the rally against anti-Semitism at Queen's Park in June. From left, Sandra Stern, social worker and chair of Canadians Against Antisemitism; Eggleton; Donna Holbrook, director of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Canada, and lawyer Grace Westcott of the CAA committee.

שיאר נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

הסטטיסטיקה חד משמעית: שלוש פעמים חדרי כוחותינו לגדה- ובשלושת הפעמים פסקו ההתאבדויות. רק יצאנו משם- ופלשתינאים התחילו להתפוצץ שוב. יד על הלב- ממש לא הבנתי את הקטע הזה- אם מאות פלשתינאים מחכים להזדמנות להתפוצץ, הרי הכי מתאים שיעשו את זה להתנקם בצבא ישראל שנמצא בשטחיהם. היה זה חברי חָזי שפתח לי את העיניים:

מסתבר שמסביב כל מעשה התאבדות כזה פועל צוות של כעשרים איש: החל באלה שמגייסים את הצעירים, אלה שמאמנים אותם, דרך אלה שדואגים למימון, ליצירת קשר עם מי שיסיע אותם למקום הפיגוע, ועוד כתנה וכתנה. כלומר, מדובר פה בארגון מורכב, שכל כניסה של צה"ל לשטח משבשת את פעילותו: חלק מהאנשים חייבים לברוח או להסתתר, חלק נעצרים על ידי כוחות הביטחון, וכך נעצרת הפעילות הרצחנית. חָזי גם היסכן את תשומת ליבי לכך שבמקרים חבודדים שמחבל ניסה לעשות את הפעולה בעצמו- הוא- או היא נכשלו, שוב הוכחה למסובכות של המבצע והצורך בצוות גדול ומשולב. אם אכן הדברים נכונים-או יוכחו מכונים- הרי שעל צה"ל להישאר בגדה ולאפשר לשב"ך לא להשאיר אבן על אבן. אפילו לא יצליחו למצוא את כל הרוצחים - מספיק שישבשו את פעולותיהם ולא יאפשרו להמשיך את הגהינום הזה- אבל שיישאר בינינו.

משפט השבוע

זה עתה סיים שאול מופז את כהונתו כרמטכ"ל, והמראיינים חזכירו לו שחוא נחשב לרמטכ"ל הכי פוליטי שהיה עד היום. ענה להם מופז:

אלה שהסכימו עם דיעותיי אמרו שהן מאוד מקצועיות, ואלה שהתנגדו להן- כינו אותן פוליטיות.

Y TU MAMA

היגה סרט מקסיקני מצליח מאד. כמו רוב הסרטים הזרים, גם הוא התחיל את דרכו על מסך קטן אחד בקרלטון, אך הפלא ופלא- הוא התפשט לאור הצלחתו למסכים נוספים. אין לי כל ספק שרוב אלח שהולכים לראות את הסרט- עושים זאת בשל סצינות המין הנועזות שלו. אבל זה בסדר- הם גם יאלצו לראות קולנוע מצויין- על יחסים בין שני נערים מתבגרים ואישה בשלה שיודעת (אך לא מגלה לאף אחד) שימיה ספורים.

מעבר לעלילה המרכזית מצליח הבמאי להראות את הנוף האנושי העני והמדכא של מקסיקו מנקודת ראות שלא ראיתי כמותה עד היום. סרט מעורר מחשבה ומאוד אסתטי. שמוחה וחצי בסולם קורן. רוצה: (או קיי, אולי לא לרוץ אבל ללכת מהר).

LATE MARRIAGE

לפני מספר חודשים סיפרתי לכם על "נישואים מאוחרים" בהפקה ישראלית-צרפתית. הסרט, שדובר עברית וגרוזינית, משחק כאן בהצלחה רבה, וגם כאן אין לי ספק שסצינות המין הנועזות גורמות לקנדי הרדום והשמרני לרצות ולחצוץ איך עושים את זה בארצות אחרות..... (יש בסרט סצינת מיטה של עשר דקות, אך אין היא הופכת אותו לסרט כחול ואפילו לא לתכלת). שיהיה להם לבריאות! זהו סרט חשוב על סטודנט ממוצא גרוזיני שמתאהב בגרושה ממוצא מרוקאי, והקונפליקט הקשה והמשבר שלו עם הוריו. הקנדים ברוב טמטומם סווגו את הסרט כקומדיה, בעוד שזה אחד הסרטים הכי עצובים שראיתי בחיים שלי, ואני בטוח שתסכימו איתי. רוצה: עשר בסולם קורן.

יהודה עמיחי לסיום

בימים קשים כאלה חוזרות ומתנגנות באוזני המילים החזקות של יהודה עמיחי:

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Coast to Coast

CIC lauds Amnesty report condemning Palestinian 'crimes against humanity'

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Despite "problematic" elements, Amnesty International's recent report condemning Palestinian attacks on Israeli civilians as crimes against humanity could mark a "turning point" in Amnesty's relationship with Israel, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) says.

In a statement responding to the Amnesty report, the CIC said it is a "generally factual assessment" and that the human rights organization "has broken new ground in condemning these attacks and systematically discrediting each justification provided by militant Palestinian groups for their actions."

"[T]he readiness of the authors to reject all attempts by Palestinian spokespeople and their international supporters to rationalize and explain attacks against Israeli civilians... is an important reflection of reality and, as such, might mark the first step by [Amnesty] to ameliorate widespread concern about its treatment of Israel."

The CIC said the Amnesty report marked a welcome and "significant" departure from Amnesty's historical animus toward Israel.

Amnesty "has long been among the most vigorous critics of Israeli policies and practices in the territories often providing disproportionate and unfair attention to alleged human rights violations against Palestinians," the CIC noted.

The CIC's director of research and education, David Goldberg, said the Amnesty report marks the first time the group "takes real significant scrutiny of the [Palestinian Authority] itself in terms of its own human rights record.

"In the past Amnesty International has found ways to ignore [Palestinian terror attacks] or excuse them. This time, it didn't fall into that trap."

The Amnesty report, titled *Without Distinction: attacks on civilians by Palestinian armed groups*, called the attacks "murder" and "crimes against humanity under international law."

Released earlier this month, it condemns attacks against civilians in both Israel and the West Bank and Gaza. It also calls on leaders of groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad to stop the attacks, which Amnesty says have killed 350 Israeli civilians since September 2000.

The report, Amnesty's most in-depth condemnation of Palestinian violence in the current conflict, said "no violations [of human rights] by the Israeli government, no matter the scale or gravity" justify the killing of civilians.

Ilan Feldman, a spokesperson for Amnesty's Israeli branch, told the *Jerusalem Post* that although the group has issued several press releases against Palestinian attacks and has expressed condemnation after every one, this report "analyzes certain Palestinian organizations and their crimes against humanity. That is why it is unique."

Despite being encouraged overall by the Amnesty report, the CIC singled out several "substantive" problems with it.

The most "glaring," the CIC said, was Amnesty's refusal to use the term "terrorism" because there is no agreed-upon international definition of the word.

This, the CIC said, "comes across as a cop-out" in light of the U.S. State Department's definition of terrorism as "premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."

The CIC also takes issue with the report's "disproportionate attention" to Palestinian accusations against settlement activity," which the CIC said gives "undue credibility" to arguments by Palestinian militants that Israelis living in the territories are not "civilians."

The CIC also asked whether the report's exclusive focus on attacks against Israeli civilians means that Amnesty "considers attacks on Israeli soldiers to be less morally reprehensible?

"Amnesty International cannot have it both ways," the CIC said. "It cannot condemn some Palestinian terrorist attacks against some Israelis while rationalizing or excusing others."

The CIC also said the Amnesty report "hesitates" to blame Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat personally for the terror against civilians, even though it says attacks by "armed groups" are committed with the tacit, if not explicit, approval of the PA.

"The apparent attempt by Amnesty International to isolate Arafat from criticism of the Palestinian terrorist groups and the culture of anti-Israel hatred prevailing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that permits them to operate betrays reality and suggests the disquieting intervention of partisan political considerations in the report's preparation," the CIC said.

Palestinian officials have rejected the Amnesty report as biased and unbalanced.

PA cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdul Rahman noted that Palestinian leaders and moderates have condemned suicide bombings. He added that "all that is happening to Israeli citizens is a normal consequence of their occupation and rejection of Palestinian rights."

As well, leaders of such groups as Hamas and Islamic Jihad have vowed to continue attacks on Israeli civilians.

The CIC, however, was pleased that the Amnesty report countered, one by one, Palestinian rationalizations for attacks on civilians.

For example, Amnesty said the fact that Israeli society is, in a sense, "militarized" by the presence of soldiers everywhere is no defence for attacks on civilians.

"The occasional presence of soldiers among passengers on ordinary commuter buses, diners in a café or shoppers in a market does not make such venues legitimate targets for attack," the Amnesty report said.

It also sees no moral equivalence between the deliberate targeting of Israeli civilians and the accidental deaths of Palestinians.

"It is... necessary to draw a fundamental distinction between Palestinians deliberately targeting Israeli civilians, including children, for attack, and the accidental deaths of Palestinian civilians in the course of Israeli retaliatory strikes, for which the prime minister of Israel offers immediate regret," the Amnesty report said.

CHAT
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According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

WILL RETURN

Child survivors conference

The Annual International Child Survivors/Hidden Children and Second Generation Conference will be held in Toronto from Friday Oct. 11 to Monday Oct. 14, 2002 at the Regal Constellation Hotel. The conference is open to child survivors, their spouses, children and grandchildren and will include workshops, seminars and speakers.

All conference meals will be kosher, under the supervision of the Kashruth Council of Canada COR.

For further information please contact: Anita Ekstein, 905-770-4923, e-mail: aekstein@rogers.com; or Marilyn Maierovitz, 416-635-2883, ext. 272, e-mail: mmaierovitz@ujafed.org.

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Iran paid Menem $10 m. to cover-up bombing: New York Times

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

NEW YORK — Former Argentinian president Carlos Menem received a $10-million bribe from the Iranian government, in exchange for his silence over the country's role in the 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aries Jewish centre that killed 85 people, according to a report published Monday in the *New York Times*.

[File photo]

Carlos Menem

The paper claims to have obtained a copy of the sealed testimony of a witness in the investigation into the case, the worst in Argentinian history. Those responsible for the attack have still not been apprehended.

According to the *Times*, an Argentinian official involved in the investigation, frustrated by the lack of progress in the case, provided 100 pages of sealed transcript, which appear to support the long-held suspicion of Iranian involvement.

The report comes ahead of a December primary ballot that will pick candidates for Argentina's presidential election next year.

Although officials considered a possible Iranian connection early in the investigation, Iran has repeatedly denied such charges and few leads have been reported in the years since.

Menem, still an influential figure in the Peronist party system, is considered a leading presidential contender for a third term. He governed Argentina from 1989 to 1999.

Menem's former chief of staff, now a key campaign adviser, denied the allegations in the report, calling them politically motivated.

"Every intelligence agency in the world had free passage in Argentina to investigate this case," Alberto Kohan told the newspaper. "We would all like to know who did it."

In addition to the 85 people killed, more than 200 were injured in the July 18, 1994 car bomb attack on the Jewish Community Cultural Centre, one of two such attacks in Buenos Aires in the early 1990s. In March 1992, a blast destroyed the Israeli Embassy, killing 28 people. Jewish leaders have criticized authorities for failing to apprehend those responsible.

An Iranian defector to Germany identified as Abdolghassem Mesbahi asserts in the 100-page transcript of a secret deposition that planning for the attack on the community centre was led and supervised by officials inside Iran's intelligence agency and its embassy in Buenos Aires.

Mesbahi alleges that Menem received a $10-million deposit into a numbered account to "make declarations that there was no evidence against Iran that it was responsible," the newspaper reported.

In his testimony, Mesbahi said Menem benefited for years from his ties to Iranian intelligence officials, the newspaper reported. They courted him because of his political power, Muslim ancestry and connections to Argentina's small but influential Syrian-Lebanese community, he said.

U.S. and South American authorities have long warned that the so-called "Triple Border" region, where Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay meet, could make an appealing harbour for terrorists because of its porous borders, its concentration of Arab-Muslim immigrants and lax passport controls.

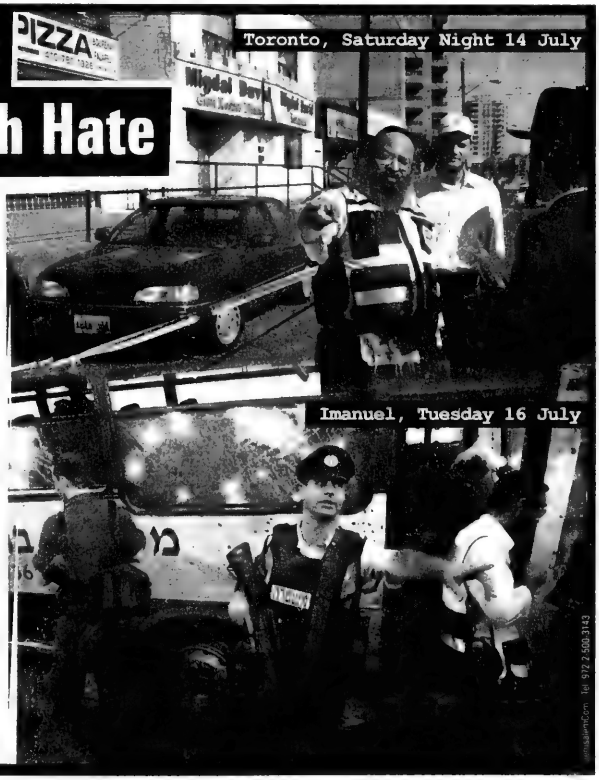
Last year, the U.S. State Department warned in its annual report on global terrorism that the region — already known as South America's contraband capital — "remained a focal point for Islamic extremism in Latin America."

Last Thursday, 5,000 people commemorated the eighth anniversary of the bombing with a candlelight vigil where some complained that another year had gone by with no new leads. Government officials deny any cover up, saying they conducted a proper investigation.

"The case remains unsolved and we still have no answers. We demand justice and we demand it now," said Abraham Kahul, president of the Jewish Community Cultural Centre.

Fifteen former police officers have been arrested, accused of having indirect roles in the bombing. They are accused of co-operating with those responsible for the bombing.

Last Saturday Night Toronto
Came Face-to-Face With Hate



Israel's Citizens Face That Hate – and Bloodshed – Almost Every Single Day

Shock, grief, horror – those are the emotions many of us experienced after hearing of the cold-blooded murder of David Rosenzweig.

These are the same emotions many Israelis have felt almost every day for the last two years. Terror attacks have become regular occurrences – as has burying the dead and assisting the wounded.

Zaka is a rapid-response organization that rushes to the scene every time terror strikes. Its 600 volunteers provide emergency first aid and recover and identify victims, often at great personal risk.

In these trying times, Zaka – and the people of Israel – need our support.

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New IDF chief of staff: no legitimacy to Arafat

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

More than anyone else, the new chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), Moshe Ya'alon, is a symbol of the ongoing campaign to deny political legitimacy to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. Unlike his predecessor, Shaul Mofaz, Ya'alon doesn't seek Arafat's physical expulsion, only his political departure. His campaign began in the days when Yitzhak Rabin was prime minister and Ya'alon was head of military intelligence, and continued through Ehud Barak's term as prime minister, up to U.S. President George W. Bush's recent speech calling for new Palestinian leadership.

After he became convinced in 1995 that Arafat had given a green light to continue the use of terror and that Hamas' operatives were Arafat's proxies for attacks, Ya'alon demanded Rabin pose an ultimatum to Arafat. Rabin agreed, but first allowed Ya'alon, in October 1995, to present the proof Israel had, while the ultimatum itself, they agreed, would be presented to Arafat before the elections, in January 1996. But Rabin was assassinated in November 1995.

Ya'alon did not give up, nor did he refrain from quiet criticism of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, or Barak (who ordered that the army not condemn Arafat), or Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for allowing his son Omri to meet with Arafat while the PA leader continued supporting terrorism.

Ya'alon adheres to the principle that those who use violence should not be allowed to gain from it. He accepts the existence of a Palestinian state, but under clear conditions and at the end of a negotiation for a final settlement. If that condition is not met, he believes, it's a formula for continued warfare and for negative processes in the Arab world, including Israel's Arabs. He knows Arafat's departure from the political arena does not mean a knockout victory for Israel. Moreover, he knows that good military tactics are not enough to stop the bloodshed. Therefore, Ya'alon does not want the IDF to linger in Palestinian towns and he supports wide-scale humanitarian aid to the population.

Ya'alon does not shy away from talking about "shortening the lines" in the territories, by which he means withdrawing from isolated settlements – but not now. It's clear to him that at the tactical and operational level, it's better to group the settlements into blocs.

Since he perceives the Palestinian terror campaign to be an existential one, Ya'alon led the IDF's campaign against the refuseniks, in its public relations and legal aspects, and he appears to have succeeded. After all, there are only six refuseniks now in prison.

The treasury, which has grown used to obstructing practically every construction and development project in the country, will not have an easy time with him when they discuss the new security separation between Israelis and Palestinians. Ya'alon will want more troops for the army, more new electronics and more top-notch infantry units. He explains that nobody has tried to cross the fence along the Lebanese border, which is backed up with a thicket of electronics, and terrorists will continue their efforts to cross the fence now under construction.

He is cautious about the Syrians, but the caution is conditional. His approach is derived from the priority he gives the Palestinian front. He is not interested in hurting the Syrians, only in driving the Iranian influence – which is already appearing in Jordan and Egypt – out of Lebanon. He supports more political and economic pressure on Damascus, but faced with no alternative, will back military pressure – and then insist that Syrian leader Bashar Assad pay the price. That is certain, given the primary importance Ya'alon places on Israel's deterrent capabilities.

Moshe Ya'alon receives the insignias of his new position from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer. [Israel Sun photo]

Ya'alon will try to avoid any conflicts with political leaders. He learned from Mofaz's experience. But that doesn't mean there won't be occasional glitches. There were in the past with him, already back in the days when he was head of military intelligence, and there certainly will be in the future – but not exchanges of personal barbs.

* * *

In his first appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Ya'alon said last Tuesday that "the Palestinians, like Hezbollah, are trying by any means possible to undermine the endurance of Israeli society. They view Israel as an opulent society rather than one prepared to fight and sustain losses."

Ya'alon said this thinking has permeated deep into the Palestinian public and leadership, who view incidents such as the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon and the intifadah in the territories as an achievement. According to Ya'alon, it is important that the fight against terror end in a manner that will make it clear to the Palestinians that they have failed to accomplish anything through terror and violence.

With files from Gideon Alon.

PA proposes its forces take over as IDF withdraws

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority (PA) Interior Minister Abdel Razek Yehiyeh has presented Israel with a security plan meant to end the violence, including returning to civic order and taking control of the Palestinian security forces in the territories.

His plan emphasizes the need for a change in the public atmosphere, with a campaign against violence, intended to fight terror. He believes that force alone is not enough to defeat terrorism.

Yehiyeh presented the plan at a security meeting last Saturday night in Tel Aviv between an Israeli team, headed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and a PA team, headed by Minister Saeb Erekat. Yehiyeh's plan is similar to plans presented in the past, such as the George Tenet plan and a Peres-Arafat plan worked out on Yom Kippur eve last year at the Dahaniyeh airport. Neither was ever implemented.

According to the Palestinian presentation, Israel will begin withdrawing from PA areas back to positions it held before the outbreak of violence on Sept. 28, 2000, and will lift the closures and curfews. Palestinian forces, subordinate to the PA Interior Ministry – meaning Yehiyeh himself – will fill the vacuum created, in exchange for an Israeli guarantee not to target the PA's security forces.

With the withdrawal, the Palestinians are ready to resume security co-ordination with Israel along the lines drawn up in the 1998 Wye agreement, to confiscate illegal weapons and to arrest those who break Palestinian law. In exchange, the PA wants Israel to free prisoners arrested during the conflict, cease attacking targets in the territories and end the assassination campaign against terrorists. Yehiyeh proposes working for a change in public attitude and against encouragement of violence, and asks the Israeli side to cease incitement against Palestinians.

Yehiyeh's plan has been passed on to others in the political echelon in Jerusalem and to the defence establishment. But a senior government source said last night that "even if Yehiyeh means well, it's doubtful he'll be able to deliver the goods and prevent terror."

The Palestinian team said the situation in the territories is a result of the Israeli occupation, which helps Hamas and Islamic Jihad recruit youths. They asked Israel to allow the PA forces to move freely in the territories and said that even if they cannot guarantee 100 per cent results, they want to make the effort. They pointed out that the IDF operation has not managed to eliminate the terrorism either.

There are differing versions from the Israeli team. Peres called Danish foreign minister Per Styg Moeller, the current president of the European Union, to brief him on the meeting with the Palestinians. "Wherever the Palestinians can take security responsibility and guarantee quiet, we'll leave," Peres said. At the first stage, Israel is proposing "Judea first," meaning Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron as test cases, because they are quieter than the northern West Bank.

But another senior source said nobody offered the Palestinians an Israeli withdrawal. "They were told we will start easing economic conditions in Gaza and Judea, in areas like curfews, closures, freedom of movement," he said.

Erekat and his colleagues preferred that Israel quit Ramallah first, explaining that it is the Palestinian seat of government in the West Bank, and this would make it easier for the PA to take action against the terror groups.

Peres promised to look into that possibility, but both sides know that Erekat's request results from Palestinian frustration over Yasser Arafat's isolation in Ramallah. The Palestinians made it clear from the outset that they were there on behalf of the PA chairman.

Peres was accompanied by hawkish minister Danny Naveh, appointed by Sharon to accompany Peres, as Naveh said, "to make sure no political negotiations take place under fire."

Peres reiterated that the terror and suicide bombings must stop and that they are the main obstacle to improving conditions. "Terror is eliminating your future; the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Popular Front are finishing you," he said. Naveh focused on the Tanzim as the main terrorist group.

ME scientists come together

Continued from page 1

The idea of setting up a synchrotron accelerator was first raised at a meeting of Middle East physicists in Torino, Italy in 1997. Germany was about to end work on its BESSY-1 synchrotron project and suggested donating the accelerator to a Middle East peace project.

"At that time the situation was already volatile and [Benjamin] Netanyahu was in power. That's why we met in Torino and not in the Middle East," says Professor Eliezer Rabinovici, a Hebrew University physicist who attended the Torino meeting and now sits on the international board of SESAME.

However, Rabinovici says, despite the ups and downs in relations between Israel and its neighbours, "at meetings, we managed to talk about physics and to promote the project. Delays in the project were caused mainly by economic factors rather than political ones.

"It's like being in a parallel universe," says Rabinovici of the scientists' last meeting, which was held in Paris.

"As a physicist I always dreamed of parallel universes, but here it's materializing," he added.

The cornerstone laying ceremony for the project is scheduled for December in Jordan. The accelerator is to be upgraded and will double its energy source.

The project is under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The SESAME council members are: Bahrain, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Observer countries include Armenia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Russia, Sweden, Sudan, the UK, and the United States, and several other countries have expressed interest in joining.

July 15

• The former leader of the Shas Party, Aryeh Deri, was released from prison after serving two years of a three-year sentence for misappropriating state funds.

July 16

• Nine people were killed and 30 wounded when three Palestinians, wearing IDF uniforms, ambushed a bus on its way from B'nei Brak to Immanuel.

• Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to request that the prime minister meet with Egypt's intelligence chief, Gen. Omar Suleiman, when he visits Israel in the coming weeks.

July 17

• IDF officer Elad Granadir, 21, was killed and two soldiers wounded in a clash with Palestinians during an army manhunt for the terrorists who perpetrated the Immanuel murders.

July 18

• An Israeli and two foreign workers were killed in Tel Aviv by two suicide bombers.

• The media reported nine Israeli soldiers were charged with selling arms and ammunition to Palestinians.

July 19

• The armed wing of the radical Islamic group Hamas threatened to send its suicide bombers "everywhere" in Israel if the army goes ahead with its plan to transfer the arrested families of militants from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip. "Our answer to the Zionists will be strong and bloody. We will send explosive messages to the Zionists everywhere we can get to," said the Izz-a-din al-Qassem Brigades in a statement issued in Gaza City.

• The Jewish Agency reported that 17,000 new immigrants have arrived in Israel since the beginning of 2002.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

'Protecting minorities Jewish responsibility'

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — Israel's former ambassador to the United Nations, Abba Eban, once said it is a miracle that Israel remains a true democracy in the Middle East.

However, "it demands work to keep Israel a democracy," Rabbi Michael Melchior warned a Canada Israel Experience group of Birthright participants.

In an emotional speech in Jerusalem on July 10 to more than 100 young Canadians, Israel's deputy foreign minister discussed the many dilemmas facing the country today.

Israel must provide equal rights for Jews and non-Jews, not only because Israel is a democracy, but because it's a Jewish state, Rabbi Melchior said.

Two thousand years of exile taught the Jewish people the importance of being sensitive to the needs of minorities, he said, noting that the root of the Hebrew word for responsibility, *achrayut*, is *acher*, meaning other.

God judges Jews by how we relate to "the other, the weaker, the minority, the stranger."

If Israel is going to continue to be a democratic Jewish state, the Palestinian conflict must be resolved, Rabbi Melchior said.

U.S. President George W. Bush's dream of a democratic Palestinian state in Judea, Samaria and Gaza next to the State of Israel is a good one, he said, adding that if Israel wants to continue being a democratic Jewish state,"we have to get there.

"And those that tell you that there are other options – that we can be in Judea and Samaria and have all the settlements and at the same time have peace and a democratic state – are lying."

Those that offer this solution are suggesting that Israel become a fascist country, Rabbi Melchior said.

Referring to an Israeli cabinet bill that passed first reading this month, which would have barred Israeli Arabs from buying state-owned land, Rabbi Melchior said unequivocally that the bill is a disgrace and must never become law.

"This bill will put us on a slippery slope towards racism and is totally unacceptable," he said.

(The bill has since been withdrawn and sent to committee for study.)

Speaking about religious pluralism, Rabbi Melchior emphasized the need for Israel to accommodate all Jewish points of view.

"It's crazy for the Knesset to think that it can pass religious legislation. It doesn't bring one person closer to the Almighty… It makes people run away from religion."

Rabbi Melchior told the Birthright participants that to be Jewish today is to understand and discuss the dilemmas of the Jewish world and the State of Israel.

"It's important to go home and get involved," he said.

Canadians have been good friends of Israel, the deputy foreign minister said, adding that Canada's minister of foreign affairs, Bill Graham, should get credit for supporting Israel.

Rabbi Melchior noted that even though it has upset the Europeans, Graham has voted on behalf of Israel at various meetings this year at the UN Human Rights Commission.

"Bill Graham is a real friend of Israel."

The deputy foreign minister went on to discuss the importance of continuing discussions with the Arab world, even if its leadership is not up to the challenge.

In the pursuit of peace, he said, Israeli officials are currently meeting with Sunni Muslim leaders in Alexandria, Egypt in an attempt to change attitudes in the Arab world.

He said that 3½ million Palestinians are suffering because of the terrorism of their fellow citizens, but it is still Israel's responsibility to help them by pursuing peace, he said.

"Not because we're democrats, but because we're Jewish."

The government is not doing enough when is comes to humanitarian aid for the Palestinians and needs to do more, he said, adding that Israel is working toward that end.

Rabbi Melchior said the ongoing terrorism against Israel "doesn't make Israelis give up. And that's important. It doesn't make us give up the desire to make peace even with those who are sending the suicide bombers.

"There is no alternative to the vision of peace. We are in the Middle East and must work it out with the peoples around us. We have no choice."

Jenin: Rumours ran rampant

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Commentary

What was the spark that set off the rumours about a massacre in Jenin's refugee camp? It's been weeks since the controversy broke out during the hard battle the Israel Defence Forces conducted there during Operation Defensive Shield, and now two stories have come up that could perhaps shed some light on how the rumours spread.

At one point during the fighting, the army used loudspeakers to call on all Palestinian men between the ages of 16 and 50 to turn themselves in. Many came out and were sent to Kafr Salem for questioning. Some of those questioned were sent for further questioning to Shin Bet facilities, while the rest were not allowed to go back to the city, where the battle continued. They were transferred to mosques in the villages of Rumna and Zabuba and the northern West Bank. Their families did not receive word from them or about them, and rumours began to fly that they had been executed.

At the same time, another story developed. Toward the end of the fighting, the army sent three large refrigerator trucks into the city. Reservists decided to sleep in them for their air conditioning. Some Palestinians saw dozens of covered bodies lying in the trucks and rumours spread the Jews had filled trucks full of Palestinian bodies.

Some Palestinians went to the civil administration to ask about it. When it turned out the rumors of executions were baseless, the myth of the Jenin massacre evaporated. But Palestinian Minister Saeb Erekat continued lying, though he lowered the number of dead from 3,000 to 500. At the same time the Arab and European media began writing about a massacre. Some described monstrous Israeli war crimes that Israel was trying to cover up for two weeks. Others compared Israel to Al Qaeda and the Taliban. None has since retracted the mendacious claims nor tried to find out how they were misled.

Many of these details came out during a conference held by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies on Israel's media strategies, with the Jenin episode used as an example. Lt. Col. Fuad Halhal of Shfaram described his placement as the civil administration officer in Jenin (earlier he had been in Tul Karm and Hebron). He illustrated his talk with photographs, including photos of meetings he had had with International Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives, who were surprised to see the pictures after they claimed the meetings never took place.

After 13 soldiers were killed in Jenin, some soldiers became quick with the trigger. Nonetheless, even during the combat and explosions, the IDF made efforts to assist the civilian population, including supplying food, oxygen canisters and an Israeli generator to the Palestinian hospital, the transfer of 83 patients from that hospital to Israeli hospitals, sending technicians from the Jerusalem Electric Company to repair damaged lines in Jenin, as well as drinking water pipes and a well that ceased to function. This was all documented, and sometimes photographed, by Lt.-Col. Halhal.

But a representative from the Foreign Ministry, Gideon Meir, said he was hearing all this for the first time. During the fighting, he said, none of this information reached the communications department he heads at the Foreign Ministry.

That fact is also mentioned in a report issued by the Jaffee Center. Despite years of preaching to the army that it has to change its basic assessments to deal with public relations as an element as critical as the weather, enemy positions or topography, it has not yet been done. The case of the Jenin massacre that never was is a good example of the mud that can stick to Israel even when it wins the battle after suffering many casualties.

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Film explores dilemma of Orthodox gays and lesbians

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"How can you be queer and Orthodox?"

This provocative question, posed by David, a 58-year-old observant Jew whose homosexuality has alienated his family, is at the heart and soul of Sandi Simcha DuBowski's sensitive and revealing film *Trembling Before G-D*.

The film, which opened last Friday at the Elton and Canada Square theatres, charts new ground as the first to examine the tense relationship between gays and lesbians and the Chassidic and Orthodox communities.

Jewish gays and lesbians, whose numbers are probably greater than is generally believed, face a fundamental dilemma: How can they reconcile their commitment to Judaism with the biblical prohibitions that forbid such sexual behaviour?

In truth, they cannot, at least in the mainstream Chassidic/Orthodox communities, as this film vividly and sadly shows.

Two Orthodox rabbis, Aharon Feldman and Shlomo Riskin, make that quite clear. You cannot be a religious Jew and violate the immutable laws of Judaism, observes Rabbi Feldman.

Rabbi Riskin, though basically in agreement with this position, is slightly more empathetic. Homosexuality, he claims, cannot foster "normal Jewish family life." And yet, he adds, homosexuals – and presumably lesbians – must be loved and helped.

Rabbi Steve Greenberg, the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi and a graduate of Yeshiva University, gives a compelling counterpoint to their strictures.

Despite Rabbi Riskin's plea for empathy, gays and lesbians are largely shunned, even disowned in some extreme cases, by their fellow Orthodox Jews.

Driven by pressure to fit in, some gays live double lives, like the Marranos of old. On the surface, they carry on as married men and women. But inside, they smoulder, finding it increasingly difficult to function normally.

DuBowski, whose 84-minute film is set in Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, London and Jerusalem, introduces us to a number of tormented souls.

One 56-year-old man in the film is the father of 12 children. Nonetheless, he does not enjoy having sex with his wife. And because she is painfully aware of his aversion to physical contact, and of his preference for boys, she has slipped into a depression.

Devorah, a haredi Jew, is a mother. But as a closet lesbian, she can no longer respond to her husband's sexual needs. To save the marriage, she proposes a platonic relationship.

The twin leitmotifs running through *Trembling Before G-D* are grief and rejection.

Take the case of David, the son of a cantor. A modern Orthodox Jew living in Los Angeles, David attempted to conquer his homosexuality. On the advice of a rabbi, he submitted to a "cure," eating figs and reciting a certain set of prayers, but to no avail. Another rabbi advised him to bite his tongue whenever he felt an attraction to a man, but this tactic was equally futile.

To escape the disapproval of parents and peers, David moved out of his Orthodox neighbourhood and avoided kosher restaurants and synagogues.

In an emotional scene, he has a reunion with a Lubavitch rabbi who steered him toward "therapy" 20 years earlier. Confessing that he cannot buck his homosexuality, David asks the rabbi for his view.

The answer: better to be celibate and put up with a loveless existence than to be an active gay. This is not what David wants to hear.

Malka and Leah

The poignant situation of gays in the Orthodox community is further underscored by an assortment of other interviews.

Malka and Leah, who became sweethearts at a girls' seminary and have been together for 12 years, worry that they will not have a place in "the next world."

Michelle, who grew up in the Chassidic enclave of Boro Park, was married and is now divorced. "I feel like I'm an outsider," she says. "There is no place for me there."

Mark, the son of a haredi rabbi in Britain, "came out" in Israel after being sent there for "rehabilitation." Since then, Mark has been ejected from seven yeshivas for homosexual activity. However, Mark has found companionship among gay Orthodox men like himself, some of whom belong to newly founded support groups and networks.

As *Trembling Before G-D* suggests, the issue is currently the subject of lively discussion in Orthodox circles. This film will surely contribute to this important and evolving debate.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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Reissued Richler collection captures an era

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

St. Urbain Street is not just another street in Montreal. From the 1920s to the early 1950s, it was virtually the centre of the universe for many immigrant Jews slowly adjusting to Canada.

Mordecai Richler, the novelist who died last year, grew up on St. Urbain Street. To no one's surprise, he incorporated memories of it into his books, ranging from *St. Urbain's Horseman* to *Joshua Then and Now*.

The Street, a collection of his journalism and stories, was originally published in book form in 1969. In honour of his memory, Penguin Books has reissued *The Street*. It consists of 11 pieces – all dealing, directly or glancingly, with that gritty thoroughfare on the periphery of bucolic Mount Royal.

A curmudgeon in print and in person, he has mixed recollections of St. Urbain Street, to say the least. Some of his observations, in fact, are coloured by the rampant prejudice and provincialism of the era.

He recalls the old, underpaid parochial school teachers who would twist ears and rap knuckles, and the public school teacher who initiated first-year students with a cute joke permeated by anti-Semitism.

Richler's Galician-born grandfather, who settled in Montreal in 1904, had intended to immigrate to the United States. Fate, however, intervened. As Richler puts it:

"My grandfather, I was astonished to discover many years later, had actually had a train ticket to Chicago in his pocket. Canada was not a choice, but an accident. On board ship my grandfather encountered a follower of the same hasidic rabbi; the man had a train ticket to Montreal, but relatives in Chicago. My grandfather knew somebody's cousin in Toronto... So the two men swapped train tickets..."

There were plenty of characters on St. Urbain, and one of them was a person who ran for alderman on a one-plank platform: "provincial speed cops were anti-Semites."

Then there was the baker who baked a challah for Queen Elizabeth's birthday and received a thank-you note in return. "For local distribution," she told reporters, "we also bake knishes and cater for quality weddings."

During Richler's boyhood, the gulf between Jews and French Canadians appeared unbridgeable. More than a few French Canadians, he observes, believed St. Urbain Street Jews were secretly rich and manipulated the black market.

In a cruel rejoinder, he adds, "My typical French Canadian was a moronic gum-chewer."

World War II was a time of grief for Jews who had left family and friends in Poland. It was also a time, Richler writes, when Canada left the Depression behind and "our fathers earned a good living."

By the same token, he remembers with bitterness, Jews faced rejection and unacceptable barriers.

"I can recall seeing swastikas and 'A bas les Juifs' painted on the Laurentian highways. There were suburbs and hotels... and country clubs where we were not wanted, beaches with signs that read GENTILES ONLY, quotas at universities..."

And then the kicker: "The democracy we were being invited to defend was flawed and hostile to us."

Toward the close of *The Street*, Richler harks back to Nov. 29, 1947, when the United Nations approved the Palestine partition plan.

"... we gathered at Habonim and marched downtown in a group, waving Israeli flags, flaunting our songs in WASP neighbourhoods [and] stopping to blow horns... " On this nationalistic note, *The Street* winds down.

Richler's stories, written with wit and pungency, evoke a period when Canada was a far different country – a nation whose tolerance of minorities was thin and in which Jews did not feel quite confident of their acceptance.

Travel

Krakowski's Destiny evident on new CD

By HELEN WINKLER
Special to The CJN

In Yiddish, *Goyrl* means destiny, and it was destiny that I, a lover of folkdancing and world music, should discover a treasure trove of Yiddish cultural history while surfing the Web.

It was destiny that led me to the cybershtetl known as the Jewish-Music Mailing List. It was also destiny that through this list I met Wolf Krakowski, a musician who grew up in Toronto and whose psyche is firmly rooted in Yiddish song, yet who is equally at home in the world of modern pop, blues and jazz.

The songs on Krakowski's new CD, *Goyrl: Destiny*, like those on his previous *Transmigrations*, are in Yiddish with translations provided in the liner notes. The CD begins with a smoky, sensual, rough-hewn tune called *Tate-mame*, a lament of a child, the black sheep of the family, whose behaviour shattered his parents' simple, happy lives.

This is followed by a languorous version of the Zeltlin/Secunda tune, *Dona Dona*.

Ever wonder what a combination of Nyabingi/Grounation drumming with overtones of Celtic/Appalachian "high lonesome" bottleneck blues guitar would sound like in Yiddish? *Kh'vel Shoyn Mer Nisht Ganvenen (I'll Never Steal Again)*, a song of the Jewish underworld, is a captivating example of just such a song, which conjures up images of chain gangs and African boot dancing.

The CD continues with an eclectic mix of musical influences – everything from a country tune with steel drum accompaniment (*Mit Farmakhte Oygn-With Eyes Closed*) to a strident, powerful rendition of the Chanukah song *Drey Dreydl (Spin Dreydl)*.

One is struck by the solitary counting song *Hundert (One Hundred)*, attributed to to an anonymous inmate of the Mielec concentration camp. According to Wolf, it was sung for the amusement of the German camp guards, perhaps earning the singer an extra ration of sustenance.

A spare and haunting arrangement of the song *Tife Griber, Royter Laym (Deep Pits, Red Clay)* conveys a tragic, mournful mood.

In contrast, we are treated to a sexy, gutsy rendition of *Zingarella*. I've heard this song played insipidly many times, but Wolf's version quickly had me dancing the miserlou with a few extra bumps and grinds.

The high calibre musicianship of Wolf's musical projects is evident in *Goyrl: Destiny*. As in *Transmigrations*, Wolf is joined by acclaimed vocalist Fraidy Katz and the Lonesome Brothers, an ensemble specializing in American roots-rock. Ensemble members Jim Armenti and Ray Mason have played and performed this kind of music for more than 30 years.

A host of other wonderful instrumentalists and vocalists accompany Wolf's earthy, heartfelt singing. They include Charles Neville of the Neville Brothers on saxophone; Brian Mitchell (who played with Bob Dylan on the Grammy-winning *Timeless: Hank Williams Tribute*) on accordion and organ; Doug Beaumier, master of the pedal steel guitar; percussionist Daniel Lombardo; Corner Mentos, a former soccer player now on steel drum; and multi-instrumentalist/folk musicians Seth Austen and Beverly Woods. Frank London works his musical magic both on trumpet and as producer.

Joining Fraidy Katz on backup vocals are Jaye Simms and Pamela Smith Salavka, whose "extemporaneous singing" Wolf describes as "angelic."

The mix of songs in *Goyrl: Destiny* affected me strongly, alternately provoking laughter, tears and dancing. Some songs speak directly to the tragedy of the Jewish experience. Yet some also contain a message of optimism, as in the following lyric: "Hope./ you won't be denied/ and blooming roses/ be strewn on your way."

Goyrl: Destiny was released by Tzadik Records and is distributed by Koch International.

Helen Winkler lives in Calgary, where She teaches Israeli and international folkdancing. She also maintains a Web site dedicated to the revitalization of eastern European Jewish dances (www.angelfire.com/ns/helenwinkler).

A woman's journey between death and burial

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

It's the ultimate fantasy: You have a seat at your own funeral.

Now imagine that while hovering in limbo between your death and burial, you have the power not only to witness the preparations and critique the eulogies, but also to eavesdrop on critical moments in your past for a reality check.

Such is the premise of Merrill Joan Gerber's latest book, *Anna in the Afterlife*, (Syracuse University Press/Library of Modern Jewish Literature,) which chronicles Anna's four-day journey between her grueling death at 90 and her burial.

When last we left Anna in *Anna in Chains*, she was lying helpless in a nursing home, paralyzed in one arm, feeding tube gurgling, and begging for death. Not exactly the stuff of comedy.

Yet in *Anna in the Afterlife*, after seven agonizing years chained to her bed, Anna finally nears that "famous tunnel she'd heard about on Oprah," and what would have turned maudlin from a lesser writer is at once poignant, riveting, even amusing in Gerber's capable hands.

Finally for Anna, "the great and famous moment" arrives, and she relinquishes "the spark every tiny ant and worm wants to keep hold of, the force that makes flies evade the swatter and convulses fish off their baited hooks."

Continued on page 30

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Brittany Kay, 11, just can't wait to be a kid

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Brittany Kay, playing Young Nala in Disney's *The Lion King* at Princess of Wales Theatre until November, says her biggest dream is to remain an ordinary kid.

"I don't mean I want to stop acting, but I do want to walk to school and be with my friends. In the long run, that is what counts."

Britanny, 11, who just completed Grade 6 at Ventura Park Public School in Thornhill, had to give up overnight camp and miss several bat mitzvah parties to take on the role, but says she does not "regret it for the world."

It was a huge decision, says her mother Marla, but she was prepared to make the commitment. "We have all had to live, eat and breathe theatre, but it's something we would not miss."

Brittany began acting at CharActors Theatre Troupe two years ago, but she has always sung and danced at home. "It's in her blood," says Marla.

When talent agent Shari Quallenberg saw Brittany in some of the troupe's plays, she encouraged her to sign with her agency, Talent Vision, and the work began, says Marla. "It was hectic rushing downtown for auditions, but Brittany really wanted it and Shari believed in her."

She tried out for several parts that she did not get, but she never felt rejected, says Marla.

"She was happy to have been given the chance. When we went to the fifth audition, for the part of little Rose in *Haven*, a CBS, four-hour mini-series about the Holocaust, Brittany said it was the last one. She had had fun, but it was enough.

"The good news was she got that role. The bad news was that she had to die on the first night of the mini-series. That made us both very sad."

Brittany then went on to play the part of Svetlana, a co-host in CBC's teen talk show *Jonovision*. "I had to talk with a European accent. It was great; kids began recognizing me and asking me for my picture," Brittany says.

As Young Nala in *The Lion King*, Brittany is on stage four times a week, but because she also understudies the role, she is at the theatre for eight performances.

"I rehearsed for three weeks and we were taught how to pronounce all the words in the songs. I read over my lines and everything just clicked in.

"I was excited to get on stage, but I was never nervous. I was told to tell the story to the audience, and that is what I did," says Brittany.

Brittany Kay, 11, wants to be an ordinary kid.

When she is onstage, she says, she gets lost in the story.

"It's about the circle of life; everything lives, everything dies. One day our bodies become grass, and the antelope eats the grass. There are so many morals in the play and each one is connected to the circle of life.

"I know every line in the play, and I feel like I could take over any part. We're not supposed to sing backstage, but we can't help ourselves," she says.

At school, says Brittany, her best friends are excited for her, "but there are people who are jealous and who make fun of me. I just ignore them."

She does her homework when she is waiting backstage, and she is able to make quick phone calls to her friends. "They keep me up with my homework, even though I only miss half a day a week of school."

She is adamant about going on to university. "If an acting career comes along, that's great, but I'm not gearing myself for it. If someone discovers me that's good, but if not, that's okay too. Wherever this takes me, it will take me."

She'll never forget this experience, however. "There are only four kids in the cast and everyone else looks out for us. We are all like family; it's as if they adopted us.

"There are kids who were in the play three years ago, and they have come to visit us. They never forgot the closeness; it is an everlasting bond," says Brittany.

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A woman's journey between death and burial

Continued from page 29

In death, she is free to revisit her past, and memorable characters materialize: her mother's bigamist first husband, her jealous 86-year-old sister Gert attempting suicide in a red peignoir, her half-brother Sam who she learns had molested her and her sister. ("I thought it was his thumb," claims an unperturbed Gert.)

Loosened in death from the shackles of physical suffering, she is free to unlock her family's many secrets and long forgotten mysteries: Did her brother really drown while fishing on erev Yom Kippur? ("Who needed fish that fresh?") Did Anna really win her husband by parading in front of her sister's date in a negligee?

For the first time Anna confronts her own racial prejudice, her sexual reluctance, her stinginess.

"'Nothing but the best' was not a phrase Anna had thought her children should live by. Now she was feeling the consequences of her philosophy. She would have third rate corned beef at her funeral reception, seedless Christian rye bread, and prune Danish made with lard, with not a single salty black olive or a plate of pickled herring in sour cream on the table."

Gerber knows only too well the degradation and suffering of the elderly, kept alive beyond their time in "a holding pen for dying animals." She had watched helplessly as her own mother begged for death.

"But Anna is not my mother at all," says the prize-winning author. "She didn't have that irony, that speed of retort. She is a combination of what I knew about her life, what I imagined a certain voice in her head would sound like – which is a combination of me and her – and my invention."

A fiction writing instructor at California Institute of Technology, Gerber is a careful observer of those thousands of details that forge family dynamics, and skillfully transforms life's ordinary and gut-wrenching moments into compelling prose.

Even Gerber's nonfiction journal *Old Mother, Little Cat*, brilliantly counterpoises her nursing home visits to her real life mother with her nurturing of a lost kitten.

In the end Gerber tells us: "Anna accepted her fate." But has Gerber accepted it?

"I haven't made peace with the way we are forced to suffer at the end of our lives," she says.

"I'm hoping the world will rearrange itself from those fanatics who say that life at any cost is worth preserving."

Is Anna really "ended"? "Do any Jews even believe in an afterlife," muses Gerber.

"I didn't hear it from my relatives. They had no confidence that there was any kind of heavenly reward ahead."

With Anna gone, Gerber wastes no time with idle retrospection. Look in November for *Botticelli Blue Skies*, the saga of her sojourn in Italy, and a book of essays, *Gut Feelings: A Writer's Truths and Minute Inventions*, due in spring 2003.

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

BIRDS IN JERUSALEM & JAZZ IN EILAT

The following tourism briefs come courtesy of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Toronto.

* * *

Animal Life of Jerusalem: Nocturnal tours offered by the Jerusalem Bird Observatory (JBO) introduce participants to the bats, owls, turtles, frogs and even deer that live within the city. Located between the Knesset and the Supreme Court, the observatory pioneered nighttime safaris. These pre-arranged guided group tours begin at about 7:30 p.m. and can last until midnight. The stated objective is to demonstrate that nature exists in the city.

"Visitors don't believe that you can come to the centre of Jerusalem and see the animals. They think we are joking," says the observatory's Avid Gal. "After the tour is over, they don't want to leave."

The JBO, which occupies a one-acre plot of land, has educated thousands of Israeli schoolchildren about the dozens of bird species that fly the local skies. Recent sightings include buzzards, cuckoos, woodpeckers and nightingales. Web site: www.birds.org.il/bulbul.

* * *

Red Sea Jazz: Eilat, with its endless beaches, water sports and multiple attractions, is one of Israel's top three tourist sites. Next month, music lovers will have an extra reason to visit the Red Sea port city.

Beginning Aug. 16, the 16th annual Red Sea Jazz Festival offers four days of music in honour of jazz legend John Coltrane, who would have been 75 this year. The Riviera Hotel will host nightly poolside jam sessions. The fare also includes Gypsy and Balkan music played by a 15-piece Yugoslavian band. Master classes in jazz are being offered at the King Solomon Hotel on Aug. 28 and 29.

* * *

Rothschild Wine Country: A new master plan has been prepared to bring Zichron Yaakov, the historic town nestled between Tel Aviv and Haifa, out of hiding. The plan involves preserving Zichron Yaakov's first water tower and other distinctive buildings, making upgrades to the famous Wine Park, and adding hotel rooms and other long-term accommodations.

Founded in 1882 by Romanian immigrants, Zichron Yaakov was named after the father of its generous patron, Baron Edmond de Rothschild. The town is still very much a farming community, with many of its residents personifying the agricultural mentality of Israel's early days. Tours are available of the local Carmel Mizrachi winery and other wineries.

* * *

Little Italy in Jerusalem: The U. Nahon Museum of Italian Jewish Art in Jerusalem has scheduled a myriad of summer events to provide a taste of Italy in the heart of the Holy Land. Highlights include a five-day Art of Pasta festival starting Aug. 4, and walking tours focusing on Jerusalem's Italian attractions throughout August.

Founded in 1981, the museum is home to an impressive collection of Italian Jewish art dating to the end of the 15th century. It also holds the interior of an abandoned 300-year-old synagogue that was dismantled and shipped to Israel in the late 1940s. Web site: www.jija.org.

* * *

Beauty Treatment: Jaffa, the picturesque Mediterranean port city to the south of Tel Aviv, is about to receive the equivalent of $47 million (Cdn) in improvements. The place from which the biblical Jonah departed before being eaten by a whale, Jaffa is famous for its restaurants, artists' quarter, quaint alleyways and historic clock tower. The city was Eretz Yisrael's traditional port of call, welcoming Jewish and Christian pilgrims for centuries.

* * *

New Observation Tower: Jerusalem officials have approved construction of a 135-metre observation tower, perched on a ridge on the city's southern outskirts. The project, which includes a restaurant and telecommunications platform, is slated for the neighbourhood of Armon Hanatziv, situated on the boundary between urban Jerusalem and the surrounding desert.

According to plan, the tower will hold 600 people on six floors and offer a 30-kilometre view in any direction. It is expected to offer a breathtaking display of Bethlehem and Hebron to the south, and the Edom and Moab mountain ranges to the east.

* * *

Joint Study Tour: Two Toronto synagogues, the Beth Tzedec and the Holy Blossom, sent some 20 congregants on a study mission to Jerusalem this month. The trip was conducted in conjunction with Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, which promotes understanding among all segments of Israeli society.

The mission marked the first time the two synagogues co-operated on such an endeavour. Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, the Beth Tzedec's spiritual leader, said he hoped it would be a model for future journeys that "also reach into the Orthodox community."

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Campaign publicizes male breast cancer

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Breast Cancer: Men get it too.

That's the message of a new educational campaign by the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital that hopes to raise awareness among physicians, patients and the general population about breast cancer in men.

The centre has developed a new brochure and a new Web site (www.mtsinai.on.ca/mkbc/mkbcresources/malebc.htm) to inform the public that men also have breast tissue and, like women, can develop breast cancer.

Although it is less common in men than in women, male breast cancer accounts for one in 100 cases of the disease. It usually affects men 60 years of age or older.

Margaret Theall, who co-ordinated the project, says the brochure was made possible through a community education grant from the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

"We are now looking at ways to distribute the brochure," Theall says.

The centre hopes to publish a version of the brochure in Chinese as well as other languages.

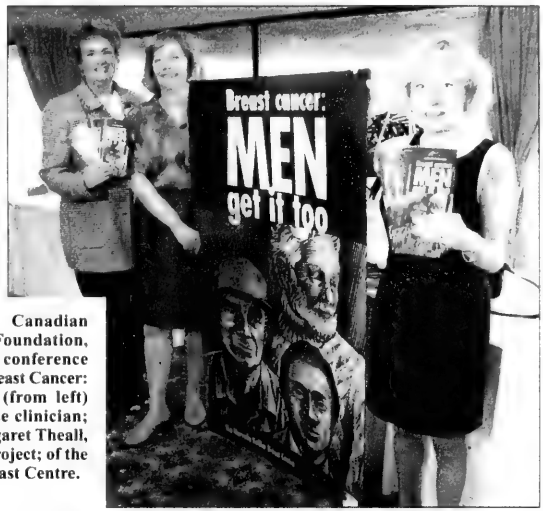
The information in the brochure, adapted from an article written by Dr. June Engle in a 1996 issue of *Health News*, published by the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine, includes information on the types of breast cancer found in men, as well as symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and key risk factors.

Although older men are more often diagnosed with breast cancer, younger men can get it too, the brochure warns.

Breast cancer in men is often overlooked, Theall says, adding that delays in diagnosis lead to the disease being treated at an advanced stage of development.

Women will be a key target audience for the campaign, she says, since they are often responsible for health in the family.

For more information on male breast cancer or other information on breast examination and breast cancer, write to, The Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, 12th floor, Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University Ave., Toronto, M5G 1X5, or call 416-586-8799.



Seen at the recent Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Ontario Chapter's conference with the poster for Breast Cancer: Men get it too are (from left) Linda Muraca, nurse clinician; Gail Quirt and Margaret Theall, co-ordinator of the project; of the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre.

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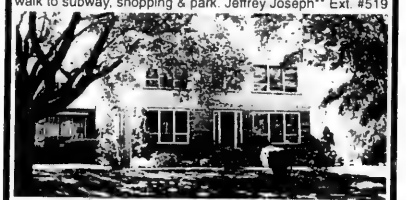

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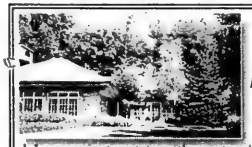

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330 OBITUARIES

KELTZ, Bernard – on June 19, 2002, late of 6101 Bathurst St., #805.
LINDZON, Israel – on June 19, 2002, late of 38 Edinburgh Dr.
ZINNER, Liselotte – on June 21, 2002, late of 11 Park Hill Rd.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

338 CARD OF THANKS

The Family of the Late

HARRY J. HALBERSTADT ז"ל

wish to thank their relatives, friends and all who showed their concern, care and sympathy by attending the funeral, shiva and services, and by making donations and presentations in his memory.

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330 OBITUARIES

MINKIN, Esther – on June 22, 2002, late of 370 Ridelle Ave., #1901.
SALEM, Michael – on June 21, 2002, late of 15 Wittington Crt.
JASKOLKA, Wolf – on June 21, 2002, late of 141 Clanton Park Rd.
NAGY, Louis – on June 23, 2002, late of 120 Promenade Circle, #1210.
KLINE, Harry – on June 23, 2002, late of 63 St. Clair Ave. W., #1502.
USHER, Sol – on June 22, 2002, late of 3 Skipton Crt.
HERMAN, Morris – on June 23, 2002, late of 1200 Don Mills Rd., #114.
FREEDMAN, Henry – on June 24, 2002, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W., #603.
COHEN, Kalman – on June 22, 2002, late of 82 Abbeywood Trail.

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330 OBITUARIES

SHINER, Bella – on June 26, 2002, late of 111 Ridelle Ave., #402.
SLATER, William – on June 26, 2002, late of 4001 Bayview Ave., #306.
MURAVSKY, Marika – on June 26, 2002, late of 36 Lillian Ave.
NIREN, Kitty – on June 27, 2002, late of 644 Sheppard Ave. E., #323.
WEITZMAN, Jean – on June 27, 2002, late of 25 Brunswick Ave., #347.

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IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE: An El Al flight with 329 immigrants from North America, the single largest such group in 25 years, arrived in Israel earlier this month. They were sponsored by U.S.-based Nefesh B'Nefesh, which aims to remove financial and logistical obstacles to aliyah from Canada and the United States. Pictured at right is Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, which was one of several other groups involved in the project.
[Israel Sun Photo]

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women seeking men

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy is Jewish, in her 50's and attractive. She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes. She's sophisticated, sexy, warm, compassionate, sensuous and loves life. She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs, preferably tall, non smoking, sweet, kind hearted & well groomed. If you think you're a match, leave her a message. **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman loves to travel & meet new people. She enjoys theatre and sports, and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old. **AD#1405**

SEXY, SOPHISTICATED
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche. I'm 59-69 yrs, a non smoker, who's kind w/ good qualities. I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's, and I love life & dancing. I'm compassionate & sensuous. Call me. **AD#1159**

YOUNG AT HEART
I'm 50+ yrs young, slim, brown hair & eyes and non smoking. I love animals, long walks, movies, dancing and dining. I have no children living at home and seek a gentleman between 60-67 yrs young for friendship and conversation. I hope to hear from you soon. **AD#1236**

HARD WORKING GAL
Attractive down to earth and friendly female. She's 40 yrs old, a hard worker, and never been married. She enjoys movies, dining & dancing and seeks an attractive, friendly, down to earth, hard working male between 40-49 yrs, for a serious, long term relationship. Please call & leave a message. **AD#1387**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
41 yr old single professional woman. She enjoys a variety of interests ranging from the intellectual to the creative & physical. Seeking an intelligent, considerate family oriented man who's serious about getting serious. If this is you, please leave a message and she'll be sure to call. **AD#1225**

LET'S LIVE IT UP, EH?
Single female with hazel eyes, reddish hair seeks love & laughter. She enjoy ballroom dancing, theatre, walks in the park. Looking for a non-smoker gentleman, who's 69+ yrs., 5' 8", with similar interests and more. **AD#1197**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way. Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit. Please leave a message. **AD#1095**

SEEKS A PROFESSIONAL
Nancy is Jewish, a youthful 56 yrs, divorced with 2 grown children. She enjoys dining, movies, long walks, country drives, and seeks professional man between 50-65 yrs, a great sense of humour and strong sense of integrity. She looks forward to hearing from you. **AD#1161**

CONSERVADOX FEMALE
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour and conservadox. She enjoys art, dining and dancing, and travel. She seeks a male, 53-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests for friendship first. **AD#1034**

PERKY WIDOW
Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people. Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70s. Give her a call. **AD#1066**

SSSWEETER THAN SUGAR
She's sensational, super, sophisticated, sincere, successful, spontaneous, sensitive, swanky, sentimental, self assured, stable, self motivated, supportive, shapely, slim, sleek and sexy. A sultry scorpion of 37yrs, seeking a relationship with a man who know what he wants. **AD#1226**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto. She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel. **AD#1413**

SEEKING A SOULMATE
Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 6", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good. She enjoys dancing & life. She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate. A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend. Leave her a message. **AD#1411**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 6 yr old child, attractive 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests. **AD#1026**

TOUCH OF CLASS
Single female from Montreal in her 50's. She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservodox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 50-65 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests. **AD#1305**

PASSIONATE FEELINGS
Bonnie enjoys music, dining, walking, long drives and anything that has passion attached to it. She seeks a male who's interested in fine arts & theatre, not so much into sports, and possibly enjoys the outdoors, who has a great smile & sense of humour. Leave her message. **AD#1371**

GOOD HEARTED
Gigi is 34 yrs and from Asia, long hair, medium sized, brown complexion. She's easy going, very charming, loves dining, travelling, dancing, cooking, spending time w/ friends. Seeks someone who's understanding, honest, good hearted, friendly, non smoking and between 34-45 yrs. **AD#1298**

MATCHMAKER, MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch. **AD#1290**

men seeking women

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise please leave a message. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. If this is you, leave him a message. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK
Dave, is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, traveling, dining and baseball. He's a good conversationalist and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message. **AD#1156**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1061**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. Leave him a message. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1240**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

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Bronze beverage tastes especially sweet from Lord Stanley's mug

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

How many people can say they drank from the Stanley Cup?

I can.

Last Thursday night, as two of my friends and I were driving down to The Madison, a bar just down the street from the Bloor JCC, a stretched Expedition SUV pulled up beside us with a back window rolled down. My friend Warren immediately screamed, "Oh my god, that's the Stanley Cup."

Inside the SUV, Kris Draper of the Detroit Red Wings – a Toronto boy – and his entire family were celebrating Draper's recent Stanley Cup win.

Draper's wife took a liking to my friend and we were invited to join them inside the bar.

It was a mob scene, but after dodging security and smooth-talking the right people, we were on the patio and – once again – in the presence of hockey's greatest prize.

As our mouths opened, tongues waggled and eyes widened in anticipation, the Cup was tilted and the booze began to flow. My lips sealed around the vessel and images and pictures ran through my head a mile a minute – Gretzky had done just this.

I took one last peek at the Cup and the wasted beer on the floor and the experience was over. For exactly two minutes, I felt like hockey's greatest superstar, drinking from a mug that millions all around the world train, sweat, fight, work, live and yearn to do.

It was euphoric, but oddly uncomfortable – I didn't earn this.

But honestly, it was the best tasting beer I've ever tasted.

Jewish female quarterback adds glamour to pro team

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to the CJN

MIAMI — Anita Marks is a talented young athlete trying to make a name for herself in a sport that does not seem particularly feminine, sort of like Billie Jean King once did in the world of tennis.

Marks is winning supporters for the up-and-coming sport of women's professional football. Like the NFL and CFL, the Independent Women's Football League features many of the same brutal features – players colliding with each other, gang tackling, trash talking and players so overweight they look like professional wrestlers.

But the 32-year-old Jewish quarterback has taken matters into her own hands by catering to age-old male chauvinism. Marks, an attractive five-foot-six woman, decided to pose nude for the September issue of *Playboy* magazine as a way of generating more attention for her sport as well as herself.

"I am the first one to say that it is too bad that women have to cater to men's interests to sell the game, but it is the truth. Look at how sex sells.

"The careers of Anna Kournikova [a women's tennis star] and many other women athletes just skyrocketed when they were in *Playboy*," said Marks.

Marks is savvy and does not fit the stereotype of the coddled athlete. When not playing football, she works as a sports radio host in Miami and aspires to be a commentator on NFL football telecasts.

Her idea may not be far fetched.

"Anita's understanding of football is better than most men's. She understands all the sophisticated run and pass plays, the Xs and Os that have made a difference to our team," said Lisa McAllister, owner of Marks' team, the Miami Fury.

Marks has led her team to an undefeated 6-0 season thanks to her leadership and spectacular arm strength. In a recent 28-0 thrashing of the Atlanta Extreme, Marks was impressive – throwing touchdown passes of 58 yards and 35 yards and scrambling to avoid sacks, in the tradition of former NFL quarterback Fran Tarkenton.

She is also tough as nails in rebounding from injury. In 2000, Marks suffered a major knee injury that sidelined her for the season. Last year, she had reconstruction surgery on both knees. Considering that her pay, at $500 (US) a game, is way below CFL and NFL standards, another athlete might have retired under the same circumstances.

"I love what I do. If I can be an asset to my team, I will play. I am not a quitter," she said.

Marks has been rewarded with endorsements for many products, including one that also has Miami's other Jewish football quarterback, Jay Fiedler of the NFL Miami Dolphins, as a spokesperson.

"In a fantasy, many people in the community would like to see the two Jewish quarterbacks get together and marry. The truth is that I have been in and out of relationships. Many men can't accept the fact that my career comes first. Marriage will have to wait," she said.

Born and raised in Miami, Anita's parents, Ned and Minnie Marks, were divorced when she was young.

"She took after her father, even though she lived with me. Ned was a star football player with the University of Miami Hurricanes in the late 1960s," her mother said.

Marks, who bears a strong resemblance to her father, who died of a heart attack in 1997, played high school football and played quarterback for the women's intramural flag football team at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

After graduating with a degree in broadcasting, Marks worked as a sports producer on television stations throughout Florida, but she was eager to play football again.

"I love the game. This is not a tomboy thing. My mother was concerned in high school that I wouldn't have dates if I continued to play, so for a few years, I listened to her," Marks said.

"Now I am an adult and I feel the same way about the game now as I did years ago. People will accept me the way I am. If they don't, that is not my problem."

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David Rosenzweig

Somewhere after midnight on Saturday, July 13, Chavie Rosenzweig lovingly and quite ordinarily filled a mug with coffee and sugar for her husband, David, of 24 years. The phone rang, and Ezra, their son, asked his dad to come and help him following a car accident.

Like his father, Moshe, had tenaciously done for him, David hurried to assist his beloved Ezzy, telling Chavie that he would return shortly to drink the java. The coffee cup is still filled with its contents and sits in the cupboard, beside the counter where it was prepared.

On that evening, a lovely night twinkling with stars, David waited patiently with Ezzy for a tow truck in front of a local pizza place. Friends passed by and said, *gutta voch* – have a good week, as Jews do. Moments later, David was dead.

Since that moment, one that changed reality with the aggression and suddenness of a dictator, the magic and legacy of David's life has begun to reveal itself in a way that was hidden while he lived.

In the Sunnybrook Emergency Ward, Leah, our sister, terrified yet always stoic, held Chavie, her elder sibling and friend, fiercely working to keep her freshly broken heart together. Chavie's sorrow, etched into her magnificent blue eyes, reflected the epilogue of their storybook love affair. Chavie was his Rachel and David was her Yaakov.

David and Chavie's daughter, Sheera, wept fresh orphan tears, which flowed from a seldom-visited place in the soul, a crevice reserved for the mourning of a child. As she cried, however, Sheera softly and protectively caressed her father's covered body with her graceful hands – the same tender hands with which she held David's three-month-old grandson.

Two long, short days later, their son Shalom ascended the bimah at Clanton Park Synagogue, closed his eyes before thousands of mourners and journeyed to a place of holiness, eulogizing his father the way the righteous do. Ezra, with the skill of a public orator, but the passion of a cherished son, did the same.

David Rosenzweig's lifetime epic was unfolding.

We began to learn about a star whose business ability and integrity verged on genius and fell from his tree into the garden his son, Mayer, was planting.

We quietly admired the mountainous love and concern that the brothers, Arthur, David and Shlome expressed for their parents. On the day that David died, big brother Arthur (Rosie), flew to Miami to ensure that their mother, Fay, would have his arms to fall into, when her knees weakened like our matriarch Sarah's did upon hearing of Isaac being sacrificed.

The legacy that David leaves to us who mourn his physical disappearance from our earth is this. A man's actions encourage other actions. If those actions are beautiful ones, beauty will blossom from them. If those actions are evil, further evil is perpetuated.

He was only 49 years old, and tragically left behind a woman he loved with all his might, six children, a mother, two brothers, a grandson, other family members, colleagues, friends, the Jewish people and a world that needs his gentleness.

But more importantly, David, a man who rarely stopped smiling, taught us that deeds, which emanate from the heart of one man, affect the entire world. In David's case, those deeds were courageous, caring, loving, decent, and he made our world shine like a gem.

This Shabbat, when you make a *l'chaim* like David did, reach out for the stranger in your midst, like David did, and smile at him/her. Invite him/her home with fierce sincerity, like David did. Join with your guests in a glorious moment over herring and song, just like our beautiful David did.

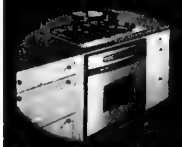
Run to your child when he/she needs you and hold your wife with the romance of your first year in love. Teach your children to love wisdom like David did with little Shragi and Yechiel. Kiss your brothers, and tend to your mother and father. Ask the sick how they are, even when you're suffering. Love being a Jew, and act with respect and decency, just like David did.

Shalom for now, David. I always thought you were a regular good guy. But now, I know that was your greatness. We will harvest your goodness. God bless the living.

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

ASK FOR dacor RANGES



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Strawberry Pretzel Salad

1 1/2 cups crushed pretzels
4 1/2 tblsps. sugar
3/4 cup butter, melted
1 cup white sugar
2 8 oz pkgs. cream cheese
1 8 oz container frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 6 oz pkg strawberry gelatin
2 cups boiling water
1 16 oz pkg. frozen strawberries

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix together pretzels, 4 1/2 tblsps. sugar and melted butter. Press into bottom of a 9"x13" pan. Bake 10 minutes or until lightly toasted. Set aside to cool.

In medium bowl, beat sugar and cream cheese until smooth. Fold in whipped topping. Spread evenly over cooled crust. Refrigerate until set, about 30 minutes.

In medium bowl, stir together the gelatin and boiling water. Mix in frozen strawberries, and stir until thawed. Pour over cream cheese mixture in pan. Refrigerate covered until completely chilled, at least 1 hour.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Life

Dear Ella,

I have a sister whom I love dearly. But although her heart is in the right place, she thinks the world revolves around her needs.

When she has an appointment, she usually calls me to watch the kids… I'm there. When she needs computer help, she calls me… I'm there. When she has to leave town on a business trip she calls me… I'm there.

I'm sure you get the picture. I rarely call upon her for help with anything. I usually hire help so I don't have to bother anyone.

Don't get me wrong, I really don't mind helping her out when I can. But when I'm busy with my own life, she gets offended and puts pressure on me. It's not that hard to guilt me into doing something, but this is where the resentment comes in and I don't want it to come to that. Any suggestions?

Pressured

Dear Pressured,

It's nice to know that there is a strong bond between you and your sister and that you can count on each other in a pinch. However, she has taken it too far. She is putting you in a position that you shouldn't have to be in. She is what I call a "taker" whereas you are a "giver." These types of relationships are usually doomed as the "giver" is usually beaten down to the point of resentment or sometimes even hatred. In a marriage, this kind of relationship rarely works, but in a sibling relationship, you can never really end it. You are bonded by blood.

I'm not sure your sister understands the pressure she is putting on you as she sees life from her point of view only. This is her personality type. It's not that easy to change someone's personality, so you have to learn to say no and be at peace with it. Easier said than done! It takes practice and a very strong will to stand up to someone you love.

You need to feel comfortable knowing that you are doing your best and helping when you can. It's up to her now to accept you for who you are and not what you do for her.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at ella@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

Crossword Puzzle

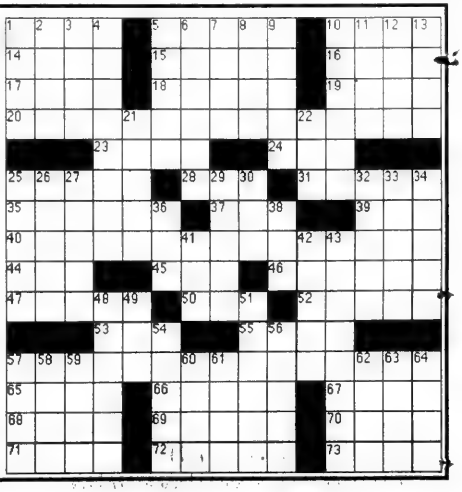
The Canadian Jewish News

(Answers to the crossword are on page 28.)

Composers & Performers ~ with warm Jewish souls
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Celebrity
5. Salad, in Ein Harod
10. Sword
14. Four, in Afula
15. One canary's condo
16. Gets inattentive
17. Prevaricated
18. Say
19. It could be a mother
20. Erik-Leonard-Franz (not Jewish)
23. Sign
24. Habitual drunkard
25. My man, in Metulah
28. Consume
31. Poet Herman
35. Greek goddess of the underworld
37. Tai
39. U.S. planners assn.
40. Leonard-Gustav
44. Time period
45. Hoosegow
46. Typical answer, in Hebrew, to "How are you flying?"
47. Striped quadraped
50. Sales guy
52. Top stuff
53. An olive product
55. "____ ya I'm right!"
57. Benny-George
64. Neesen
65. Arthur ____, Sea Ranch architect
66. Drawn-out cry of anguish, in Yiddish
67. Actress Manchester
68. Oak progeny
69. Phone, phonetically
70. Baltic nat.
71. Fugue division, abbrev.
72. Not sharp

Down
1. Mineo and hepatica
2. Prefix for three
3. With aid, in trying circumstances
4. Pre-TV announcer
5. Good for goose or gander
6. Dramatic beginning
7. Trellis material
8. American writer
9. Caspian and Common
10. In the summer, as said in St. Tropez
11. The Bear
12. Old Norse poetic or prose work
13. Ten, in Tiberias
21. Gives off
22. Ger. legendary knight of the swan
26. Wrote "Nature Boy"
27. Scorpion, in Israel
29. Ammonia derived compound
30. The sun can do this
32. French room
33. Britney in the singular?
34. Nobles
36. And so forth
38. Mommy, in Metulah
41. Otic organ
42. Medicinal plants
43. Nat, writes about music
48. Surveyor assistant
49. Objective
51. French given name
54. Tibetan priests
56. English given name
57. One chortles with this
58. Olive, canola, and flaxseed
59. Malt kiln
60. Musical composition, abbrev.
61. Lion cub, in Hebrew
62. Sheep's coat
63. Island of the Inner Hebrides
64. Moscow negative



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This Week

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Family physician becomes first Ontario Conservative mohel. *Page 6*

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Judge rejects appeal in Roma hate case. *Page 17*

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WORLD YOUTH DAY: As part of a multi-faith program at Ontario Place, Samantha Berman (left), Louise Smith (centre) and Shari Golberg planted flowers to help create a welcome garden for Pope John Paul II during World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto last week.
[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photo]

Holocaust restitution agreement in jeopardy

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LUXEMBOURG — The president of the Claims Conference says the organization could withdraw from agreements protecting German insurance companies from lawsuits if the firms don't speed up restitution payments to Holocaust survivors.

Agreements signed two years ago protect the firms from being sued by Holocaust survivors or their heirs.

The agreements were key to beginning payments from a $5-billion (US) German restitution fund.

Given a delay in payouts, however, the Claims Conference now is weighing its options, Israel Singer said last week at the group's annual board meeting here.

But Wolfgang Gibowski, spokesperson for the German government and industry foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future, said the German insurance firms are not dragging their feet at all.

"Up to now, they do not have the claims," Gibowski said in a telephone interview.

He said Singer should be addressing his concerns to the International Commission of Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), a group established four years ago by U.S

Continued on page 24

Israeli Consulate to close

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The city's Jewish community is trying to come to grips with the prospect that after 53 years, the comforting presence of the Israeli Consulate General here and in eastern Canada is set to become a thing of the past by October.

Concern in Montreal

"It's very sad, but life must go on," Israeli Consul General Shlomo Avital said in a telephone interview. "The confirmation [that the consulate will close] came yesterday [July 23]."

After the news broke July 21 on the *Jerusalem Post* Web site that the consulate would be one of eight diplomatic missions worldwide closed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Jewish community leaders mobilized behind the scenes in an effort to have him reconsider.

But despite Jewish community leaders' avowed determination to keep on trying, at writing, the decision had not been changed. Peres reportedly said the choice was between Toronto and Montreal, and Montreal was picked because of its smaller Jewish population.

"If we didn't feel there was hope, we wouldn't do it," said Sylvain Abitbol, first vice-president of FEDERATION CJA of the efforts to keep the consulate open.

The presence of the Israeli Consulate, Abitbol said, is so much part of the fabric of the Jewish community – from Jewish day schools' commitment to Israel to Israel-Quebec exchanges – that the impact of having no consulate would be dramatic.

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Greater Toronto Area

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very week.

Jewish schools infuse teachers' lives with meaning — please see page 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Yad Vashem Seminars

TORONTO — Two Canadians will be among 28 participants in Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies first-ever three-week seminar for Jewish educators. Twenty-six of the participants are from North America. The Canadians are Jennifer Turack, co-director of the March of the Living with UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and Joyce Rifkind, director of the March of the Living with UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education.

ISRAEL

Intifadah Cost: $11B

JERUSALEM — The Israeli economy has lost some $11 billion (US) in the past two years of conflict with the Palestinians, the Finance Ministry's chief economist said last week. The loss amounts to about 10 per cent of Israel's gross domestic product. The Finance Ministry issued a dismal forecast for next year, predicting that unemployment could reach 11 per cent, or 300,000 people.

Torahs Donated

JERUSALEM — Six Torah scrolls from a synagogue that was desecrated in Wales arrived in Israel on a special Jewish Agency flight last week. The Swansea Jewish community donated four of the scrolls to the Israel Defence Forces and two to educational institutions. The initiative follows the July 10 desecration of the shul in Swansea, home to about 100 Jews.

University Re-opens

JERUSALEM — Israel has permitted Al-Quds University to reopen in eastern Jerusalem. Israeli Public Security Minister Uzi Landau lifted the closure after university president Sari Nusseibeh pledged not to use the offices for Palestinian Authority (PA) activities. Landau closed down the offices three weeks ago, saying he had evidence that Nusseibeh, the top PLO official in eastern Jerusalem, was using them to conduct PA business, a violation of the Oslo accords.

WORLD

Israel Rally Planned

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. — A New Jersey volunteer group, Rally for Israel, led by Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, is trying to assemble thousands of Jews and Christians in a rally for Israel in Jerusalem from Aug. 12 to 14. Cost for departure from Toronto or New York, plus three days accommodation, is $999 (US), but some local federations are offering subsidies. For details, go to www.rallyinisrael.org.

Alleged SS Guard

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Justice has launched citizenship revocation proceedings against a St. Louis man who allegedly served as a Nazi guard at the Gross Rosen concentration camp and its subsidiary facility, Dyhernfurth, beginning in 1943. The department alleges that Adam Friedrich, 80, a native of Romania, volunteered for service in the SS and was assigned to the camps. Thousands of civilians were persecuted, starved and killed there during his two-year tour of duty.

Buchenwald Overhaul

BERLIN — Restoration work began last week on a memorial at the Buchenwald concentration camp. The memorial, which was created in 1958 and includes a group of 11 bronze figures, depicts prisoners' resistance to their Nazi guards. The restoration is slated to take two to three years and cost $990,000 (US).

Papon Ruling

PARIS — France illegally denied Nazi-era war criminal Maurice Papon his right to an appeal, the European Court of Human Rights says. In a ruling last week, it said France blocked Papon's right to a fair trial when it refused to allow an appeal of his 1998 conviction. As a result of the ruling, Papon, 91, may get a new trial. Papon, who has a history of heart problems, began serving a 10-year sentence in October 1999 after being found guilty of helping deport 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps.

California Confronts Campus Anti-Semitism

LOS ANGELES — The governor of California has asked the heads of two major state university systems to take action against anti-Semitic incidents on their campuses.

Gray Davis proposed a seven-point action plan in a letter to president Richard Atkinson of the nine-campus University of California system and chancellor Charles Reed of the 23-campus California State University system.

Davis singled out incidents at or near the University of California at Berkeley, including an attack on two Orthodox men, vandalism at the Hillel house, an illegal sit-in by pro-Palestinian demonstrators and anti-Semitic graffiti.

In addition, pro-Palestinian groups at San Francisco State University disrupted a pro-Israel gathering with virulently anti-Semitic invective, posted blood libels and used their Web sites for Holocaust denial.

Davis' specific requests included:

- a thorough review of all anti-Semitic incidents on all campuses and actions taken in response;
- an assessment of planned steps to prevent future incidents;
- a review of campus policies on demonstrations to ensure that free speech does not escalate into violence;
- orientation sessions for new students that include warnings that hate crimes will be prosecuted;
- the promotion of such values as civility, tolerance and understanding within the academic community; and
- a review of course descriptions to ensure "that they are forums for intellectual inquiry and not vehicles for discrimination, intimidation and hate."

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Complaint filed over OHRC chief's remarks

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) is being urged to step down over comments he made comparing the public funding of faith-based schools to support for apartheid.

Keith Norton should retract his remarks and resign, say Toronto lawyer Joseph Adler and Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College, a post-secondary school with 800 students.

Adler, a lawyer with two children in Jewish day schools, has filed a complaint with the OHRC asserting that Norton "has clearly overstepped his bounds and has offended several minority religious groups in one fell swoop.

"Instead of promoting an environment of religious tolerance and co-existence for which his office is responsible for so doing, he has contributed to the very thing that he wishes to avoid. His damaging comments have the potential to create, if they have not already created, serious divisions in Ontario's society."

McVety said he would be filing a complaint this week over Norton's "outrageous, hateful and completely unjustified" statement. He said he would also ask Ontario Premier Ernie Eves to launch an investigation.

The anger over Norton's statement goes back to a press conference last month announcing the release of the OHRC's annual report, when he voiced concerns that the Tory government's private school tax credits could lead to educational apartheid and risked "ghettoizing" society by faith and race.

"I am deeply worried that [the tax credit] could lead to a proliferation of small independent schools with no or little regulation to ensure that the curriculum that is taught will be consistent with public policy in Ontario, particularly as reflected in the human rights code," Norton said.

He was also quoted as questioning whether the province would ever know if independent schools were teaching hate or promoting racist conflicts, and he referred to a news report that linked the founder of a private school to the Al Qaeda terror network.

In a letter to the OHRC outlining his complaint, Adler said Norton had contravened the preamble of the Ontario Human Rights Code, which promises "equal rights and opportunities without discrimination." Adler added that "there is no empirical evidence that private schools inculcate hatred."

McVety said Norton's critiques of the tax credit violate the OHRC's policy of non discrimination based on religion.

Under current Ontario law, Roman Catholic schools receive full public funding. Until the first phase of the tax credit was introduced about one year ago, other religious schools received no government support.

McVety said Norton should step down permanently as chief commissioner, or at least until the complaints against him are investigated. (When an OHRC member is the subject of a complaint, it is turned over to an independent trustee of investigations.)

"I would like the statements retracted so they don't stand when the issue of tax credits are discussed in the future," McVety added.

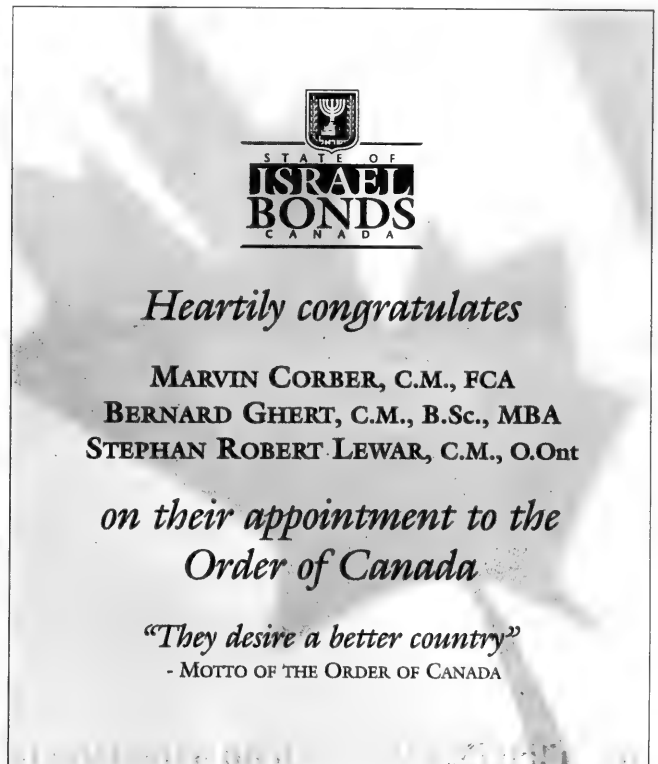
Shortly after his news conference, Norton clarified his remarks in an appearance on the *Roy Green Show*, a Hamilton talk radio program.

"I'm not opposed to tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools, and certainly that's a matter of policy that's in the purview of the government and legislature of Ontario and not the OHRC," he said.

"The specific reference that I made was to the risk or the possibility... of the tax credit providing an incentive for a proliferation of independent schools, and the concern I had that at the moment [was that] there appeared a lack of appropriate regulatory framework."

In that context, Norton said he had referred to a school headed by "an individual who allegedly had connections with an international terrorist organization" and to another incident in which a Scarborough high school that was rented for a heritage language class was decorated with children's artwork that was anti-Israeli.

Continued on page 6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Impressive new reading

From time to time, I use this space to review articles, essays and books that catch my attention. It is an important priority at *The CJN* to highlight, wherever possible, new writing by Canadian authors. That priority is part of our overall objective of lending profile to impressive, new Jewish writing, wherever found, which, in our opinion, is also impressive, new reading.

* * *

Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka is the spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa, venerated not only by his congregants but by the wider Canadian community in Ottawa and beyond.

Rabbi Bulka brings to his pulpit a unique combination of penetrating intellect, gentle compassion, unreserved empathy, boundless energy, a self-effacing sense of humour and unwavering commitment to the well-being of others.

And he loves to write.

Rabbi Bulka has written, edited or co-edited more than 30 books covering an eclectic range of subjects, all of which are aimed at improving the lives of his fellow human-beings.

His most recent book is *Best-Kept Secrets of Judaism*, published by Targum Press, Inc. It is a little gem of ethical and moral instruction, much in the style of the writings, typified by the 18th century scholar Moshe Chaim Luzatto, that have become so popular and available to a wider Jewish public in the last quarter century.

The work is a fascinating and creative adaptation of a book written by Elazar Ezkari (sometimes known as Azikri) called *Sefer Chareidim*. Ezkari, who lived and studied in Tzfat in the latter half of the 16th century, was a contemporary of Isaac Luria and Joseph Karo. The Encyclopedia Judaica notes that *Sefer Chareidim* "had a wide circulation and was printed in over 27 editions" – an enormous amount given the state of printing at the time and the limited ability of a publisher to widely distribute any books.

In introducing *Sefer Chareidim* to a modern audience, Rabbi Bulka responds in part to the oft-heard and malignly-intended, but uninformed, criticism that Judaism concerns itself more with ritual than with essence.

"Judaism... is very much 'being' oriented," Rabbi Bulka writes in his introduction. "If we are doing mitzvot, Torah commandments, without being 'in' what we are doing, without genuinely and profoundly integrating what we do into our being, we are missing the basic thrust of the Torah, which is to shape us as people (Midrash Rabbah, Vayikra 13:3). We can hardly be shaped if our deeds are disconnected from who we are and are nothing more than rote exercises bereft of meaning.

"The focus of this book," Rabbi Bulka adds, "is to lay out some of the secrets of Judaism – those elements whose existence are not widely known, but which manifest the heart and soul of Judaism."

Best-Kept Secrets of Judaism is an intriguing little book, a chest whose treasures beckon to be discovered.

* * *

Ariel: The Israel Review of Arts and Literature, has just released its spring volume, No. 113. Based in Jerusalem, it is one of Israel's most prestigious and informative journals.

Now in its 40th year, *Ariel* features articles by and about Israel and the Jewish world's most renowned and respected scholars, poets, novelists, architects, artists and archeologists. It consistently offers highly engaging and educational material. The most recent issue is an exciting example of this.

The lead article is an elegant prose and photo montage on the newly-renovated Baha'i Gardens in Haifa. The volume also contains an eye-opening essay on the Jews of Afghanistan by Reuben Kashani, an instructive look back by Eric Gould on the early pioneer days of the struggling Yishuv in the Galilee – both of which are accompanied by rare archival photographs – and a poignant, at times, even painful, reminiscence by A.B. Yehoshua entitled *In Search of Lost Sephardi Time*, translated by Gilad Morag. Yehoshua transports us on delicate wings into the Jerusalem of his youth to visit with his "mixed" Ashkenazi and Sephardi family.

Ariel is published in English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Arabic and is now available on the Internet at www.mfa.gov.il.

There is hardly a better way than reading *Ariel* of staying abreast of literary and cultural developments in Israel, supporting Israel's artistic and cultural community while at the same time indulging oneself in fine reading pleasures.

—MBD

SeeJN

OPENING THE DOORS: The Opening the Doors Conference – a UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) and Tikun Chaim initiative – was held at Camp Ramah, north of Toronto July 14 to 16. The conference provided an opportunity for people with disabilities, their parents and senior professionals to inventory our community's services for people with disabilities, and to explore how we can share existing resources and identify and fill the missing gaps. The three-day conference was the brainchild of Camp Ramah's Mitchell Parker, BJE executive director Seymour Epstein and Tikun Chaim director Debbie Gladstone. Seen, from left, are: Rabbi Joseph Kelman, David Lepofsky, Epstein, Gladstone, Shelly Christensen, Parker and Howard Black.

Greater Toronto Area

Toronto shuls, groups unite to create organization

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Several synagogues and groups have come together under the umbrella of a new organization created so that they can help each other, co-ordinate communal programs and work together on behalf of the Jewish community of Toronto.

United Chesed of Greater Toronto was the brainchild of Thornhill dentist Brian Price.

In October 2001, Price invited all the Toronto synagogues and four community organizations to a meeting to outline the mission for United Chesed: "to create a unified body which will serve the Jewish community with all its pooled resources for the benefit and maintenance of Jewish residents in Greater Toronto."

Designed to help co-ordinate programs

He says a major goal in establishing United Chesed (kindness), was "to set up and maintain an active network of communications between the synagogues, to create a climate of shalom bayit [peaceful co-operation] for the well-being and stability of the community and to be an example for other communities."

Representatives of the 26 synagogues and other groups have met regularly to discuss their programs and assist one another in achieving their goals. Activities reported on have included hospital visits, home visits, supplying medical equipment, networking with people to help them find jobs, raising emergency funds and providing a clearing house for volunteers.

Price emphasizes that the members of United Chesed are from various religious segments in the community.

"I believe that this is the first time in Canadian Jewish history where we all sit at the same table with one common goal – to help all Jews," he says.

"We are not duplicating services that are available. Rather, we are networking the whole conglomerate of charitable services found in each organization so that where one is lacking, another can contribute."

Each organization reports on its endeavours, outlines its needs and its resources and discusses what it is can contribute to other groups.

Topics discussed have included unemployment and tourism problems occurring in Israel, European countries that are boycotting Israeli products, the need for storage space for clothing collected for the poor, food banks for the needy in Toronto and the need for more Jewish foster homes.

At a recent meeting, Price proposed the creation of a Web site that would be available to all synagogues and organizations.

"This Web site would list the needs of each synagogue, including chesed activities, job listings, dating and other information."

For more information about the United Chesed of Toronto, call Price at 416-219-6676.

Brian Price, founder of United Chesed of Toronto

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Family physician becomes first Ontario Conservative mohel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Dr. Mark Greenberg, a family physician with a shared practice in northwestern Toronto, doesn't always tell his staff or his colleague when he's performed a brit milah. Often, however, his smile gives him away.

"Nothing gives me greater pleasure, spiritually, now," said Greenberg, who became a mohel last fall after being approached by Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario region.

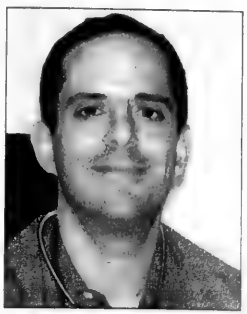
Greenberg, 41, had performed circumcisions in the early days of his career, but last year he studied more current techniques with Neil Pollock, a Vancouver mohel and physician. He also undertook more in-depth Jewish study, both here and with the head of the New York Board of Rabbis' milah committee. To become certified by the Conservative movement, he underwent a rigorous interview in New York.

Born in Toronto and raised in Ottawa in a traditional Jewish home, Greenberg – an alumnus of Camp Ramah and Ottawa's Hillel Academy whose family was active in Machzikei Hadas Congregation – was immediately receptive to Rabbi Tanenbaum's suggestion.

"It was always in the back of my mind. I liked the idea of doing something ritually, and it's a need. It's a happy thing," the father of three admitted during a noon-hour interview at his office on the 17th day of Tammuz, the day that begins the three-week mourning period leading up to Tisha b'Av. Instead of taking his usual lunch, Greenberg was fasting as traditional Jews do to commemorate the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem in 585 BCE and 70 CE that led to the destruction of the First and Second Temples.

As the first Conservative mohel in Ontario (but not in Canada), Greenberg fills not just the obvious need but one that has been troubling Conservative rabbis here for years.

"We, meaning the Conservative rabbis, had been looking for a long time to find a shomer Shabbos individual who would be able to serve as a mohel," said Rabbi Tanenbaum in a phone interview.


Dr. Mark Greenberg

Because the Conservative movement is a halachic movement, he explained, he and his colleagues recommend only "kosher" mohalim who are themselves Jewishly observant and perform ritually correct brit milahs.

Until now, that meant using only Orthodox mohalim. In most cases, that is not an issue, and Orthodox mohalim are still on the recommended list at local Conservative synagogues.

But in cases where the baby's mother has converted to Judaism under the auspices of the Conservative movement (and likewise the Reform movement), neither the child nor the mother is considered Jewish by Orthodox authorities.

Although some Orthodox mohalim will not officiate in such cases at all, others will perform a *brit l'shem gerut* – a circumcision for the purpose of conversion – instead of a standard brit milah, said Toronto mohel Aaron Jesin. The blessings are slightly different, and the brit is done in the presence of an Orthodox beit din, or rabbinical court.

The issue of brit milah for these babies is a delicate one. Greenberg said he preferred not to discuss it, referring *The CJN* to Rabbi Tanenbaum.

"I'm not a political type of person," said Greenberg. "I was asked to serve, and I'm happy to serve the community at large."

If he is asked to perform a brit on a baby whose mother has undergone a Reform conversion, he looks to the Rabbinical Assembly for guidance.

"We recognize Reform conversions, provided the Halachah is in accordance with what we do," said Rabbi Tanenbaum. "Here in Toronto, that's usually the case."

In cases where halachic elements like ritual immersion in a mikvah have not been included, the omission is remedied, Rabbi Tanenbaum said. Often, he noted, this is done before the baby is born, so that the child can have a "normal bris."

In other cases, if the family has not chosen to have a Reform mohel (of which there are eight in the greater Toronto area), a *brit l'shem gerut* is performed in the presence of a beit din, and mother and child go to the mikvah together at a later date, he clarified.

"In today's society," said Greenberg, "where [many] people don't know where they've come from or where they're going, we as the Jewish people can trace ourselves all the way back to Abraham because of the bris."

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Complaint filed over OHRC chief's 'outrageous' remarks

Continued from page 3

Norton said he used the term apartheid "to mean segregation or separation within the education system." He also said he was concerned that fringe racist groups might seek public funds for their schools, which would merely serve as fronts for racism.

In a subsequent letter to Ed Morgan, chair of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress, who appeared on the same radio talk show, Norton acknowledged that apartheid "is for some, a loaded term because of its use to describe the former abhorrent racist policies in South Africa. In retrospect, it would have been more sensitive to use a synonym such as segregated or separate. I regret any misunderstanding that was created."

Morgan said Norton's initial comments were "very inflammatory" and "not deserved," and he rejected Norton's suggestion that private schools foster intolerance.

But Morgan accepted Norton's clarifications and said he believes Norton "realizes he misused the phrase 'apartheid'" and later regretted it.

"The overall episode is a lesson that you should think before you speak," Morgan said.

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Moral vacuity at the UN

The United Nations Security Council gathered last week to condemn Israel for the action it took in Gaza City against Saleh Shehadeh, the leader of the military arm of Hamas. The meeting was convened at the urgent request of the Arab members of the United Nations.

Israel rightly targeted Shehadeh. But along with him, it wrongly killed 15 innocent civilians, of whom 11 were children. Had they known there were civilians in the immediate vicinity, there would have been no attack, the IDF and senior government officials said. "The assessment of Shehadeh's building," *Ha'aretz* reported, "was that it was used only for operational purposes, that his family did not live there, but occasionally dropped in for short visits."

The president and prime minister of Israel and IDF officers expressed sorrow and regret at the horrible loss of civilian life. And an internal investigation by security officials was immediately initiated to try to pinpoint how and why the errors occurred.

That Israel expressed its remorse, conveyed its apologies and established the investigation is a testament to the vitality of its democratic institutions and to the predominance of conscience and civility in its active defense of the state and its people.

That Israel needed to seek out Shehadeh is a testament to the total absence of conscience and utter moral vacuity at the core of the Palestinian leadership. Shehadeh was personally responsible for the deaths and injuries of several hundred Israeli citizens. Over the past two years, the Palestinian Authority has ignored dozens of requests by Israel to rein in, if not bring in, Shehadeh.

But absence of conscience and moral vacuity are not only to be found among the Palestinian leadership. They are the hallmarks of the Security Council as well. Condemnation there of Israel is automatic, regardless of the issue, the circumstances or the truth. Yet, other pressing and ominous danger spots around the globe, many of them in the Middle East, warrant not even the occasional meeting of the council, let alone a critical or condemnatory word.

For example, Dennis Ross, the former U.S. Middle East envoy in the Clinton administration, sounded an urgent alarm last week in the pages of *The Wall Street Journal* concerning a "burgeoning danger that is receiving scant attention."

He was referring to the menacing destabilization of the region by Iran and Syria. "With a constant stream of supply from both the Iranians and Syrians," Ross wrote, "Hezbollah is building a formidable arsenal of highly mobile rockets [on the Israeli-Lebanese border]." In fact, more than 8,000 rockets, supplied by Iran through Syrian-controlled Lebanon, are currently aimed at Israel. Yet not a word of opprobrium has been directed at the Iranians or the Syrians by the Security Council.

Indeed, in one of the head-shaking ironies surrounding that world body, which evoke comparisons with Orwell's fictitious world of *1984*, Syria holds one of the 15 seats on that council.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones
IF ARAFAT ACTUALLY RUNS FOR OFFICE...
WILL ANY PALESTINIANS VOTE AGAINST HIM?...
YES!
AND THERE WILL BE A NAME FOR THEM
SUICIDE VOTERS.

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Bush plan a trap

The CJN's front page report (July 4) that *Jewish groups back Bush* and your editorial statement that U.S. President George W. Bush's speech is "a remarkably bold statement of foreign policy and inner conviction" have prompted this letter.

While Jewish leaders in the United States and Canada may applaud the formation of what I call a Bush-Sharon axis, my personal assessment of the final text is that it is largely an attempt to garner Jewish votes rather than a serious plan for peace in the Middle East. While democratization of Palestinian society is a noble objective, to make it a precondition for moving Israel-Palestinian relations from violence to the negotiating table is a non-starter. If Menachem Begin had insisted that Anwar Sadat democratize his country before engaging in serious negotiations, there would never have been an Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement. Jordan and Israel have signed a peace treaty; does anyone consider the current monarchy as a truly democratic state? When former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak made overtures to the Syrians to trade land for peace, did he ever suggest that the discussion include a commitment to end the Assad family dictatorship?

I consider the president's suggestions a counter-productive detour rather than a road map for conflict resolution. I also feel it will encourage Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to continue with his single-minded focus on military responses to the suicide bombings and on trying to impose his will on the Palestinian leadership and on the Palestinian people rather than on seriously non-violent alternatives.

Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times* has suggested that time is not on Israel's side. Israel, he has stated, has a short window of opportunity to make a deal with the Palestinians. If it does not act quickly, Arab population growth and Arabs' growing hatred for Jews, Americans and Israelis will soon make peace an unattainable objective. So beware of the Bush-Sharon axis. It is a trap, not an opportunity.

Mel Shipman
Toronto

* * *

Hatred of Israel inbred early

It is extremely painful to watch the suffering of the Palestinian people, but at the same time, it is equally painful to realize how Palestinian hatred of Israelis blocks them from understanding who the real author of their misery is.

This hatred is promoted from childhood by their leaders. The recently published photograph of a Palestinian toddler dressed as a suicide bomber proved this.

The Palestinian people could have enjoyed a peaceful, Palestinian state with all the privileges of an independent, democratic country, before the problem of the "occupied territories" appeared. The generous offer by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak was more than Palestinain Authority President Yasser Arafat could have dreamed of, but instead of accepting or responding to it, he went to Malaysia to win the Muslim world over to his evil devices.

Israeli media experts and government offices realized (too late, in my opinion) that Israel is lagging far behind in what they see as a "Cold War-style" propaganda war being waged on some 140 Arab-owned, Arabic language satellite stations broadcasting through the Middle East. Perhaps Israel's Arab language satellite channel will enable Arabs to learn the real truth of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Lily Kutner
Toronto

* * *

Pakistan's double fault

The negative reactions by the Pakistan Sports Board and the president of the Pakistan Tennis Federation to one of its citizens playing tennis at Wimbledon with a Jew speaks volumes about intolerance and racial bias. Pakistan is all too willing to accept the presence of American soldiers in their fight against terrorism in Afghanistan, despite the fact some of those soldiers are Jews. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were only too happy during the Gulf War to allow American Jewish soldiers to help rid their countries of Iraqi aggressors, but neither country will now allow a Jew to either work or visit there. These are some of the countries that are supposed to commit to normal relations with Israel once a Palestinian state is established. If a Jew and a Muslim are not permitted to shake hands on a tennis court, it really does not bode well for meaningful co-existence between Israel and Arab states. The Pakistani authorities are too blinded by hatred to even recognize that they have committed a double fault.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

Assimilation should not be encouraged

The contrast between two articles in the June 27 issue couldn't have been more glaring. On the one hand, we were treated to an interesting D'var Torah by Rabbi Moshe Yeres based on the writings of Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin, popularly known as the Netziv. On the other hand, in the arts section, we encountered a story that inexplicably praised an intermarried couple. Surely, the Netziv would have protested.

In his essay *Shaar Yisrael*, the Netziv outlines the spiritual/historical forces that account for a rise in levels of anti-Semitism. Of course, the crucial one is assimilation, especially in the most pernicious of its manifestations, intermarriage. It seems that the featured intermarried couple, despite their good intentions, just might be more a part of present-day problems than part of the solution.

There are undoubtedly more creative solutions to the Mideast conflict than us disappearing as Jews. In this day and age of UJA Federation-sponsored "continuity" programs, certainly *The CJN* could at least refrain from putting a positive spin on events celebrating intermarriages, if they even have to be reported at all.

Robert Levine
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Jewish schools infuse teachers' lives with meaning

By ALEX POMSON

Jewish day school education is in the grip of unprecedented growth. In Toronto, 10 new Jewish day schools have opened their doors in the last six years. In the United States, the numbers of day school students doubled between 1980 and 2000. (The student population now stands at just over 200,000.) In England, for the first time in history, a majority of Jewish children now attend all-day Jewish schools. In eastern Europe too, a network of day schools has emerged from the ruins of the Shoah and Soviet rule.

Alex Pomson

Some argue that day schools will collapse under a personnel crisis of their own making, since expansion has occurred at a time when public school boards in most countries face a decline in the number of qualified individuals prepared to work in the classroom. Given that at the best of times it is hard to find enough quality teachers to staff day schools, there is reason to fear the worst when this difficulty is exacerbated both by rampant day school growth and by a teacher shortage in the public sector.

In my view, dire predictions of this sort are overstated. I am inspired by what I have learned in the last four years from three university-based research projects exploring the lives and work of Jewish teachers. (In one project, 20 graduates from York University's Jewish education program were interviewed; in the other two projects, 18 Jewish day school teachers were interviewed. All projects were conducted by the author and several graduate students in education.)

These studies make plain that day school work can provide teachers with special satisfactions. In the right circumstances, it can help teachers find a rare balance between work and parenting roles, and enable them to integrate different parts of their lives in ways that are compatible with their evolving identities as parents and workers.

While our research shows that there are teachers who see teaching as little more than a convenient form of employment, many we interviewed indicate that some of the deepest satisfactions in their work are related to their own search for personal meaning. Not only does teaching allow them to help others find a place in the world, it enables them to construct an identity as members of a special adult community. Schools are places where, as adults, teachers can find meaning in their lives.

I would argue that if the search for meaning is such a large part of teachers' lives, then Jewish schools might have more success recruiting and retaining teachers if they are organized as places that offer teachers multiple sources of meaning. Indeed, Jewish schools may be better placed to recruit and retain teachers than public boards. Our research shows that, in at least four different ways, day schools offer teachers an opportunity to connect dimensions of selfhood that may not be present in other settings.

***Chevrah*/Fellowship:**

One of the most pervasive features of day schools is that teachers do not work in isolation. All teachers share their students with at least one colleague. The dual curriculum of Jewish and general studies means that they must negotiate the dimensions of the classroom environment with a partner chosen for them in an arranged match.

The dual day school curriculum of Judaic and general studies is frequently viewed as a major source of stress, forcing teachers to shoehorn a day of work into a few short hours. Yet the bifurcated day may provide a benefit. Forced into cross-curricular partnerships by the structure of the program, teachers find themselves participating in relationships which, fortuitously, provide an opportunity to counter the isolation that plagues teachers in most schools. These relationships can have a strong effect on job satisfaction. It implies that schools might have greater success retaining teachers if they were to allow them to have some say in determining their cross-curricular partners.

A working life shaped by the rhythms of the Jewish year:

Rabbi David Hartman of the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem has argued that only in Israel can Jews feel anything other than socially marginal. There, one experiences how the Jewish liturgical calendar shapes the collective identity of the nation. Ironically, while teachers often struggle to communicate to their students that Judaism is more than a private pastime, participants in our studies indicate that work in a Jewish day school provides them with a visceral appreciation for the routines and rhythms of Jewish identity of the kind Hartman describes.

In mundane terms, the organization of the school year around the Jewish calendar offers a level of convenience not reproduced in many other workplaces. Day school teachers have enough time to return home for Shabbat, and need not ask for special permission to take days off for the chagim. More profoundly, the rhythms of the Jewish week and of the yearly cycle help teachers construct a sense of personal location that comes from belonging to a distinct community with its own routines.

The outstanding example of this is the festival of Pesach, which requires an extensive investment of curriculum time at school and personal time at home. One research participant reported how in her school, teachers and board members have never agreed on how many calendar days to take off before Pesach. Board members argue that if other respectable professionals don't have the liberty of taking time off to prepare for the festival, why should teachers? For teachers – the interviewee explained – the board members miss the point. Jewish schools are not (nor should they be) like other workplaces. It is when they reflect and relate to the contours of the Jewish year that they become desirable places to work.

Sharing a special language:

The Toronto Jewish day school system, where this research was conducted, is among a minority of communities in North America where the teaching of Ivrit b'Ivrit (Jewish studies in Hebrew) is the norm rather than the exception. This fact impinges on teachers' professional commitments and self-understanding in acute fashion.

Almost all the participants in our research indicate that the role of Hebrew in the curriculum has a profound impact on their deepest motivations. For many non-native Hebrew speakers, the opportunity to teach in Hebrew provides one of the most compelling reasons to teach in a Jewish day school.

Participants' assessment of their potential to make a difference in students' lives substantiates a claim made by Jonathan Sarna in a history of Jewish education in America. For Sarna, the Ivrit b'Ivrit movement "kidnapped" mainstream Jewish education in the United States during the 1930s. In so doing, it transformed the self-esteem of Jewish educators. "Ivrit b'Ivrit elevated lowly teachers, making them feel part of the most significant movement in Jewish life. Devoted Jewish teachers believed with all their heart and soul that the future of American Jewish life depended on them."

This is a precise summation of what drives Canadian-born teachers who can employ a body of special knowledge with skill and effect. Their mission to show students that Canadians can master Hebrew drives them to tolerate a range of discomforts that come from being a non-Israeli minority among their colleagues. Sarna's account also indicates why those who struggle with Hebrew feel discomfort in their work. If they do not have a critical measure of competence, they come to question their professional worth.

If educational policy-makers are to tackle the challenges of recruitment and retention with success, they must consider the extent to which Hebrew can motivate and deter teachers in their work.

Becoming a parent:

There are few human experiences that have greater effect on the way we function in the world than the experience of becoming a parent. Career researchers have long been alert to the conflicted relationship between commitments to family and work. In recent years, feminist scholars have, however, subverted the dividing of teachers' personal and professional commitments and have paid more attention to the profound but radically unpredictable impact of parenthood on teachers' practice.

Our research demonstrates how unpredictable and enriching this impact can be. Parenting is experienced differently, and these differences inform teachers' values in diverse ways. Nevertheless, as Patricia Sikes has shown in a study of *Parents Who Teach*, parent teachers draw upon a common cultural repertoire to talk about such things as "the way they see their own children reflected in their pupils, their increased patience and empathy, [and] the effect their professional training has upon them as parents."

Day school teachers draw on these same cultural reference points. Yet in one respect at least, the particular context of day school work seems to modify these generalized patterns. For some day school teachers, becoming a parent leads them to ask not only "Is this how I want my own children to be taught?" but "Is this where I want them taught?" They wonder: "If this is not where I want them taught, is it where I want to teach?"

Day schools are private institutions with a variety of ideological forms, each of which gives expression to a particular vision of Jewish identity. When teachers become parents (and as their children age), they are prompted, unlike peers in public schools, to assess the fit between their personal and professional identity. Becoming a parent may, therefore, have disruptive or affirmative consequences for career commitments by uncovering previously unacknowledged inconsistencies between the personal and professional.

Implications for schools:

Research into teachers' lives is often organized around the poles of calling and career, and of vocation and work. This is not altogether surprising. Teachers are driven over the course of their careers by a vocational urge. It is tempting, therefore, to view everything else as a matter of context with little effect on the teacher's sense of self.

Yet, as our findings confirm, context contributes great meaning to teachers' lives. Context provides the sources for satisfactions that can sustain teachers over the course of a career and of experiences that can challenge some of their deepest beliefs about themselves. As we have seen, the day school context offers an opportunity to connect many dimensions of selfhood. It can encourage teachers to develop special collegial relationships with cross-curricular partners. It provides an opportunity to engage in a professional life shaped by the rhythms and practices of the Jewish year. It promises membership in a community enriched by a shared culture and distinctive language. And, of course, it offers each day the possibility of fulfilling a mission of engaging young people in a Jewish future. Separately, and even more so, collectively, these experiences can make work in a Jewish school very different from work in other schools.

For those we interviewed, working in a Jewish school can be quite different from working anywhere else. Occasionally, this work becomes problematic, but, perhaps, if Jewish schools cultivate some of the positive aspects that distinguish them from other workplaces, this distinctiveness can become a source of strength, providing teachers with persuasive reasons to take up appointments.

Inevitably, given that schools exist first and foremost to meet the needs of children, little attention has been given to how they can help teachers find meaning in their lives. However, it is reasonable to expect that if Jewish schools organize themselves as places capable of offering teachers multiple sources of meaning, they will have more success recruiting and retaining teachers. In fact, in some respects, they may be better placed to recruit and retain teachers than public schools.

This piece is an abbreviated version of a paper delivered by Prof. Alex Pomson on the occasion of his installation as Koschitzky Family Chair in Jewish Teacher Education at York University.

Flying: a new experience

Of course, it is not the act of flying that is new, but the way one has to do it these days. I write this column because my last trip to the United States gave me much to think about.

Rabbi Gunther Plant in Toronto

Because security needs have become a major consideration, one has to be at the airport two hours before the scheduled departure when travelling to the States. On my last trip – perhaps because my destination was Washington, D.C. – I was subjected to procedures more rigorous and time-consuming than in the past. I was searched several times and had to take off my shoes and my kneepads (for painless walking), which always attract attention. In the past, the inspection took only seconds, but this time it seemed to take forever.

I should have been pleased with these procedures, because my security was clearly enhanced by them, but I felt they were overdone. Then again, is there ever such a thing as overdoing security? Am I not better off when the authorities do more for my security rather than less? At any rate, that's the way it's done today, and I have been advised that in order to avoid any problems with my kneepads in the future, I should ask for the use of a wheelchair. So far, I have avoided going that route because, I suppose, I've wanted to avoid embarrassment. People who know I play tennis and golf would certainly wonder whether I've had an accident and become disabled. But worrying about what others might think is, of course, less than intelligent, so the next time I travel, I may accept the offer of a wheelchair.

As soon as the plane took off for Washington, we were informed that the toilets would be locked 30 minutes before arrival. At first that struck me as odd, but then I realized that the reason, no doubt, was to prevent someone from destroying the plane while it flew over the American capital. Safety appears to be best served when all passengers are in full view of the stewards.

In the past, when I expected to play some tennis at my destination, I would take my racquet with me. Not any more, since the last time I tried to do so, security officials relieved me of the racquet, apparently viewing it as a potential weapon. In the heated discussion that followed, I was advised that my racquet would be safe and I'd better get on the plane. I was given no receipt, and I received the racquet upon landing, after a fairly lengthy search.

Altogether, flying has become a more regulated experience, which has led me to think again of travelling by train, though – as I write this – I am wondering whether I will really do it. Old habits are hard to break.

It's déjà vu all over again

It seems like yesterday that we were basking in the sunlight of peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Thousands of Israelis were shopping in east Jerusalem and the shuks of the West Bank. They were gambling away millions in Jericho. Palestinians were building new homes, sending their children to school and university, and anticipating a better life under their own flag.

Today that seems like a dream as each side tears at the other's guts. We, the Jewish community, see it as the failure of Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat to foresee the chaos his antics would bring, and the failure of his cronies to warn him of the consequences of failure – if indeed they saw it coming themselves.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Naturally Palestinians see it otherwise, although voices are now being raised in mild protest as the information about what Arafat was offered by Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak seeps into the Palestinian street. But the match has been set to the straw.

Here in Canada we lead a good life. Jews appear in all segments of society, occupying the middle road as well as the extreme left and right of the political spectrum. We have a healthy reputation as liberal thinkers whose votes generally favour social justice, racial equality, a strong commitment to maintaining a social safety net and a Canadian foreign policy that respects and honours democratic institutions and countries free from tyranny. We are generally proud of our accomplishments, supporting the downfall of apartheid and our role as peace-keepers in tense areas of the world.

Yet as the Middle East unravels, we find ourselves back in the bad old days of 1967 and 1973, where newspaper ads excoriate Israel for war crimes, correspondents praise Arafat as though he were a combination of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Ghandi, leaders of the United Church and the Anglican Church of Canada revile Israel as the cause of it all, and the Canadian Labour Congress denounces Israel (the only country in the Middle East with a free and feisty labour movement). Synagogues are torched. Jewish institutions and cemeteries are defaced. Jews are attacked on the streets.

How did we get here? We have tried to explain Israel's position to media, government and people in our everyday lives. We have pointed out the incredible horror of mothers and children, Holocaust survivors and grandparents, being blown to tiny pieces. We have seen the pictures of young men drenched in blood, shouting their victory over two murdered Israelis. We have seen a picture of baby dressed as a suicide bomber. We know another generation of children is being raised to hate Jews. And here in Canada, both the right and the left have taken aim at our synagogues, our cemeteries and our morality. More chillingly, because it has the approval of the government, Magen David Adom has had its charitable status revoked because such "activities… lend support to Israeli settlements beyond the 1967 border." Hamas, yes – an ambulance service, no?

Shame on the Canadian Labour Congress. Shame on heads of the churches who criticize Israel, ignoring the flight of Christians because of the rise of Muslim extremists. Words like genocide, war crimes, apartheid, flow effortlessly from the lips of people who should know better but deny the sights of their very eyes and find Arafat a noble patriot. Shame on the CBC for its euphemisms, calling murderers "militants," "gunmen," even "assailants." They have no trouble calling the IRA "terrorists." Only Jews cannot be the victims of terror?

Shame on those "concerned citizens" who signed a recent ad in the Vancouver *Georgia Straight* once again accusing Israel. They include Libby Davis, Svend Robinson, George Heyman (president of the B.C. Government and Service Employees Union), and even Rape Relief, a Vancouver counselling centre and shelter. They accuse Israel of creating "fertile soil for the growth of brutality and the perpetuation of atrocities" and of a "systematic violation of the Palestinian population's basic human right to live free of military coercion and violence."

No, my friends, it isn't Israel who has denied this suffering population those things. It is the Palestinian leadership headed by Arafat. His delusional twists, today accepting what Clinton offered him two years ago, tomorrow exhorting his followers to kill, become more obvious. May he be like Macbeth, as the liberating armies drew near: "Now does he feel his title/ hang loose about him, like a giant's robe/ upon a dwarfish thief."

We will once again, as before, defend Israel. Isn't it time these well-meaning Canadian spokespersons listened?

Random summer thoughts

Shira, my wife, and I have decided to see James Brown in concert the day after Yom Kippur at the local baseball stadium. I'm a big fan of the Godfather of Soul and, given that he's in the twilight of his career, it's a safe bet that this will be the last time he shimmies across a Winnipeg stage.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

After learning that the "hardest working man in show business" was coming to town, I decided to re-acquaint myself with some of his music. Among his most popular hits is a vowel-and-bass-heavy romp called "It's Too Funky In Here." Upon being reminded of that song, I couldn't help but think that if it had been written by a Jewish performer, it would have been called "Is It Too Funky In Here Or Is It Just Me?"

* * *

A few years ago, after reading a short list of English words that sound like they're Yiddish in *The Big Book of Jewish Humor* (including far-fetched, garnish, svelte and box-kite), a friend and I decided to expand the list as much as possible. For nearly a decade, we've been adding words here and there. It got to the point where we were dividing the list by categories. Occupations that sound Yiddish: beer vendor, fox breeder, minor leaguer and oyster shucker. Hockey goaltenders whose names sound Yiddish (a much shorter list): Ken Dryden. I went looking for our 300-item list a couple of weeks ago, only to discover I have no clue where I put it. According to *The Big Book of Jewish Humor*, if I tell my friend I lost it, he'll have a "conniption."

* * *

At bedtime, I try to always sing Hebrew songs to my three-year-old and one-year-old. Usually, if I'm in good voice, the songs not only expose them to some Jewish culture and Yiddishkeit, but they also relax them. My son likes *Al Kol Eileh*, *Eli Eli* (as sung by my wife) and *Rad Hayom* (a good-night ditty from my Camp Massad [Manitoba] days). My daughter used to like *Erev Shel Shoshanim* and currently favours a melodic version of *Shma Yisrael*. The other night, thinking my one-year-old son was drifting while I rocked him and sang, my eyes closed. It was a peaceful, spiritual, Jewish moment, until my son stirred and quickly stuck his finger up my right nostril as far and as fast as he could and then burst into laughter. After the initial shock, I realized that few things are as wonderfully spiritual as a child's laughter. And few things are as painful as trying to sing a Naomi Shemer song with a toddler's fist up your schnozz.

* * *

I'm going to camp this summer! Camp Massad is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. We had a big, gala dinner in March, launched an endowment fund and later this summer, there will be an onsite weekend reunion for alumni. True campers know how powerful the connection with your summer camp can be. It's lifelong, it's colourful and it's emotional. And according to the Foundation for Jewish Camping, there is a growing body of evidence that positive Jewish summer camp experiences lead to a greater sense of Jewish identity and a greater participation in Jewish com munity life. See http://www.jewishcamping.org/ for more insights into the power of camping. As for our reunion, I plan to stay up late, sing songs and walk around tired the next day – kind of like parenting.

* * *

Earlier tonight, in a fit of procrastination and nostalgia, I picked up a copy of my yearbook from 1979 when I was in Grade 7 at Winnipeg's only Jewish junior/senior high school, Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate. The dedication reads as follows: "March 26, 1979 marked the date of the final signing of the Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt. The treaty represented an end to 31 years of war and bloodshed in the Middle East. This yearbook is dedicated to those who fought so bravely for this day and to the memory of those who did not live to see it."

Twenty-three years later, that dedication sounds somewhat hollow.

The Kirshner File

The life and times of the Annenbergs

Walter Annenberg loomed large in American publishing, broadcasting and philanthropy.

As president of Triangle Publications, his properties included *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Daily Racing Form*, *TV Guide*, *Seventeen* and a medley of television stations.

As a philanthropist, Annenberg gave away more than $2 billion (US), plus $1 billion worth of art, by the time he turned 90 in 1998, qualifying him as the United States' most generous philanthropist.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The friend of two American presidents, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, this shy, retiring businessman sold his media empire to Rupert Murdoch for $3 billion in 1988 to devote himself, body and soul, to philanthropy.

Although he has been a respected figure in American society for several decades now, Annenberg was not always viewed in such positive hues.

Before he took over the business his father, Moses, had built from scratch, he was widely perceived as a spoiled playboy who would squander his inheritance. He not only proved his detractors wrong, but caused them to believe he was a gifted entrepreneur.

Annenberg had another burden to surmount. In the late 1930s, Moses was charged with income tax evasion and imprisoned after being hit with one of the highest civil fines in U.S. history.

When his father died shortly after his release in 1942, the family was left with staggering debts and a stained reputation. To his credit, he restored the Annenberg fortune and rubbed away the blemish.

Their saga, the stuff of a great American drama, is the subject of Christopher Ogden's *Legacy: A Biography of Moses and Walter Annenberg* (Little, Brown), a fine, balanced account of a prominent Jewish family.

Born in East Prussia, Moses arrived penniless in Chicago in 1885, and worked at a succession of menial jobs before striking out on his own as a newspaper distribution agent. By 1916, when he was living in Milwaukee, Moses was the proprietor of 30 nationwide agencies, Milwaukee's largest parking garage, two theatres, bowling alleys, billiard parlours, stores and apartments.

Moses' life changed irretrievably when Arthur Brisbane, chief editor and columnist of the Hearst newspaper chain, asked him to run the circulation department of a newspaper Brisbane intended to buy in Milwaukee. When Moses demurred, Brisbane offered him the publisher's job.

Several years later, the legendary publisher William Randolph Hearst appointed Moses as his national circulation manager. Brash and brilliant, Moses was not above battling rival newspapers with baseball bats and guns, Ogden suggests.

In 1922, Moses, never one to shirk an opportunity, bought the *Daily Racing Form*, the bible of the racetrack, and the General News Bureau, which supplied racing data electronically to legitimate news outlets and illegal bookmakers. It made him a millionaire, but his links to the underworld, however tenuous, tainted his name.

Moses left his position at Hearst in 1926, three years after establishing a holding company for his varied enterprises: racing publications, movie magazines, real estate, newspaper distribution agencies and a stock brokerage house. He provided well for his wife, Sadie, and their brood of children. When the Depression struck in 1929, Moses' net worth was $8 million.

By Ogden's estimation, Moses was a contradictory character. He denounced crime and corruption, but used ruthless, unethical methods against a competitor. He uttered idealistic pronouncements about journalism, but suborned journalistic ideals for personal expediency. He tried to lead a respectable family life, but kept a mistress and consorted with shady characters.

What is also certain is that he loved his only son, Walter, whose stutter had a profound impact on his psyche and behaviour. Moses was disappointed that Walter dropped out of university to play the stock market, where he fared badly. But in 1934, Moses invited him into the business as manager of the *Miami Tribune*, a daily he had recently purchased. Moses also encouraged him to write, and he penned an occasional gossip column.

In the mid-1930s, Moses bought *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, a staunchly Republican daily whose political philosophy matched his own views. Under his direction, the newspaper continued to attack President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal social welfare programs. Ogden suggests that Moses' anti-Roosevelt vehemence prompted the U.S. government to lay income tax evasion charges against him.

Moses tried to resolve the problem, but to no avail. He agreed to pay a penalty of $9.5 million ($110 million in current dollars), but had to face a trial. He was sentenced to three years in federal prison, but due to illness served two years. Moses died of a brain tumour a little more than a month after being released.

He left assets of $2.7 million and debts of $5.5 million, but the Annenbergs were not officially bankrupt, as revenues from the *Inquirer* and *Daily Racing Form* covered their debt payments.

Few of Walter's associates had confidence in his abilities, but he repaid Moses' debts and restored his family's standing.

Moses (left) and Walter Annenberg in 1939.

Although he was a conservative, Annenberg had no patience for injustice. He banned classified advertising from the pages of the *Inquirer* that could be construed as racist, and made sure that the paper covered issues in the black community.

Yet, as Ogden points out, he maintained a blacklist of individuals and groups that were banned from the pages of the *Inquirer*. Furthermore, he adds, Annenberg had no interest in quality journalism. He considered the *Inquirer* an instrument "to give him the influence he desired."

In 1938, he wed Ronny Dunkelman, a Torontonian whose family had established Tip Top Tailors. The marriage lasted about a decade. Ogden says the couple, who produced two children, battled for social acceptance in a city saturated with genteel anti-Semitism.

Annenberg launched *Seventeen*, America's first teen magazine, in 1944, and he named his sister Enid as editor.

Sensing that television would be the next big thing, he applied for a TV licence, and got one in 1948. "TV is like the theatre," he said. "You can't enjoy it without a program." The "program" was *TV Guide*, which sold a billion copies a year when it reached its peak in sales in 1978.

Annenberg's friendship with Nixon blossomed when Nixon was President Dwight Eisenhower's vice-president. They were in agreement on the issues of the day, and Annenberg admired Nixon as a gritty, self-made man.

In 1968, Nixon appointed Annenberg as ambassador to Britain. He and his second wife, Lee, proceeded to refurbish the dowdy U.S. embassy in London.

When he presented his credentials to the Queen, in front of TV cameras, the Queen said: "You aren't living at the embassy at the moment, are you?" Awkwardly, Annenberg replied, "We're in the embassy residence, subject, of course, to some of the discomfiture as a result of a need for, uh, elements of refurbishment and rehabilitation."

The stilted remark, a function of his stutter, sparked a wave of hilarity and Annenberg became the laughingstock of London. He offered his resignation, but Nixon encouraged him to stay on. Despite this incident, Annenberg, the only U.S. envoy ever knighted by the Queen, proved to be a competent ambassador. When President Reagan offered to send him back to London as ambassador, Annenberg declined.

Although he was not a Jewish activist by any stretch of the imagination, Annenberg was a generous giver to Jewish causes. During the Six Day War, he donated $1 million to Israel. In 1991, he gave Israel $15 million for the integration of Soviet Jewish immigrants into Israeli society. In addition, Annenberg has made generous contributions to the Hebrew University, the Technion, the United States Holocaust Museum and various Jewish institutions.

After he sold his holdings to Murdoch, he established the Annenberg Foundation, which, in 1993, channelled $365 million to four American universities.

Asked to explain his generosity, he replied, "My country has been very good to me. I must be good to my country."

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Notice to Visitors to Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Arrangements have been made by Pardes Shalom to provide complimentary transportation to the cemetery for the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on the following 2 days: **Sunday, August 11 and Sunday, September 15.**

On each of these days, a bus identified by a sign "**PARDES SHALOM**" will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

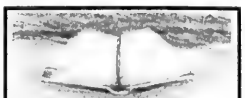
The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

The bus will leave the cemetery at 12:30 p.m. for return to the Betel Centre and the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

For further information, and to register, please call the cemetery office 416-635-2883, extension 211 - Trudy, or extension 224 - Esther.

Cute, but insightful comments

By
RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS



This week's parshah, Parshat Re'eh, Deuteronomy: 14, offers a cute but insightful comment on the kashrut laws.

The Torah singles out the pig and the camel as needing special attention with respect to their kosher status. The signs of a kosher animal are that it chew its cud and it has split hoofs. If you look at an animal and see that it has claws, like a lion, then you know it is not kosher. If the animal does not chew its cud, then again, it is not kosher.

When we look at the pig, we see that it has split hoofs. Look at the camel, we see that it chews its cud. The Torah therefore points out that the animal needs both of the kosher signs, both a split hoof and the chewing of the cud. The Torah specifically points to the pig and the camel as being non-kosher – although each has one of the kosher signs, it lacks the other.

There is a wonderful lesson concerning the posture of the pig and the camel. When the pig sits down, its feet stick forward, protruding in front of its body, as if to say, "Look at me, I'm kosher, look at my kosher feet." The camel sits with its feet folded under its body, where you can't see them, as if to say, "Look at me, I chew my cud, I'm kosher. My feet? Don't worry about them; they are hidden under my body, where no one can see them."

We all tend to act a bit like the pig and the camel in the way that we project our attitudes, our criticisms and our Judaism. We all have our strengths and our weaknesses, our mitzvot and our failings. Some of us excel at kindness, at chesed, at social concerns, and are weaker in our Torah learning, our Shabbat and our kashrut. Others of us are great learners, great daveners and meticulous in our kashrut, yet we fall short in our kindness, our concerns and our chesed. That is human nature – strengths and weaknesses.

Yet we have to be careful not to project ourselves in the manner of the pig, saying, "Look at me, I am kosher, I have split hoofs," yet knowing full well that we have our other not-so-kosher parts. Or like the camel, who says, "Look at me, I chew my cud," while we conveniently hide our non-kosher feet under our body so that no one can see our failings.

If we are strong learners and weak in our concern for proper speech, then we should not portray Torah learning as the only mitzvah of the Torah, conveniently hiding or neglecting the mitzvot involving speech. If we are great in our concern and action for Israel, then we ought not to neglect or even belittle the Torah, as if to project our kosher feet while hiding our not-so-kosher parts.

We always have to be careful to be honest and not project our criticism of our fellow Jews in a self-serving manner. We ought not to create the Torah in the image of man, projecting the important mitzvot as the ones that we keep, and the unimportant ones as the ones we do not. If we are weak in some areas of Torah, then along with criticizing others for their failures, we need to be honest and admit our failings.

Pigs and camels, strutting feet and hidden feet – cute lessons in honesty in our Judaism.

Rabbi Tradburks is the spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

A historic victory

***Six Days of War: June 1967 and The Making of the Modern Middle East*, by Michael B. Oren, Oxford University Press, $31.90.**

"My faith in God has been restored." This was the fervent confession of a friend 35 years ago, after Israel's astonishing victory in the Six Day War. Such euphoria was understandable. Threatened with attack from belligerent Arab neighbours, Israel's response was brief, devastating and conclusive. In a surprise "pre-emptive" move, Israeli planes destroyed the bulk of the Egyptian air force while it was still on the ground.

In addition, Israel's lightning move through the Sinai Peninsula broke the Egyptian blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba and put Israeli soldiers on the banks of the Suez Canal. In the east, Israel's forces ousted Jordanian troops from the old section of Jerusalem and seized control of all Jordanian territory west of the Jordan River. Finally, Israel captured the Golan Heights, the fortified borderland hills used by Syria to harass Israel's north eastern settlements. Who could have anticipated such a debacle? Indeed, it seemed that the stars in their courses were fighting for Israel.

Yet, as Oren points out in this comprehensive history, Israel, despite its overwhelming success, was still incapable of imposing the peace it craved. Though roundly defeated, the Arabs could still mount a formidable military campaign. The status of territories could be negotiated, but the essential issues – Israel's right to exist, the demand for Palestinian repatriation and statehood – remained. "If the war was indeed a storm that altered the region's landscape, it also exposed the underlying nature of the Arab-Israel conflict – its bedrock. The modern Middle East created in 1967 was therefore a hybrid: a region of incipient promise but also of imminent dangers, a mixture of old contexts and new."

The author, a senior fellow at the Shalem Centre in Jerusalem, makes good use of recently declassified top-secret documents, both in Russian and Arabic, as he explores the war's military and diplomatic dimensions.

How can Israel's victory be explained? Among the reasons Oren offers was the overconfidence – bordering on fantasy – of the Arab leaders at the time. One high Egyptian officer believed that "the destruction of Israel was a child's game that only required the hooking up of a few telephone lines at the commander's house and the writing of victory slogans."

In dealing with the controversy about the Israeli attack on the American ship Liberty in the Mediterranean, which killed 34 and wounded 171, Oren concludes that the attack was a tragic mistake. Israel paid $12 million (US) in compensation to bereaved families and the United States downplayed the embarrassing incident.

In addition to the author's full and insightful account of why and how the war broke out and how it was concluded, there are also colourful portraits of the major personalities involved – Moshe Dayan and Gamal Abdul Nasser, Hafez Assad and Yitzchak Rabin, Lyndon Johnson and Alexei Kosygin.

This well-written, carefully researched and detailed history may convey more information then most readers want. But it is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand how an unprecedented victory 3½ decades ago has led to some of the seemingly intractable problems of today.

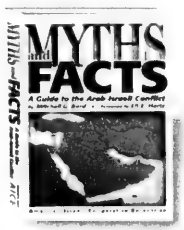
Arms control and the press

MYTH:

Arms control in the Middle East is impossible so long as Israel refuses to give up its nuclear weapons.

FACT:

Israel's assumed nuclear deterrent is an option of last resort, needed to offset the large imbalance in conventional arms, chemical weapons and ballistic missiles possessed by the Arab states. Israel has no incentive to unilaterally attack its neighbours with nuclear weapons whereas the Arabs – as history has shown – have both the capability and motivation to join in a war against Israel.



Arms control must therefore begin with a reduction in Arab military offensive capability. Arab "arms control" proposals have, in essence, only called for Israel to give up nuclear arms without offering anything substantive in return.

MYTH:

Israel gets favourable coverage because American Jews control the media and have disproportionate political influence.

FACT:

If Jews controlled the media, it's not likely you'd hear Jews complaining so much about the anti-Israel bias of the press. It is true that the amount of attention Israel receives is related to the fact that the largest Jewish population in the world is in the United States and that Israel greatly concerns American Jews. Large numbers of Jews do hold significant positions in the media (though they by no means "control" the press as anti-Semites maintain), and the Jewish population is concentrated in major media markets such as New York and Los Angeles, so it is not surprising the spotlight would be directed at Israel.

Politically, Jews wield disproportionate power in the United States and use it to advocate policies that strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship; however, there is no evidence this has translated into favourable press coverage for Israel. It is possible to argue that pro-Arab forces, such as the petrochemical industry, have as much or more influence on the media and encourage an anti-Israel bias.

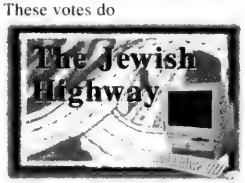
Source: Myths & Facts – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.

Internet warfare 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, we continue our look at how sympathizers of Israel and the Palestinians are using the Internet to sway world opinion on the Mideast conflict.

Some of the most heated battles on the Internet take place at sites that permit online voting. These votes do not have the scientific validity of professional polls that use random sampling of the population. Nevertheless, when large Web sites such as Netscape or CNN hold online polls about the Mideast, advocates on both sides of the conflict fire off e-mails to sympathizers around the world in an attempt to skew the results.



The most famous example occurred last year, when MSNBC.com held a photo-of-the-year contest. One of the pictures in the running depicted the well-known picture, taken Sept. 30, 2000, of a 12-year-old Palestinian boy named Mohamed Al-Dura moments before his death at the Netzarim Junction in the Gaza Strip. MSNBC.com eventually decided to pull the contest because of what it called "electronic ballot stuffing... It became clear that individuals, through technical means, were voting for the same image hundreds, if not thousands, of times" **[http://ojr.usc.edu/content/ejc.cfm?request=671]**.

You can also read an Egyptian take on this controversy at the Al-Ahram Web site **[http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/ 2001/527/re4.htm]**.

Despite MSNBC's experience, online polls are still very popular. A current poll at Netscape asks whether international monitors should be sent to Israel and the Palestinian territories **[http://wp. netscape.com/ex/shak/international/ packages/mideast]**. But as the Web site itself admits, "Netscape polls reflect the views of those who choose to respond and are not scientifically valid surveys."

Another heated online battle is being fought by people who run online petitions. Several Internet sites have sprung up where people can marshal sympathizers in an attempt to influence public opinion. At the Petition Site, about 1,000 people have signed a petition to "Support our Israeli Allies and Stop Terrorism Against Israel" **[http://www. thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/80979 4269]**. Alternatively, there is also a petition to "End Alliance with Israel" which had 1,701 names **[http://www. petitiononline.com/kr50k/]**.

But the petition that has been making headlines lately was started by European academics. In order to protest treatment of the Palestinians, they advocate a boycott of academics affiliated with Israeli universities. According to their Web site, about 700 European professors (and a handful from Israel) have signed a declaration that includes the following statement: "I will attend no scientific conferences in Israel, and I will not participate as referee in hiring or promotion [sic] decisions by Israeli universities" **[http://www.pjpo.org]**.

In response, the Academics Against Boycott Web site was established and it has received the support of approximately 1,500 individuals from around the world who oppose the boycott. The site says, "If anything, academic contacts deserve to be cultivated as they are a proven path both to better science and to better understanding between nations... If one allows the flames of extremism to consume good judgment, the fire may become even harder to put out" **[http://www.aaisc.net/]**.

Of course, boycotts against Israel are not a new phenomenon. The Internet has several sites that advocate boycotting Israeli labels such as Carmel, Elite and Jaffa and international brands like IBM, Starbucks and AOL Time Warner **[http://www.inminds.co.uk/boycottisrael.html]**.

Aside from lending your name to an online petition, there are many opportunities on the Internet to engage in direct debate. Chat rooms and newsgroups allow advocates from both sides to face-off in front of a world audience. Before joining in, I recommend that you lurk (read other people's messages) for a while at **[news:soc.culture.israel]** and **[news:soc.culture.palestine]**.

But be warned: these are not places for the faint of heart. A mix of passion and anonymity combine to create an almost unlimited supply of anger and vitriol.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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U.S. army vet helped liberate Nazi camps

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It's been nearly 60 years since Johnnie Stevens was on active duty in the U.S. army, but he still has the bearing and mindset of a military man.

He carries Purple Heart and Silver Star medals on his chest with pride, and the events of 1944 and 1945 are as vivid for him today as they were when he experienced them.

In April and May 1945, Stevens was a staff sergeant with the 761st Tank Battalion, an all-black fighting unit attached to Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army. As platoon leader, he helped free emaciated Jewish prisoners in German concentration camps. His unit rolled through four such camps in the waning days of World War II.

Stevens was recently reunited with Max Eisen, a Jewish survivor of one of those camps who the sergeant might well have gazed upon in those dramatic days.

As Stevens tells the story, it was near the end of the war, around 11 a.m. one morning in May, when his unit was given a mission to take a designated area in Austria. According to his map co-ordinates, the area was occupied by Wehrmacht (German army) and SS troops, but U.S. forces had no inkling that concentration camps were nearby.

Stevens was well aware of the kind of men he would be fighting. His unit had landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy 10 days after D-Day and had fought its way across France into Germany. They'd participated in the Battle of the Bulge and they'd had plenty of combat experience facing SS forces.

The SS, he said, "were indoctrinated killers… a well-oiled killing machine for the German government. That's what made them so bad."

On that morning in 1945, Stevens' unit, backing up infantry, fought the SS in a village and in the area around Mauthausen. The slave labour camp – Stevens isn't sure which one it was, but subsequent investigation indicates it was probably Ebensee, a satellite camp of Mauthausen – consisted of "long, drab buildings with barbed wire around them."

Inside was a nightmarish scene of walking skeletons and corpses piled up by the hundreds. "One of my men said, 'Hey Sarge, what the hell is that?' I was speechless. I couldn't believe men could be so weak. They couldn't hold their hands up, they were so weak. They couldn't speak.

"Even to battle-hardened soldiers like us, it was a shock. You're used to seeing guys shot, heads blown off, you expect it. But you don't expect to see people like skin and bones."

In May 1945, Max Eisen was a prisoner in the Ebensee labour camp. A native of Moldava, Czechoslovakia, he had been imprisoned in Auschwitz and in January 1945 was forced to take part in the infamous death march into German-occupied Europe.

He recalled his liberation in a conversation with Eli Rubenstein, national director of the March of the Living:

"I was looking at the entrance to the camp," he said. "All of a sudden, the gate came crashing down and a tank rolled through with a white star on it. I saw soldiers on the tank. I know now it was the 809th U.S. infantry division, with black soldiers that were manning the tanks.

"Their eyes were like saucers because they were absolutely shocked by what they saw. I was so happy. I was liberated. The Nazis were not going to kill me anymore."

Sgt. Johnnie Stevens (right) and Holocaust survivor Max Eisen discuss their wartime experiences as film director Fern Levitt looks on.

[Dafna Lorber photo]

Eisen, 73, and Stevens, 82, met for the first time in Toronto at the premiere of *Come Out Fighting: The 761st*, a documentary by filmmaker Fern Levitt (for more on this film, please see David Silverberg's article in the arts section).

He and Eisen spent about an hour together comparing their experiences.

"I learned about the treatment inside the camp. He didn't know we were battling to take the area," Stevens said.

Stevens, the grandson of a slave, believes Jews under Adolf Hitler and the blacks in the U.S. South share a common experience. The racism that led Nazis to murder Jews was similar to the racism of Southern slave owners, who kept their slaves alive only because "they needed them for work," he said.

He's troubled by the recent distancing between U.S. Jews and blacks. "It's difficult for me to understand. The blacks and Jews always got along fine," he said.

"I never could understand what happened with this recent wave of division."

Stevens, who extended his stay in Toronto to participate in the recent March Against Antisemitism, remains sympathetic to the people of Israel.

"I agree with what Israel is doing [in its military operations versus the Palestinian Authority]. The terrorists are trying to put Israel in a state of fear. I admire them for not showing that fear.

"Fanatics dying for a country… to a guy like me, that makes no sense."

Stevens can remember Gen. Patton telling his troops that "the whole thing about dying for your country is a lie. The whole idea is to make the other guy die for your country. Those were true words."

A cypress tree was planted in Jerusalem in honour of Stevens' efforts to liberate Jews and he's addressed many groups on the evils of racism. His message to black kids on the subject of slavery and Jewish kids on hate is the same: "Don't let it happen again. Don't let your guard down, or it will happen again."

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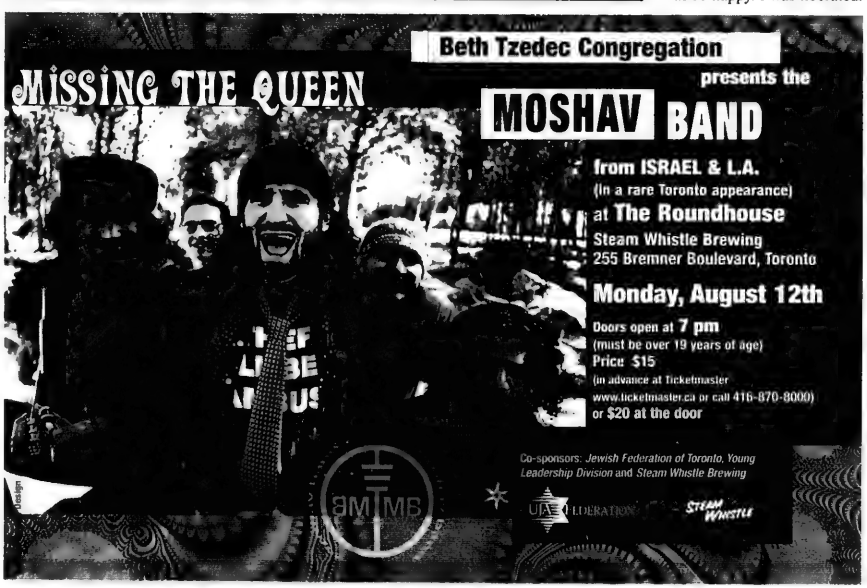


The Officers, Executive and Staff
of
Canadian Jewish Congress,
Ontario Region

wish to extend sincere condolences
to the family of
David Rosenzweig ז"ל
on their tragic loss.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

No more regrets now that school is over

By JASON ROTSTEIN

Maybe it wasn't supposed to happen this way. Life never turns out exactly the way we envision it.

Maybe I wasn't ready to leave school, although I never had an affinity for school and my studies the way some kids do. And it just so happened that when I was starting to feel comfortable in middle school, it came to a close.

Maybe I wasn't ready for high school until it was already upon me. I was just finishing one chapter in my life, while another was abruptly beginning.

Maybe I didn't invest in guidebooks. My conscience was my only guide.

Do you have a fishing line? Maybe that was Grade 9. Maybe that was just me.

Maybe I should have committed myself from day one. But I didn't, because high school wasn't what I had dreamed and we reject what we cannot face.

Maybe I should have listened to my parents the first time they said: "The years of high school are the highest years of your life." I should have yearned for the vast and endless sea and never looked back. Instead, I just let those moments, those days, those months, drift past me.

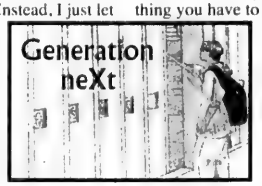
Maybe I began to believe in what the down-and-out used to say: "It's a nightmare." There were long days, those days when I wish I could have appeared before a world-court jury to justify my existence.

Maybe I didn't associate with anyone. What did it matter? I was on my way out.

Do you have a pen? Maybe that was Grade 10. Maybe that was just me.

Maybe I should've known you only get one shot at life. I didn't want to be in control of myself, my own destiny.

Maybe I should have taken those smiles, those brief moments of reprieve, for what they're worth. I didn't manage happiness. I was indolent. Happiness, you know, is something you have to work at on a daily basis.



Maybe I knew that I was stuck here for the long haul, but that meant I was bitter. I would have to sustain, in the place I learned to dread.

Maybe I wasn't quiet. I didn't listen to myself speak.

Maybe I didn't imagine anything would come of it all. Honestly, was this the place in which I would live out my formative years?

Maybe I didn't want to conform to social conventions, but I did it anyway to pass. I was conditioned by my experience.

Do you have a tree of heaven? Maybe that was Grade 11. Maybe that was just me.

Maybe I didn't realize my own potential until it was too late. Forever distracted by all that was going on around me.

Maybe I dabbled in blah and blah and blah, hoping to get stuck in something. It was my lame attempt at being observed.

Maybe I didn't do what I was supposed to do. But what exactly was I supposed to do?

Can I delve? Maybe that was Grade 12. Maybe that was just me.

Maybe this is ponderous. But times change.

Maybe I shouldn't be trying to rhyme. Whatever rhyme is, anyway.

Maybe I didn't maybe... But then again, maybe I did. Maybe, just maybe.

Jason Rotstein has just graduated from Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

REENA MEETING: Seen at the annual meeting of Reena and Reena Foundation are (from left) Howard Ungerman, outgoing chair; Fay Rotman, newly elected chair of Reena; and Frank Simkevitz, chair of Reena Foundation.

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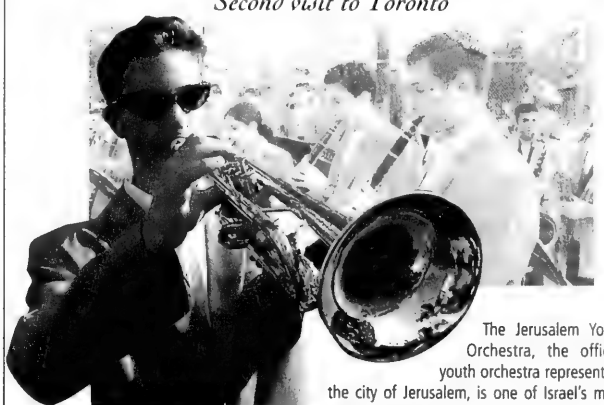

The Jerusalem Youth Orchestra, the official youth orchestra representing the city of Jerusalem, is one of Israel's most celebrated youth ensembles. Comprised of 45 young people reflecting the diversity of Jerusalem's Jewish population (olim hadahsim, traditionally observant and secular), these talented youth have performed for the Israel Knesset, on Israel Television and to audiences in Europe and North America. Several of its members have pursued musical careers in prestigious academies and orchestras.

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Coast to Coast

Pro-Palestinian library exhibit sparks controversy in Windsor

By RON STANG
Special to The CJN

WINDSOR, Ont. — The Windsor Public Library is reviewing the way it handles community exhibits after it received complaints about a pro-Palestinian one held on its premises in May, but the library's chief executive said principles of intellectual freedom will continue to be upheld.

Steven Salmons said he had received complaints from a family in the city's Jewish community about the exhibit, titled Palestine, The Great Injustice, which was displayed in the library's community window at its main branch downtown from May 9 to 24.

In addition, a letter to the editor in the *Windsor Star*, from a person who identified herself as a non-Jew, criticized the library for allowing an exhibit that "glorified" suicide bombings.

Letter-writer Dawn Markovic said the exhibit also attributed a "horrendous" quote to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, "although there is no proof of this. I know, I checked."

Harvey Kessler, executive director of the Windsor Jewish Federation and Community Centre, said he has spoken with library officials and he hope it will issue new guidelines governing such exhibits.

"That would certainly satisfy us, if [the library] has guidelines and they're enforced in the future."

Kessler called the exhibit "offensive" and said "some people viewed it as probably being propaganda and hateful towards our community."

The window, a display case on the library's first floor, is used by various organizations to display everything from arts and crafts to potentially controversial exhibits from anti-abortion and animal rights groups. The Jewish community itself has used it for Holocaust Remembrance Week.

Salmons said it's the first time an exhibit has generated controversy. He said complaints centred around the fact the exhibit was considered "anti-Semitic" and that the library shouldn't be involved in "sensitive, controversial, political issues."

He said he didn't know if the exhibit was anti-Semitic. "That's probably a question best brought to the Jewish community."

The library's concern is whether it "was... a hate crime. We didn't think it went over the line."

Staff-Sgt. Ed McNorton, of the Windsor Police Service said his department's street crimes unit carried out an investigation and forwarded the results to the Crown Attorney's office, which determined "there was nothing there that would lead to a successful prosecution, so no charges."

Salmons said "clearly there was an element of propaganda" to the exhibit and "because it was presented by the Arab community, it had a singular perspective... that's not to be unexpected from any community group's display."

But he said it's the job of the library to uphold the right to express controversial ideas, based on principles of intellectual freedom adopted by groups such as the Ontario Library Association and UNESCO's public library manifesto.

Salmons said it's "not for the library to decide truth, but to allow for an open debate and exchange of ideas and allow people to come to their own ideas of truth."

The controversy has led the library to review how it handles exhibits. Salmons said a new set of guidelines for window exhibits will be ready by September.

As part of those new guidelines, he said, community groups will be told "the point and purpose of the window" and the kinds of visual material that "make a good exhibit." He added that the public would also be informed that the exhibits do not represent the view of the library, and that names of sponsoring organizations should be clear and contact phone numbers and addresses provided.

For its part, the group that sponsored the exhibit, the Arab-Canadian Association of Windsor, denied accusations that it glorified suicide bombings.

Spokesperson Kifah Jawab said there "was nothing like that," though pictures of children in refugee camps were shown.

Jawab said the exhibit had three purposes: to show "the injustice" suffered by Palestinians since the 1940s,when "people living in a land for years are just driven away for no fault of their own;" to highlight UN resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories; and to showcase the contributions of the 5,000-member local Arab community to the Windsor area.

Israeli consulate set to close

Continued from page 1

Joseph Gabay, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, (CJC-Q) shared that sentiment.

"Montreal is unique in terms of the Israeli presence," he said, referring not only to the high level of pro-Israel commitment in the Jewish community, but also to the unique bilateral relationship between Quebec and Israel, including a 1997 entente highlighted by a series of scientific, cultural and academic exchanges.

Gabay also said other communities in Canada are working to keep the consulate open.

Avital, who took on his diplomatic duties in the fall of 1999, said he was surprised by the decision to close the consulate, but not shocked by it, in light of Israel's being under intense economic constraints and pressure to cut 10 per cent from its budget.

He said the consulate has received "dozens and dozens" of telephone calls from members of the public upset by the news.

According to Rabbi Reuben Poupko, the consulate deserves to stay open, although he was not optimistic.

"The best way we can make a case for Israel in Quebec, for Jews and non-Jews alike, is with the presence of a consulate," he said.

In 1998, community leader Charles Bronfman, a longtime supporter of Israel's Labour party and a friend of Peres, intervened personally when the consulate was threatened with closure. There was an unconfirmed report that this time, Peres called Bronfman to inform him of the proposed closure.

Yoram Dori, a media advisor to Peres, told *The CJN* from Jerusalem that he could not "confirm or deny" the possibility. Abitbol noted, however, that Bronfman was in Israel at about the same time the consulate closing was announced.

The loss of the Israeli consulate would mean that Canada would be left with two diplomatic missions in Canada – the consulate in Toronto and the embassy in Ottawa. Avital said the embassy would take over responsibilities for Montreal and eastern Canada.

In a letter sent last week to Peres, Quebec International Relations Minister Louise Beaudoin pleaded with him to reconsider, referring to the "singular role this Israeli diplomatic post has played in serving the principal francophone community on this continent."

However, the greatest impact of the consulate's closure, Gabay said, is likely to be felt at the community level.

It has been almost unheard of to have a community event where the Israeli consul general is not present. The consulate has also held a special significance for the Jewish community's Sephardi population of 20,000 in francophone Quebec.

Yaffa Ben-Ari, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, said in an interview from Jerusalem that it was as hard for the ministry to close the eight missions as it was for the missions themselves to hear the news, but there are few options in light of the slashed budgets.

The other missions set for closure included the Israeli embassies in Panama City, Minsk, Harare and Wellington, and the consulates in Rio de Janeiro, Marseille, and Sydney. Earlier in the year, Israel also shut its embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay. The closures would reportedly save the Israeli government $13.5 million.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דער גאַסן־זינגער פון לאָדזשער געטאָ

(30 יאָר נאָך זיין טויט) — פון העניע ריינהאַרץ

אין מענדל גראָסמאַנס בוך *„מיט אַ פאָטאָגראַפיש אַפּאַראַט אין געטאָ"* געפינט זיך אַ פאָטאָגראַפיע פון פּאָפּולערן גאַסן־זינגער פון לאָדזשער געטאָ, **יאַנקעלע הערשקאָוויטש**. ער שטייט אַרומגערינגלט פון אַ גרופּע געטאָ־איינוווינער, אַלע מיט געלע לאַטעס, אַלע אויסגעמאָגערטע, אָבער אַלע מיט אַ שמייכל אויפן פּנים. אַלע הערן זיך צו צו יאַנקעלעס געטאָ־באַלאַדעס, וואָס שפּיגלען אָפּ דאָס לעבן אין געטאָ, לאַכן אָפּ טייל מאָל און קריטיקירן די געטאָ־מושלים.

יאַנקעלע הערשקאָוויטש איז געווען אַ באַקאַנטע פיגור אין געטאָ. זיין ליד וועגן רומקאָווסקין, דעם „עלטסטן פון די יידן", מיטן רעפריין: „רומקאָווסקי חיים האָט גיט געטראַכט, / געאַרבעט שווער ביי טאָג ביי נאַכט, / געמאַכט אַ דיעטאָ מיט אַ געטאָ, / און ער שרייט געוואַלט ער איז גערעכט", האָט די גאַנצע געטאָ געזונגען. יאַנקעלע פלעגט אַליין באַמערקן און אויף אַליין קאָמענטירן. זיין בינע איז געווען די גאַס, שטענדיק גרייט אים אויפצונעמען מיט אַפּלאָדיסמענטן.

יאַנקעלע הערשקאָוויטש איז געבוירן געוואָרן אין אָפּט, קעלצער געגנט, דעם 22סטן יולי **1910**. זיין טאַטע, אַ שניידער, האָט ניט געהאַט קיין מעגלעכקייט אויסצובילדן זיין זון. יאַנקעלע פלעגט מיטפאָרן מיטן טאַטן אויף מערק פאַרקויפן דעם טאַטנס סחורה. זיין טאַטע האָט ליב געהאַט צו זינגען ביי דער אַרבעט און פון אים האָט יאַנקעלע מסתמא זיך אויסגעלערנט יידישע לידער און שפּעטער אַליין אָנגעהויבן שרייבן.

ווען מען האָט געברענגט די יידן פון די שטעטלעך אין לאָדזשער געטאָ, איז יאַנקל מיט זיין משפּחה אויך געקומען און באַלד געוואָרן דער געטאָ־זינגער. אין **1944**, נאָך דער ליקווידאַציע פון געטאָ איז ער אָנגעקומען קיין אוישוויץ און דאָ אויך געשאַפן און געזונגען זיינע לידער. ער איז באַפרייט געוואָרן דעם 2טן מאַי **1945**, צוריקגעקומען קיין לאָדזש און געוואָרן אַן אַקטיווער קאָמוניסט. דעם 7טן מאַרץ **1972** איז ער באַגאַנגען זעלבסמאָרד דורך פאַרגאַזן זיך אויף זיין אַרבעטספּלאַץ.

כ'האָב זיך דערמאָנט וועגן יאַנקעלען ניט לאַנג צוריק, ווען איך האָב באַקומען אַ דיסק פון יהודה מיט זיינע **11** לידער. דער אָריגינעלער דיסק איז, ווייזט אויס, געמאַכט געוואָרן אין פוילן נאָך דער מלחמה, ווייל פאַר יעדן ליד איז דאָ אַ קורצער אַריינפיר אויף פויליש. ס'קען זיין, אַז אַ טייל פון די לידער האָט הערשקאָוויטש געשריבן נאָך דער מלחמה, ווייל נאָר עטלעכע לידער האָב איך געפונען אין דער זאַמלונג פון זיינע לידער, וואָס איז אַרויס אין פאַריז אין **1994**. די טעמעס שפּיגלען אַזוי קלאָר אָפּ יעדן פּרט פון געטאָ לעבן, ווי דאָס וואָלט נאָר וואָס געשען.

אָט באַשרייבט ער אין אַ ליד „דער הונגערמאַרש" די אומרוען און דעמאָנסטראַציעס פון זומער **1940**. אַ שרעקלעכער הונגער האָט געהערשט אין געטאָ און די פּאָליטישע פּאַרטייען האָבן אָרגאַניזירט דעמאָנסטראַציעס קעגן רומקאָווסקין, וועלכער האָט זיך דאַן געניטיקט אין זייער אונטערשטיצונג און ער האָט געעפנט קיכן פאַר דער געטאָ באַפעלקערונג. יאַנקעלע זינגט אַן אָדע צו ברויט און קאַרטאָפל — אַ טרוים פאַר אַלע געטאָ יידן.

אין ליד „דרייסיק דעקאָ ברויט" באַשרייבט ער די געטאָ ווי „אַ צוים פון דראָטן אָן אַ טיר". יעדעס ליד איז אַ קריטיק און אַ קאָמענטאַר וועגן אַן אַספּעקט פון געטאָ לעבן, וועגן די געטאָ פירער און זייערע געהילפן. ער זינגט וועגן דער קאָרופּציע פון די געטאָ־באַאַמטע און לאַכט אָפּ פון דער יידישער פּאָליציי. גאָרנישט מיידט אויס זיין אויג און זיין אויער.

ווען איך האָב די לידער געהערט צום ערשטן מאָל בין איך געווען איבעראַשט פון די געטאָ־בילדער, וואָס זיינען אויפגעשווימען אין מיין זכרון. די שפּראַך איז אַ פּשוטע, געזונגען אין זאַפטיקן לאָדזשער דיאַלעקט. יאַנקעלע הערשקאָוויטשעס לידער זיינען אַ וויכטיקער דאָקומענט און ער געהערט זיכער צו די כראָניקערס פון לעבן אין לאָדזשער געטאָ.

Coast to Coast

Monitoring the northern frontier

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Rarely a day goes by in Israel without a media report warning about the threat of conflict erupting between Israel and Syria along Israel's Lebanese border.

Some foreign media are also starting to pick up on this danger. On July 20, the *Sunday Times* reported that Syria's president, Bashar Assad, has ignored two separate warnings from Israel sent via the United States to end Syria's support of Iranian-backed Hezbollah and extremist Palestinian groups based in Damascus.

The paper quoted Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka, Israel's outgoing director of military intelligence, who warns that "sooner rather than later, we'll be engaged in a conflict with Syria unless Syria changes its attitude." This attitude – one of reckless belligerence – was recently explored in detail by defence analyst Gal Luft in last week's *CJN* (*The three sins of Damascus*). It is required reading for anyone who wants to understand the terribly risky game Assad is playing as he continues to provoke Israel by supporting Hezbollah in Lebanon.

UN Security Council Resolution 425 calls for "strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries." In May 2000, Israel unilaterally withdrew its forces from south Lebanon, leaving its northern communities vulnerable to cross-border terrorist attacks. In contrast, Syria continues to defy Resolution 425 through its occupation and control of Lebanon, even while Syria sits as a non-permanent member on the UN Security Council.

Syrian-supported Hezbollah has established itself as the de facto power in southern Lebanon, much to Lebanon's dismay. As noted in the *National Post* editorial titled *Insecurity Council* (July 22), Assad recently sent tanks and 100 heavily laden military trucks into Lebanon to bolster his bases there, as well as to underscore Syria's support for Hezbollah, "one of the most dangerous terrorist groups in the world."

Resolution 425 calls for the UN's interim force for southern Lebanon (UNIFIL) to "assist" the Lebanese government to exercise its "effective authority" in the area. However, the UN has apparently acquiesced in the Hezbollah-Syrian takeover. The proof? Israeli soldiers have reported seeing Hezbollah's flag flying alongside the UN flag at a UN border post.

Oddly, this occurs at the same time as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has issued a report on UNIFIL in which, along with Hezbollah, he criticizes the Lebanese government for failing to deploy its forces in the south: "Hezbollah's commitment to the launching of hostile attacks across the Blue Line [demarcating the Israel-Lebanon border] and the Lebanese government's unwillingness to fulfill its commitment to ensure full respect of the Blue Line contravenes Security Council decisions," Annan notes. Not unexpectedly, Faisal Mekdad, Syria's deputy ambassador to the UN, has staunchly criticized Annan's report.

Correction: In this column of July 4, the reference to the number of Iranian-supplied rockets to Hezbollah should have read "approximately 8,000," not "800,000."

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee..

Judge rejects appeal in Roma hate case

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – An Ontario judge has dismissed a Crown appeal in a case involving a group of skinheads who were charged with promoting hatred against Roma (Gypsy) immigrants.

The decision upholds the acquittal of four adults and two youths who were charged in the case. In August 1997, the men had paraded in front of the Lido Motel in Scarborough carrying signs saying, "Honk if you hate Gypsies" and "Canada is not a garbage can." They also carried a Nazi swastika and a Confederate flag and some were seen giving the Nazi straight arm salute.

In an oral judgement from the bench, Judge Eugene Ewaschuk rejected the Crown's contention the trial judge should either have taken judicial notice that Roma and Gypsy are different names for the same group or permitted the crown to re-open the case and bring evidence to that effect.

Ewaschuk said he might have done so had he been the trial judge, but he declined to interfere with Judge Russell Otter's discretionary decision not to do so.

During the trial, Otter ruled there was no evidence before him proving the six men promoted hatred against Roma. Evidence at trial indicated only that their signs and statements were aimed at Gypsies, he said.

Otter's decision outraged the Roma Community and Advocacy Centre (RCAC), which argued at the time it was widely known that "Gypsy" is considered a synonymous – and pejorative – term for Roma.

"I wouldn't think it would be necessary, if this sign had said Negroes, to prove that Negroes meant blacks. I don't see why the connection even had to be made," RCAC spokesperson Ronald Lee said.

Ewaschuk also ruled the trial judge erred in not allowing Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region, to give expert evidence on racist groups. But Ewaschuk concluded that was not in itself sufficient to require a new trial.

Crown counsel Jamie Klukach said government lawyers are considering whether to appeal Ewaschuk's decision to the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Farber said Ewaschuk's decision, if it stands, "would have a very negative affect on minority communities, who want to believe the law is there to protect them."

Farber said the trial judge's decision rested on a single word – meaning that, in effect, the charges were thrown out on a technicality.

Farber also questioned the judge's decision to reject him as an expert witness, saying he has testified many times on similar issues.

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Coast to Coast

OSCE resolution condemns anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

On July 8, Sen. Jerry Grafstein mounted the podium in the reconstructed Reichstag building in Berlin. For the Toronto senator, it was a moment charged with conflicting emotions.

On the one hand, he was proud to be speaking in the German parliament in favour of a resolution designed to counter the growing anti-Semitic violence within the 55 OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) countries.

On the other, he knew he was standing only a few feet away from the spot where Adolf Hitler announced in January 1939 that should war break out, it would lead to the annihilation of European Jewry.

"History plays strange tricks on us," Grafstein said. "It was a very emotional experience when I consider where I was standing, what I was saying.

"I felt there was a deep irony to stand in the Reichstag and ask for a resolution condemning anti-Semitism. I had very mixed emotions about the historical irony about that."

Grafstein delivered his speech at the 11th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in support of an American-drafted resolution whose terms referred to "the alarming escalation of anti-Semitic violence throughout the OSCE region."

The resolution, which was passed unanimously, urged all states "to make public statements recognizing violence against Jews and Jewish cultural properties as anti-Semitic, as well as to issue strong, public declarations condemning the depredations."

It also urged member states to hold follow-up seminars to explore effective measures against anti-Semitism "and to ensure laws and regulations conform with relevant commitments to combat it."

The resolution is part of the Berlin Declaration and is the official OSCE policy, on par with such noted human rights documents as the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The resolution will proceed from the parliamentary wing of the OSCE to the government wing, where it will be implemented, said Grafstein, who serves as treasurer of the parliamentary wing.

The OSCE is the largest regional security organization in the world, including states from Europe, Central Asia and North America. It is active in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

Grafstein, who co-sponsored a June rally at Queen's Park against anti-Semitism, said the rise of European anti-Semitism has had a profound impact on Jewish communities there. While in Berlin, he and his wife Carol visited a 100-year-old synagogue where they marked his father-in-law's yahrzeit.

Any distinctively Jewish decorations or wording had been removed from the building's facade – as has been the case with Jewish institutional buildings across Europe – and visitors had to pass through a screening process implemented by a private Israeli security firm.

Outside the building, German police provided a foot patrol.

Even in Denmark, whose king and citizens helped save most of the country's Jewish population during World War II, anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head, Grafstein said. The senator noted that a visiting soccer team from Tel Aviv was attacked and beaten on the field during a recent exhibition game.

Grafstein said Jewish parliamentarians he has met from Hungary, Italy and South Africa agree that last summer's anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, in which delegates openly espoused anti-Semitic views, has contributed to the current climate.

Canada has not remained immune to the scourge. In his Reichstag address, Grafstein pointed out that in the past year, "four synagogues have been scorched or burned, more than at any time in our entire history. In Canada, more than two incidents of anti-Semitism per day have been collated this past spring."

The Toronto synagogue in which he worships, Beth Tzedec, is imposing a $75 fee on members in order to subsidize security measures. The attacks on synagogues "infringes my freedom to worship as a Canadian," Grafstein said, a situation he called outrageous.

While Canada has experienced a major rise in anti-Semitic incidents, civil society has remained largely silent, he continued. "I heard a huge outcry from the churches about Israel's actions in recent months, but I haven't heard a huge outcry in Canada about anti-Semitic incidents from government leaders, community leaders and church leaders.

"The silence has been deafening."

Grafstein said he plans to ask the Senate to refer the anti-Semitism question to a standing committee, who will be asked to investigate the current situation in Canada and suggest steps that can be taken to ameliorate it.

"Which is the right course that a man should choose for himself? That which is an honour to him who does it and which also brings him honour from mankind"
Pirkei Avot" chapter II, verse I

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On Campus

U of T grad joins mission to visit Jews of Cuba

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Elisheva Gould was one of 12 Canadian Jews who recently went to Cuba to work alongside the local Jewish community.

"The goal was to help them [Cubans] be more self-sufficient. To teach them, so they could teach others and be progressive," said Gould, 23, a recent University of Toronto graduate sent on the trip by Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto.

The idea for the 10-day mission came from Israel Pupko, who is originally from Mexico and is now the Israeli shaliach to Canadian Young Judaea.

"We felt we could meet face to face and cater to the needs of the community [in Cuba]. We wanted to work side by side, engage the community and share our resources," said Rachel Lasry, 28, international program director at Ve'ahavta, a Canadian Jewish humanitarian and relief organization, which spearheaded the trip with Canadian Young Judaea.

Other trip sponsors included the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, Canada-Israel Experience, Canadian Jewish Congress, Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

For the first three days, the group worked with 100 local Cuban Jews at a camp sponsored by the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), which sponsors relief, rescue and reconstruction programs.

The Canadians helped by implementing programs, taking their directions from the Spanish-speaking counsellors sent by the JDC.

Gould admitted that the language barrier made it tough for everyone, but "it [the camp] was amazing at the same time."

"Jews came from all over Cuba. [Their] level of Jewish knowledge was different," Gould said. "Most didn't know how to pray. [But] they came to camp wanting to learn and know more.

"They know there are other Jews out there. They're so starved for Jewish contact and sense of community. This is one of only a few organized things. They don't take it for granted."

At the camp, they danced to Israeli songs, celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, taught about Jewish holidays and had, as Gould described it, "an amazing Friday night kabalat [Shabbat] ceremony."

She said the most moving experience of the trip was their work in two Jewish cemeteries, one Ashkenazi, the other Sephardi, both on the outskirts of Havana in a mainly Afro-Cuban neighbourhood. Years of neglect, underfunding, vandalism, grave robbing and trespassing have left the cemeteries in shambles.

The Canadian group, who ranged in age from 20-30, found many tombstones smashed and a variety of items inside the above-ground, hollow cement monuments.

Gould said the local population practises a form of Santeria, a Caribbean-based religion whose followers believe in spirits, sacrificing, magic and voodoo.

"It was really intense and traumatic," she said about finding voodoo dolls, chicken bones, coconut shells, and on one occasion, a human femur inside the hollow stones.

When asked if she thinks the grave desecration is anti-Semitic, she said, "It's kind of a tough call. It probably doesn't come from anti-Semitism. Jews just have a special [different from Santeria] sense of traditional burial rights and respect for their dead."

But it's still troubling to see grave robbing in a Jewish cemetery, she added.

Gould had previously visited Jewish cemeteries in Poland, Ukraine and other European countries on the March of the Living and on another sponsored mission to Ukraine that she participated in when she was a student at Hebrew University.

Many of the graves in the two cemeteries date back to the period around 1945, when there were 25,000 Jews on the island. However, a variety of political factors, including the ascent to power of Fidel Castro's revolutionary government in 1959, have weakened the Jewish community and the population has dwindled to 1,200.

The Communist government didn't believe in religion and there was, and still is, a lack of money for shuls and Jewish programs. Many Jews fled; others intermarried and became assimilated, the Canadians learned.

"Down there, Jewish can mean [your] father is [Jewish], or grandmother is," said Lasry

She estimates that 98 per cent of the population is intermarried, but added that recently, many of the non-Jews who have married a Jew end up converting to Judaism.

She said every six months a rabbi is flown in from Mexico to do about 50 or 60 conversions. "I heard stories of a man as old as 60 getting a bris."

In 1992, the Cuban government officially changed from an atheist state to a secular one. This benefited the community, Lasry said.

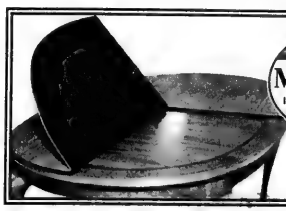
The Canadian group worked alongside local Cubans at weekend camp. Seen here are JDC worker Mara Steiner (left), Elisheva Gould, a young Cuban camper and Rachel Lasry. Left photo: Volunteers gaze at two voodoo dolls removed from Jewish graves in a cemetery in Cuba. The group found many tombstones smashed and the entire cemetery in bad shape.

"Cuba has become secular and Jews are allowed to express themselves, get together and flourish," she said, adding that previously, shuls were used for many things, including as a gymnasium.

Nonetheless, Gould said the community, like most Cubans, is still quite poor. She said that, thanks to donations from Israel's Book Store, Negev Book Store and Miriam's Book Store, her group was able to bring books, school supplies, toys and even a tallit and kippot with them on the trip.

Lasry said they still need many items and Gould said that most importantly, they want close personal relationship with other Jews.

"The more the better," Gould said.



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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, Aug. 6, is deadline for Aug. 15 issue and Monday, Aug, 12, is deadline for Aug. 22. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416 - 391-1836, fax 416- 391-0829.

Sunday, Aug. 4

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, discusses *Number Our Days* by **Barbara Meyerhoff** at 1:45 p.m. at North York Community Centre, 505 Lawrence Ave. W. (basement). **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

Tuesday, Aug. 6

DR. W. FILDERMAN LODGE

Dr. W. Filderman B'nai Brith Lodge (for Romanian speaking people) invites lodge members and friends to its monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m.at B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Program: Age & Memory: An Insight, with speaker **Liana Radian**, followed by the movie *Hershola*, a musical comedy with **Mike Burstin.**

Thursday, Aug. 8

SIMCHA DANCING

Celebrate Rosh Chodesh Elul with Simcha Dancing at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres., at 7:30 p.m. For women and girls. Bring a non-perishable kosher item for the community food bank. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

And What Else Is New

HEBREW COURSE AT U OF T

This fall, the department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto will offer a new course in modern Hebrew literature in translation, titled Faith and Doubt in Modern Hebrew Poetry (NMC 352Y). Some of the poets to be studied are **Leah Goldberg, Avraham Shlonsky,** and **Yehuda Amichai**. This full-year course will meet Wednesdays from 2-4 p.m. and will be taught by **Sharon Green**. Registration is limited. Call 416-978-3306.

FAMILY SHABBAT

Saturday, Aug. 10 at 9 a.m. at Adath Sholom Synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Guest speaker is **Karen Mock,** executive director, Canadian Race Relations Foundation. Topic: Racism and Anti-Semitism in Canada Today. Kiddush follows.

GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

The International Conference on Jewish Genealogy meets Aug. 4-9 at the Sheraton Centre. Lectures, presentations, food, arts and entertainment. Exhibits include art, photographs, exhibits and music from our Jewish past. Conference culminates in a gala banquet Thurs., Aug. 8, with guest speaker **Irving Abella**. Music provided by klezmer band Beyond the Pale. **Jerry Tepperman**, conference chair, public relations committee. 905-882-2259.

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am is holding an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service Friday, Aug. 9, at 7 p.m. 416-633-5500.

PERSONAL CARE SERVICES

SPLC (St. Paul's Seniors Centre) Living Well Personal Care Services – personal care, companion service, homemaking, in home/hospital, in retirement/nursing homes, escort/ medical appointments, now available from SPLC at the Bernard Betel Centre. For more information, call **Linda Hong**. 416-493-3333, ext. 223, or drop in at the SPLC office, Mondays and Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Bernard Betel Centre.

Continued on page 21

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LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. Have a great one. **AD#1132**

FUN & COMPASSION
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel. **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

LET'S MEET
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, single parent w/ 12yr old son. A vivacious, lively, ambitious, hard working woman, she enjoys life, country walks, hiking, swimming, dancing, dining out, please respond. **AD#1421**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call. **AD#1260**

MR WONDERFUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", with brown hair & eyes. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun. Seeking a Jewish traditionalist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams. **AD#1248**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male. **AD#1148**

POSITIVE OUTLOOK
Single female, 65 yrs old, fun loving classical. Enjoys travel, heart music, dancing, outdoors, candlelight, wine, romantic places, has positive outlook on life. Seeks a complimentary man for long lasting for long lasting relationship. **AD#1036**

SMART 'n SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish female 64 yr old, smart, spontaneous, compassionate & has good sense of humour. Seeks 65-75yrs male who's active, handsome, loving & kind who is ready to share loving relationship. **AD#1071**

LOVES TO LAUGH
Debra is 46 yrs old, a single mom w/ 2 grown children and enjoys movies, dining, travelling, live theatre. She also enjoys doing home decorating and seeks a fun loving, easy going guy who loves to talk & laugh. Give her a call. **AD#1111**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
She's down to earth, professional, independent & fun loving is seeking a male who shares the same qualities for a companion first and see how it goes from there. **AD#1124**

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy is Jewish, in her 50's and attractive. She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes. She's sophisticated, sexy, warm, compassionate, sensuous and loves life. She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs, preferably tall, non smoking, sweet, kind hearted & well groomed. If you think you're a match, leave her a message. **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman, loves to travel & meet new people. She enjoys theatre and sports, and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old. **AD#1405**

SEXY, SOPHISTICATED
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche. I'm 59-69 yrs, a non smoker, who's kind w/ good qualities. I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's, and I love life & dancing. I'm compassionate & sensuous. Call me. **AD#1159**

YOUNG AT HEART
I'm 50+ yrs young, slim, brown hair & eyes, and non smoking. I love animals, long walks, movies, dancing and dining. I have no children living at home and seek a gentleman between 60-67 yrs young for friendship and conversation. I hope to hear from you soon. **AD#1236**

HARD WORKING GAL
Attractive, down to earth and friendly female. She's 40 yrs old, a hard worker, and never been married. She enjoys movies, dining & dancing and seeks an attractive, friendly, down to earth, hard working male between 40-49 yrs, for a serious, long term relationship. Please call & leave a message. **AD#1387**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
41 yr old, single, professional woman. She enjoys a variety of interests ranging from the intellectual to the creative & physical. Seeking an intelligent, considerate family oriented man who's serious about getting serious. If this is you, please leave a message and she'll be sure to call. **AD#1225**

LET'S LIVE IT UP, EH?
Single female with hazel eyes, reddish hair, seeks love & laughter. She enjoy ballroom dancing, theatre, walks in the park. Looking for a non-smoker gentleman, who's 69+ yrs., 5' 8", with similar interests and more. **AD#1197**

men seeking women

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges. Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1316**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise, please leave a message. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. If this is you, leave him a message. **AD#1053**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message. **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1061**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. Leave him a message. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 48 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING
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What's New

Continued from page 20

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the Palliative Care Unit at Baycrest Centre. Training and supervision provided. Languages needed are-Hungarian, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese and Mandarin. Please call **Janis** at 416-785-2500, ext. 2575 for further information and to set up an October appointment.

BE A PUPPETEER

The Concerned Kids needs agile, outgoing volunteers with a dramatic flair to help present interactive puppet programs to young people ages 4-14. Must be willing to commit ½ day per week for the school year from September 2002 to June 2003. Call **Joyce** or **Livia** at 416-636-1656.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave. Registration is now open for fall courses for adults, teenagers and pre-teens in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Courses run Tuesday mornings, Sept.10-Dec. 10; Wednesday mornings, Sept. 11-Dec. 11; Thursdays, Sept. 12-Dec. 12, mornings and evenings; and Friday mornings Sept. 13-Dec. 13. **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz**. Sunday morning minyan 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford Public School). **David** 416-256-1600.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call the office 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Aug. 1, video movie; Aug. 8, sing-along with **Yitzchak Aragaman**; Aug. 15, lecture by **Hassida David**; Aug. 22, bingo; Aug. 29, out for a picnic. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Casino Rama Aug. 14, 28; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Bingo 1 p.m.every Tuesday. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Fun With Yiddish – stories, jokes, anecdotes, watch videos, hear speakers and more, Thursday, Aug. 1, at 1 p.m. Volunteer facilitator **Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky**. Contact **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Low Vision Interest Group, Session 1, You and Your Eyes, presented by **Victor Liang**, vision rehabilitation worker. Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Music and the Jewish Soul: Programs coming this fall: Teen Band (ages 10-17), Sundays 3:15-5 p.m.; Hava Nashira: sing the music of Israel Mondays at noon; women's chorus every 2nd Monday, 8-9:30 p.m.; Shlomo Carlebach & Beyond Chorus Tuesday evenings.

Study art with Annex artist **Sally Glanville.** Intro to Drawing and Painting, Mondays 7-9 p.m.; Art Appreciation: 6 great artists, 6 great styles, Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Folk dancing at the BJCC. ext. 364.

Mondays-Israeli: New beginners class 8-9 p.m. Intermediate class-levels 1-9-10:30 p.m., starting Sept. 23.

Tuesdays-Israeli (ongoing all year): Intermediate Level 2, 8-9 p.m. Intermediate/Advanced 9-11 p.m.

Wednesdays-International 8-10:30 p.m starting Sept. 18.

All classes held in the Studio Theatre, Leah Posluns Theatre.

School fun for your 2 and 3-year-olds. Limited Tic Tac Two spaces available and for nursery. Curriculum, includes Jewish holidays, music, fun centre gym (and Hebrew instruction for nursery children). Ext. 248.

55-Plus, department of adult services, Lunch 'N Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, Aug. 2, noon to 1 p.m., Room 202. Bring your own lunch. Coffee, tea to be served.

The Koffler Centre of the Arts announces the opening of the Academy of Ballet and Jazz at the BJCC. New artistic director is **Nadia Veselova-Tencer**, a graduate of the Kirov Ballet. Fall registration now open. Ext. 258 or 271.

The Royal Conservatory of Music joins the Koffler Centre of the Arts, School of Music. Register now for fall classes. Ext. 228.

TORAH DEDICATION: Members and friends of Congregation Shir Libeynu recently gathered for a Torah dedication in downtown Toronto.

TRIBUTE BRUNCH: The Dr. Abraham Shore Academy She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre, recently held its annual tribute brunch in support of Jewish children with learning disabilities. Pictured here are this year's honorees Sandy Brown (left) and Gerry Goldberg. [Warren Liebmann photo]

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91-year-old reflects on life as a pharmacy pioneer

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Beth Sky has the distinction of receiving an award as the only surviving graduate of the University of Toronto's pharmacy class of 1932.

The active 91-year-old former pharmacist was presented with a gold medallion of the Chancellor's Circle at a recent ceremony at the U of T's Hart House.

The following day, she received a certificate of distinction on the 70th anniversary of her graduation from the Ontario College of Pharmacy at a dinner at the Delta Chelsea Hotel.

Interviewed in her north Toronto condominium, Sky, who believes she was the first Jewish woman in Ontario to graduate in pharmacy, spoke to *The CJN* of the many changes that have taken place in her profession.

Born in Toronto, she attended Harbord Collegiate. She says she became interested in pharmacy "when, as a child, I became impressed watching Manny Starkman, who then worked at a drug store on Dundas at Palmerston Avenue."

She recalls that she "had a very hard time finding work, because at that time, they didn't like women in pharmacy, particularly, they didn't want a Jewish person."

But the former Beth Kates didn't give up. While apprenticing at a store at 87 Yonge St., she met a young pharmacist, Norman Sky, at a dance at Casa Loma. He invited her to complete her apprenticeship at a pharmacy that he and his brother, Jack, operated at Bloor and Clinton streets.

She accepted and the move greatly affected her future. She married Jack in 1930.

"He used to kibitz with me that it was cheaper to marry me than to pay me $4 a week."

She continued to work with her husband, who had graduated from pharmacy in 1929, at his store at Davenport Road and Uxbridge Avenue after the brothers each opened their own pharmacies.

Sky, who still drives her car, says much has changed since she graduated.

"Today, there are many women and ethnic people working as pharmacists. And pharmacists must know much more than back then – there are so many new products now."

She adds that things are less personal today. "Years ago, customers were like friends. And the small corner pharmacy is becoming obsolete."

Sky's attractive home is filled with photographs of her two daughters, Florence Pape and Linda Grossman, and their families – five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Her husband Jack died six years ago and she speaks with pain of the death of a granddaughter, Paula Lipson.

"I have lived through many things in my life," she says. "I am proud to say that my children and their children are all university graduates."

Beth Sky and her husband Jack, at their 65th wedding anniversary in 1995. At left: Sky's graduation picture, taken in 1932.

The nonagenarian says she has slowed down somewhat, "but I am enjoying my life with my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Pape, a former teacher, describes her mother as an ingenious and thrifty woman, and says her sense of humour is legendary.

A movie buff, Sky recently told her children that she would have no problem if actor Richard Gere wished to park his shoes under her bed.

"To tell you about our mother would probably take in excess of 91 years," Pape says.

New journal for geriatricians launched

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A new, local medical periodical was founded recently by Michael Gordon, primarily for physicians responsible for patients over 50.

The publication, called *Journal of Geriatric Care*, appeared for the first time this past winter and will be published every two months in Thornhill.

Gordon, who is president of medical service and head of geriatrics and internal medicine at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, head of the division of geriatrics at Mount Sinai Hospital, and professor of medicine at the University of Toronto, is the journal's editor-in-chief. He leads an editorial staff of 12 and an editorial board of 10.

In the publication's first editorial, Gordon explained that the organizers "decided on [beginning the subject matter at] age 50 because many of the conditions that become apparent at about that age are predictors of the future process of aging and of one's function during later years.

"An understanding of the mechanisms of diseases during the 50s and 60s and appropriate intervention may very well improve the prospects of a healthy later life," Gordon said.

Each issue of the peer-reviewed publication will also have a guest editor and will include case studies, book reviews and drug reviews devoted to one topic on geriatric health care. The first issue, for instance, January/February 2002, concentrated on cardiovascular disease, and featured articles about the management of hypertension and the safety of the drug Viagra for those with coronary heart disease.

The March/April issue, which focused on infectious diseases and the respiratory system, included articles on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the pneumococcal vaccine and antiviral therapy. Future subjects to be covered include oncology and the muscul-skeletal system. The journal's Web site allows readers to download a selection of articles. Because the journal is a peer-reviewed publication, its material will be scrutinized by experts in the field, like the most respected scientific publications.

The *Journal of Geriatric Care* will "meet the need of the medical community to pay more attention to the needs of the elderly," Gordon said.

He said it will include information from pharmacists, social workers and nurses because many aspects of medical care for the aged overlap.

Nurses, for example, often know more about the development and care of pressure ulcers than physicians do, he said. But he added most of the journal's authors are physicians.

Gordon began his medical career in internal medicine and has been at Baycrest for 25 years. He says he gets a real satisfaction from caring for the elderly.

"People might think that [geriatrics] is depressing, but it isn't," he said. The elderly, he said, don't lose either their personality or their sense of humour.

"I'm amazed at how much fun they can be" as they share stories of their lives, and the perspective they develop because of the wisdom they have accumulated, Gordon said.

For more information on the journal, visit the Web site at www.journalofgeriatriccare.com, e-mail mail@journalofgeriatriccare.com, or call 905-669-1814.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

D	Y	L	A	N	■	E	N	D	S	■	J	A	M	B
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A	D	A	S	■	E	S	S	O	■	D	E	L	E	G

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

WORD MORPH

The village of Chelm is populated entirely by fools. Can you make **FOOLS SMART** by changing one letter at a time? Each "morph" must be a real word.

1 F O O L S
2 _ _ _ _ _
3 _ _ _ _ _
4 _ _ _ _ _
5 B O A T S
6 _ _ _ _ _
7 _ _ _ _ _
8 _ _ _ _ _
9 _ _ _ _ _
10 S M A R T

The Truth About Warsaw

a folktale from Eastern Europe

Berel was very excited. At last, he was going to see the great city of Warsaw he had always heard about! He bid his wife and children goodbye, and left the small village of Chelm for the first time in his life.

The road to Warsaw was long, and after several hours, Berel began feeling tired. *I think I should take a break now,* he thought to himself. *Maybe I should go to sleep. But wait! How will I know which way to go when I wake up? I know! I'll point my shoes in the direction of Warsaw, and when I wake up, I'll go that way!* Pleased with his ingenious solution, he took off his shoes, pointed them towards Warsaw, and went to sleep.

But the brightness of the day made it hard for him to fall asleep. He tossed. He turned. He didn't realize that he had kicked his shoes, and now they were facing Chelm. Finally he gave up trying to fall asleep. He stood up, ready to start walking again. *Well, which way's Warsaw?* He looked down at his shoes. *That way? All right.* He put them on, and continued his journey. He walked for several hours until…

Well, here I am, at the great city of War… wait a minute! This isn't such a big city! I guess all the stories I heard about Warsaw were made up! Let me see what's here. How strange! That well looks just like the well in Chelm! And this street! It looks just like my street! This house looks just like my house! And that cow in front looks just like my cow! How odd! That woman in the window! She looks just like my wife! I guess Warsaw's just like Chelm! I might as well go home now. There's nothing here to see! Berel left the city and began walking home.

"Hey, wagon driver!" he called to a passing wagon. "Yes?" answered the driver, turning his head.

"Could you possibly take me to my house in Chelm?"

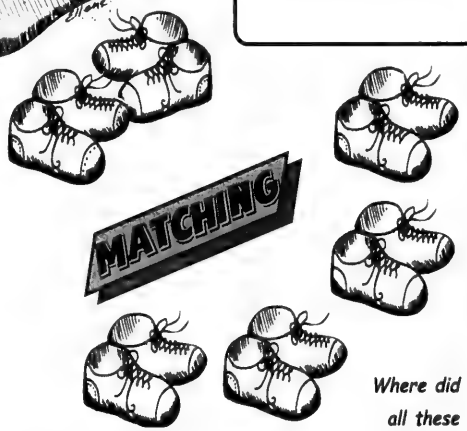
"Why certainly."

Berel climbed into the wagon. He was very tired. As soon as he sat down, he fell asleep.

"We're here!" the driver told him. "Get up!"

Already? thought Berel. *It seems like I was only asleep for a few minutes!* He shrugged, paid the driver, and walked up the steps to his house. He couldn't wait to tell his wife the truth about Warsaw!

MATCHING



Where did all these shoes come from? See if you can find the pair that looks just like Berel's before they got turned around.

©2002 Ellene Newman & Hallel Newman
Write to us at ENewman613@aol.com

WordMorph Answers

1. fools
2. cools
3. coals
4. coats
5. boats
6. boars
7. soars
8. stars
9. start
10. smart

The fighting brothers

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Everyone who has a brother or sister fights with them – that's part of growing up in a family. It may be because the brothers or sisters are jealous of each other, or because one has something the other one wants, or because they can't agree on what television program to watch.

Most of the time, these disagreements blow over fairly quickly.

But there were once two brothers whose argument didn't blow over, and the results were very serious indeed.

You have probably heard of the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Cain and Abel were the children of Adam and Eve, the first humans.

Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, who has written several wonderful books based on stories or legends from the Bible, such as *God's Paintbrush*, *God Said Amen* and *God in Between*, has written a new book, called *Cain & Abel; Finding the Fruits of Peace* (Jewish Lights, 2001). Illustrations are by Joani Keller Rothenberg.

In Sasso's version of the story, Cain and Abel lived "in God's garden called Earth." It was a very beautiful place, where "the earth was warm and soft, and fruit trees grew in abundance."

Cain was a farmer. "He loved to dig in the earth and harvest the vegetables and fruits. He knew how to take the wheat of the field, grind it into flour, and bake bread." Abel, on the other hand, was a shepherd. He watched over his sheep as they grazed, and "gently guided the strays back to the flock. He would shear their wool and spin it into soft yarn to make blankets."

The two brothers were very close. But one day, they began to argue about whether God liked farmers or shepherds better. One day, Cain got so angry that he threw a rock at Abel and hit him on the head, killing him. Sasso says that "the gash in Abel's head appeared as a mark on Cain's own." Cain felt very sorry and ashamed. "It was as if Cain had destroyed an entire world."

The pictures in the book are drawn in vivid colours. They change with the story. In the first part, when Cain and Abel are loving to each other, there are lots of white and soft shades. Once trouble comes, the illustrations are harsh and dark. You will find lots to talk about when you read *Cain & Abel*. Sasso suggests that you discuss what the brothers could have said to make things different, as well as what makes you feel angry and what you can do to bring back the different kinds of fruit.

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Holocaust restitution agreement in jeopardy

Continued from page 1

insurance regulators, Jewish organizations and five insurance companies. ICHEIC, he claimed, has been causing the delays, though he did not speculate about the reasons.

Singer should tell ICHEIC "it is time to finish these long negotiations," Gibowski said.

"I know Singer very well and appreciate him as an honest and fair person," Gibowski added. "I can only think that he is not well-informed."

At the Luxembourg meeting, Singer said his group could reject the funds from the German firms and inform U.S. federal judge Michael Mukasey "that we reject the granting of closure and that they will have no business in the United States."

Several years ago, during reparations negotiations, it was implied that U.S. insurance regulators could withdraw licenses from German firms.

"We are not threatening anything now," Singer said. "We are holding out a hand in friendship and saying, 'Have the generosity to pay the people while they are still alive.'"

Gibowski, however, said there is "no reason" to withdraw legal closure.

"We are doing everything on the German side. The foundation is there, the money is there. So what is the reason?" he asked.

Gibowski said the insurance companies have nothing to gain by postponing payments, since they do not have to lay out additional funds.

Gibowski suggested that claimants or those with questions might do better by going directly to the German insurance companies or to the German Insurance Association than to ICHEIC. He said it made sense to test the system by transferring 1,000 claims or questions directly to the German companies, to see how fast they were handled.

ICHEIC has been criticized for its high administrative expenses and its poor oversight of the agencies hired to handle inquiries from survivors and process insurance claims.

The Claims Conference board meeting marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Luxembourg Agreement on reparations, a contract signed by the West German government with Israel and the Claims Conference.

In the ensuing half-century, the Claims Conference has succeeded in distributing more than $50 billion (US) in reparations for more than 500,000 survivors.

Insurance policy restitution is among the more recent arrangements worked out by the Claims Conference, the 10-year-old World Jewish Restitution Organization and the State of Israel.

It involves primarily German and Italian insurance firms, along with some Swiss and French firms.

According to Gibowski, many Nazi-era bank and insurance claims were settled in the immediate postwar years. Many German Jews were poor and had very small policies, if any, he said.

In the summer of 2000, German insurance firms agreed to pay about $225 million (US) as part of a $5 billion (US) fund from German government and industry.

The last hurdle in creating the fund, which deals primarily with reparations to former slave and forced labourers, had been the question of legal closure – in other words, protection for German industry and insurance companies against further lawsuits by survivors.

Aside from the Italian firm Generali, most of the affected insurance companies are not following the guidelines established by ICHEIC, a Claims Conference spokesperson said. An ICHEIC report released in May by private consultant Lord Peter Archer of Sandwell in England found that many insurance companies were too quick to deny claims.

The report, which also criticized some of ICHEIC's internal operations, found that the insurance companies often demand impossible levels of proof from survivors or heirs of policy holders. The report said some firms have rejected claims after performing cursory searches.

The Claims Conference said German firms in particular have failed to provide names of Holocaust-era insurance policies for the ICHEIC Web site (www.icheic.org). The list, which aids claims researchers, currently has about 54,000 names.

The German companies are "working right now to produce lists of Germans who are Jewish and who lived in the Nazi time in Germany," Gibowski said. "If there were a master list somewhere saying those had insurance policies and those had something else, this would be easier. We can only produce lists of names of German Jews. If... your name is on the list, you can ask your questions."

Some 500,000 Jews lived in Germany when the Nazis took power in 1933. Gibowski said the German firms have been "asking for more than 1½ years to receive potential claims and questions" from ICHEIC "in order to check them. They haven't received a single claim until now."

But Claims Conference leaders said some companies are demanding levels of proof that are impossible to meet today.

"Companies have to recognize that years and years after the war, it is not possible to provide the same documentation as if it were a few years ago," said Gideon Taylor, executive vice-president of the Claims Conference. "The level of frustration is enormous, particularly among Holocaust survivors."

Survivors and their heirs have complained that neither ICHEIC nor the insurance companies are fulfilling their moral and financial obligations. Many expect the Claims Conference to speak on their behalf, and at the Luxembourg meeting their anger was palpable.

"How long will they let [Singer] keep on saying, 'Keep cool'?" asked Julius Berman, chair of the organization. Singer "is putting his reputation on the line" with the survivors.

Singer noted he had received letters of congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Luxembourg Agreement from German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and from Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission.

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Families of Maccabiah victims upset

By HENRY BENJAMIN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

SYDNEY, Australia — The families of four Australian athletes who died in a bridge collapse at the 1997 Maccabiah Games are outraged that a man found guilty of negligence in the disaster was appointed to new positions in the Maccabi sports movement.

Both Maccabi World Union and Maccabi Israel recently found new jobs for Yoram Eyal, who served six months of community service for his part in the accident.

In July 1997, as the Australian team was making its way across a hastily constructed footbridge to the opening ceremonies of the 15th Maccabiah Games in Israel's Ramat Gan stadium, the bridge collapsed, hurtling the team into the murky, polluted waters of the Yarkon River. Four members of the team died and 70 were injured.

Eyal, the head of the organizing committee for the international games who commissioned the ill-fated bridge, was sentenced two years ago. Four others were also sentenced to jail time.

Maccabi World Union has appointed Eyal head of the North American desk and has given him back his old $120,000 (US) job as head of Kfar Maccabiah in Ramat Gan. Maccabi Israel has made him responsible for the registration of the country's sports clubs.

Colin Elterman, whose daughter, Sasha, was seriously injured in the accident, is the spokesperson for the families who lost relatives in the disaster.

"We will not rest until this man has been removed from any official Maccabi position," he said. "Maccabi should not have a convicted criminal in any role within its organization."

He plans a media campaign to inform international Jewish communities and Israeli taxpayers, who pay part of the fee for the Maccabiah Games, of Eyal's appointments.

Phil Filler, president of Maccabi Australia, said: "When Eyal's appointments were announced at the world conference, they were met with resounding applause. The Australian delegation sat on their hands."

Eyal has said that he will never again take part in organizing a Maccabiah, but added, "I didn't elect myself to those bodies. I have paid the price according to the courts and I don't think I need to stay home for the rest of my life."

Maccabi Israel chair Igal Carmi and Maccabi World Union president Jean Futeran told Filler that Eyal had served his sentence and deserved another chance.

But not everyone in Israel agrees.

Sports Minister Matan Vilnai brought the appointments to the attention of the Knesset.

The Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot* received more than 200 complaints from readers condemning the appointments after it published the story.

Zvulun Orlev, head of the Knesset's sports and education committee, said of Eyal's appointments: "This was not a smart decision. There has been no thought given to the feelings of the Jewish people of Australia."

Getting past the first few pages

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

In order to establish credibility in the Arab world, all documents must first denounce Israel, Mark Heller explained sardonically over coffee at the Tel Aviv Museum.

The principal research associate of the Jaffee Center at Tel Aviv University was commenting on a recent United Nations publication written by prominent Arab intellectuals titled, *The Arab Human Development Report*.

Backgrounder

The document began with the usual Israel-bashing familiar to most publications in the Middle East but went on to state that Arab countries must get past their obsession with the Jewish state and begin a stage of self-criticism, Heller told our group, adding that this might signify a positive change in Arab thought.

I was on a press tour to Israel with other Toronto journalists interested in Middle East affairs. As we set out on our cultural mission to hear Israeli and Arab writers talk about the current crisis, I couldn't help but wonder if the views from the United Nations report had made their way into the Arab communities we would be visiting in the Galilee and the West Bank.

On the second day of the trip, we met Salem Jubran, co-director of Givat Haviva – a joint Arab-Israeli centre for peace – on a patio overlooking the offices of the Communist party headquarters in Nazareth. Jubran is a former Communist leader, a writer and educator who teaches and lectures on the Holocaust to Jewish-Arab groups.

Over the years, the people of Nazareth have overcome many challenges in order to share the city peacefully. However, when the Arabs of the city began to riot in early October 2000, the Israeli police responded. When the confrontation was over, 13 Arabs were dead and a commission was established to investigate the incident.

In this atmosphere of unrest, Jubran, who is also editor of *al-Ahali*, an Arab newspaper in Israel, spoke to us about the "unfairness" in President George W. Bush's recent speech calling for Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat to step down and elections to be held in the Palestinian Authority.

Noting that "more is expected from the Palestinians than from Egypt or Jordan," Jubran never got past his anger at Israel and the West to discuss the implications of the suicide bombings.

Unfortunately, as the Jewish co-director Sara Ozacky Lazar pointed out, Jubran had to leave the meeting before his writings were even mentioned.

The next stop was at the Druze village of Daliat al Carmel on the outskirts of Haifa. Both sides of the main road leading into the village were lined with shops filled with Israelis and Arabs bargaining for carpets, blouses and Jerusalem pottery.

It was surprising these days for a carload of English-speaking Canadians to empty out on the streets of the Druze village and our group was especially welcomed by the shopkeepers trying to sell their goods.

We were meeting Salman Natur, an author of 24 Arabic books and one Hebrew novel, *Walking on the Wind*. This time, I was determined to hear Natur discuss his works.

Natur spoke to us over pita, hummus and Turkish coffee, and it soon became apparent that here was another writer who had very little interest in talking about his writing. He was intent, however, on describing his attachment to the land and his views on what he called "Israeli colonialism."

As he spoke, Natur began to romanticize about his affinity to the Sephardi Jews, whom he described as "Arab Jews."

Turning history on its head, Natur asserted that the Arabs of the land – Jew and non-Jew – shared a common heritage and a bond of friendship that could withstand any crisis.

In an effort to redefine the nature of the conflict and cast Israel as the colonizer, Natur told us that "the European Jewish occupiers" were merely tourists in this land.

Ironically, the very people who were considered outsiders and Semites when they resided in pre-World War II Europe were now being described by Natur as "unwelcome visitors to this place."

The Jewish biblical claim to the land was dismissed by Natur as irrelevant, and the harsh Arab treatment of Sephardi Jews was shrugged off as unimportant.

It was astonishing to see how Natur had recreated the historical narrative to support his primary agenda – the Arabization of the land and the elimination of the Jewish State of Israel.

Later in the week, we heard from Bir Zeit University international relations professor Ali Jirbawi that "suicide bombings need to be put into the context of the occupation."

Jirbawi went on to defend the Palestinian right of return and the need for a unilateral state. Once again, there was no recognition of a Jewish state or acknowledgement that Jews had any claim to the land.

Abdel Mallek Jabbar, an engineer and academic who was involved in the economic development of the West Bank before the current intifadah, complained about the unfairness of the long waits his family had to undergo at the offices of the Israeli National Insurance to get his newborn daughter's inoculations.

Author of *A Stranger in the House* and advocate of a two-state solution, Raja Shehada did allow himself to criticize Arafat. But he then added that the Palestinians would never have followed Arafat if it hadn't been for Israel and the settlements.

"The settlements are at the heart of the problem," Shehada said.

The issues of Muslim fundamentalism, Arab nationalism and anti-Semitism were never debated at serious length in any of our discussions.

What became clear as the trip drew to its conclusion was that, at this point, the Arab leaders we met never did get past the first few pages of the *Arab Human Development Report*.

A shift to 'mega-terrorrism?'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

In recent months, Palestinian terrorists have attacked or have tried to disable strategic sites inside Israel.

This raises a troubling question: Are the Palestinians changing tactics in a bid to inflict still greater devastation on Israeli civilians and property? Are they turning to "mega-terrorism?" The evidence so far suggests that a shift may in fact have occurred.

In late April, Israeli commandos foiled a plot to topple two skyscrapers in Tel Aviv. In May, Israel's biggest fuel depot was targeted.

Just as ominously, the Palestinian who carried out the Passover massacre in Netanya, which killed 29 people, intended to release cyanide gas and thus kill yet more Israelis.

Still more alarming, six Palestinians arrested in Israel in June planned to destroy an arms warehouse near Beit Shemesh in which nuclear weapons and Jericho surface-to-surface missiles are stored.

Last but not least, Salah Shehadeh, the Hamas military leader whom Israel assassinated last week in the Gaza Strip, was planning a "mega attack" that could have killed hundreds of people, Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said last week.

If these potentially calamitous terrorist plots had succeeded, Israel would have reacted with all due fury and the Middle East would have been plunged into utter chaos.

Israel's occupation of the Palestinian autonomous areas, which could last months or years, has reduced the tempo of bombings and shootings to which Israelis have been subjected since the eruption of the intifadah 22 months ago.

But no one can rule out the prospect of new attacks, particularly those whose sole purpose is to cause as much devastation and grief as possible. In the meantime, the Israeli government is closely studying the aforementioned incidents, hoping that valuable lessons can be gleaned from them.

On April 26, Israel, acting on intelligence warnings, intercepted a truck loaded with about half a ton of high explosives.

Documents found inside the truck, which started its fateful journey in the West Bank town of Qalqilya, indicated the driver wanted to park the vehicle in the underground parking lot of the Azrieli twin towers, detonate a bomb by remote control and bring down the skyscrapers.

The driver of the truck was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, whose secretary-general in Qalqilya, Raed Nazal, had recently been slain by Israeli forces.

The plot to demolish the Tel Aviv towers, the pride and joy of Montreal real estate developer David Azrieli, resounded with echoes of the past. Richard Reid, the Al Qaeda terrorist who recently attempted to down an American Airlines jet, had reportedly visited the Azrieli towers last summer.

The terrorists who sought to blow up the Pi Glilot depot, which is on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and contains up to 3,000 tons of fuel, came perilously close to setting it alight.

News reports suggest that an unknown terrorist attached a remote-controlled bomb to a truck parked overnight in an industrial district in Holon, a Tel Aviv suburb.

The following morning, the truck was driven to the fuel dump, which is near an upscale residential neighbourhood and the campus of Tel Aviv University. As the driver was filling up his truck, a blast threw him to the ground. The flames were doused by automatic sprinklers and by workers in the vicinity. If the fire had spread, the resulting explosions might have created a fireball that could have wreaked widespread death and destruction.

The Palestinians may be planning still more audacious operations. Gen. Doron Almog of the army's Southern Command said last month that Israel should gird itself for non-conventional attacks against strategic targets. As he put it: "At the moment, it is important to know that there are no specific non-conventional threats, but we must prepare for the possibility in the future."

Chilling words.

The Week in Israel

July 22

• Police said they had uncovered a terror cell linked to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah group. The cell was allegedly involved in killing suspected Palestinian collaborators.

• Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel had recently transferred more than 10 per cent of tax revenues owed to the Palestinian Authority since September 2000.

July 23

• Saleh Shehadeh, head of Hamas' military wing in Gaza, whom Israel holds responsible for hundreds of terror attacks, was killed when Israeli planes bombed his house. The raid killed 14 civilians, including Shehadeh's wife and three of his children. About 100,000 people joined the funeral procession for the dead. The attack drew heavy international criticism, including a strong rebuke from the United States.

• Deputy defence minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, daughter of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, resigned from the government, saying it was not carrying on the diplomatic legacy of her father.

July 24

• Military officials questioned the use of a one-ton bomb to kill Hamas leader Saleh Shehadeh. Political officials also said better intelligence about nearby civilians would have led to the operation's postponement.

July 25

• Eran Mulai, an Israeli police officer who lives in the West Bank, was arrested on suspicion of selling arms to the Palestinians.

July 26

• Palestinians fired an anti-tank missile at an armoured civilian bus in the Gaza Strip.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Novelist Potok worked to bring Jews together

By PETER EPHROSS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Obituary

NEW YORK — Chaim Potok was a novelist who paved the way for a younger generation of religious American Jewish writers – and a Jewish scholar who worked tirelessly to bring Jews and Judaism closer together.

Potok, who was raised in an Orthodox home but later became a Conservative rabbi, died last Tuesday at his suburban Philadelphia home of brain cancer at age 73.

The best-known of Potok's more than 15 works, including *The Chosen* and *My Name Is Asher Lev*, describe Orthodox Jews struggling with maintaining their faith in a secular world.

"He is a major figure in the American Jewish literary canon," said Daniel Walden, a professor emeritus of American studies, English and comparative literature at Penn State University. "His essential mission was to explore the core-to-core cultural conflicts of our civilization, and in doing so he exposed what the Jewish experience was like, what the Jewish religion was like."

Some of Potok's interest in these "core conflicts" stemmed from his own experience in the Korean War, where he encountered Korean Buddhism as a U.S. Army chaplain – an experience he later fictionalized in *The Book of Lights*.

Indeed, he opened the religious Jewish world up as much to non-Jews as to Jews.

Years after *The Chosen* was published, Potok received letters and e-mails from nuns and priests, as well as Protestant clergy, thanking him for writing the book, Walden said.

Earlier Jewish writers, such as Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth and Saul Bellow, were religious skeptics. But Potok wrote from within the Jewish religious tradition, Walden said.

As a result, he served as a model for the next generation of American Jewish writers – such as Allegra Goodman, Nathan Englander and Myra Goldberg – who wrote about the religious experience.

Potok chafed at being labeled a Jewish writer, but when he tried to write about other subjects – in, for example, *I Am the Clay*, a book about Korean refugees – he was less successful.

"He was pigeonholed as a Jewish writer, and the few times he tried to write his way out of that, his public wouldn't let him," said Ellen Frankel, the editor in chief of the Jewish Publication Society (JPS).

Potok's most famous book, *The Chosen*, focuses on Danny Saunders, who is raised in a chassidic home in Brooklyn.

Saunders' attraction to the more tolerant world of his friend Reuven Malter puts him at odds with his father, who wants him to remain within the chassidic world.

The story was familiar to Potok. He spent a fervently Orthodox childhood in New York, where he was born to parents who had emigrated from Poland.

"My father, especially, wanted me to be a professor of Talmud in a yeshiva. This business of writing at first seemed frivolous to him. When it persisted, he didn't know what to make of it," Potok said in an interview two years ago.

Even though he never fulfilled his father's expectations, Potok did become a Judaic scholar.

In 1965, he earned a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania, writing his dissertation on the German Jewish philosopher Solomon Maimon, a contemporary of Immanuel Kant.

The last year of his doctorate was spent in Jerusalem, where he also wrote *The Chosen*. He worked on one project in the morning; the other in the afternoon, Potok once said.

From 1966 to 1974, he was editor-in-chief of the JPS in Philadelphia. During his tenure, he launched JPS' series of Bible commentaries and emphasized the publication of children's literature.

For more than 15 years, he served as chairman of the editorial committee, which oversees JPS' acquisitions.

"The only meeting he missed" during that time "was the very last" – two weeks ago, when the cancer that he had long battled was finally overcoming him, Frankel said.

Frankel met with Potok several times a year at Hymie's, a Philadelphia-area delicatessen, where Potok usually ordered a bagel and a coffee.

The bearded Potok was sometimes warm and effusive, and sometimes silent and brooding – but he was always very intense, Frankel said.

"Often, you would ask him a question, he would think for a moment, then he would cut right to the chase," she said.

Potok was the literary editor of JPS' five-volume Torah commentary. During the 1990s, he adapted and edited that commentary into one volume that is used in Conservative synagogues throughout North America – even though the project took him away from his writing.

Though he found his home in Conservative Judaism, he spoke passionately about the Orthodox community, which he believed had grown too narrow-minded.

"The yeshiva is the foil I strike out with. Or the foil I strike out against," he once said. "Fundamentalism is an absolutely wrong reading of Jewish traditions."

In addition to *My Name Is Asher Lev* and *The Chosen*, Potok addressed this world in several other works.

Potok won a variety of awards for his fiction, including the Athenaeum Prize for *The Promise* and the National Jewish Book Award for *The Gift of Asher Lev*.

Potok was also a passionate lover of Israel – where he lived for several years – but "he was not Israel right or wrong. He felt he had the right to express an opinion," Frankel said.

Potok also was engaged in the Soviet Jewry movement. In 1997, Potok published a book on the subject of Soviet Jews, *The Gates of November*, that focused on the Slepak family, well-known refuseniks who moved to Israel after gaining their freedom.

Potok is survived by his wife, Adena; two daughters, Rena, a Philadelphia-area college professor, and Naama, an actor in New York; a son, Akiva, who is a filmmaker in California; and two grandchildren.

Business Profile

Careful growth plan working for long distance service

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Charles Zwebner has made long-distance calling as easy as 10-15-945.

The 43-year-old native of London, England, is founder and president of Yak Communications Inc., an international, long-distance discount dial-around service.

By dialing 10-15-945 before a call, customers can make long-distance calls at discount rates without switching their local telephone carrier, such as Bell Canada, Telus Corporation, or MTS Communications Inc. in Manitoba.

Zwebner and his wife Leora, who now have five children, settled here in 1981, and he graduated from York University with a bachelor's degree in science and business administration.

He founded Yak in 1998 after selling Card Caller, Canada's first fixed-amount, prepaid telephone calling card, which he had developed in 1991.

The idea behind Yak is to give consumers savings on their long-distance calls, and have these calls show up on their local telephone bill.

Currently, Yak rates are as low as seven cents a minute to Canada and the United States, 12 cents a minute to Israel and nine cents a minute to the United Kingdom.

"The advantage is that there is only one bill to pay. There are no surcharges, there is no credit application to fill out, and there are no contracts. Callers simply dial and talk, and rates are available 24-7-365," he said from his office near the Scarborough Town Centre.

"It's a concept that is quickly catching on. When I started up with three employees five years ago, there were dial-around services available in the United States, but in Canada there were literally no players."

There are now 30 employees in Yak's offices, and 3,000 monthly, recurring customers in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia.

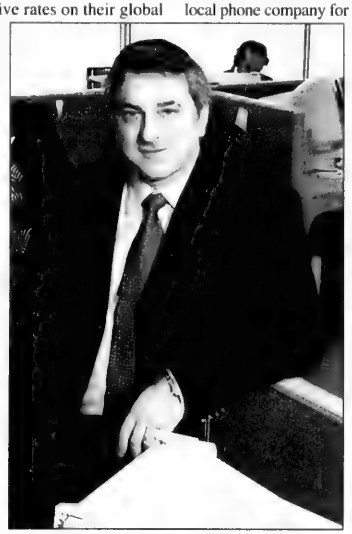
"Customers are based primarily in ethnic communities, so traffic stems from the urban centres in which they live," he said.

In May, after 18 months of finalizing licensing and billing requirements with U.S. carriers and deploying lines, Zwebner launched his first U.S. venture in Las Vegas, Nev.

"Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States, and surprisingly, 97 per cent of its residents are not Las Vegas natives, so there is a lot of long-distance calling going on.

"The city attracts people from everywhere, and for many of its [residents], family and friends are still in Mexico, Central and South America, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

"Those with international roots were demanding less expensive rates on their global calls, so Yak committed itself to giving international callers in Las Vegas great savings and simple long-distance service."



Charles Zwebner

On July 1, Yak began servicing the Miami area, and then Zwebner plans to move into New York and Los Angeles.

He also intends to "roll out" his product in other U.S. gateway cities such as San Francisco, San Diego, Houston, Dallas, Philadelphia, Washington and Chicago.

"We want to duplicate in the United States what we are doing here. Because we have a good relationship with U.S. carriers, consumers can rely on getting good service; they get the same quality as they would with their own carrier," he said.

He acknowledges that some people may be leery about switching carriers because they do not want to fill out credit applications or give personal information, and they are unsure of other company's billing systems. "They are afraid of the unknown. With us though, it is very simple; they see on their bill the call they made with the rate we quoted."

Yak's state-of-the-art technology, Zwebner said, enables them to run the entire company from their switching system in downtown Toronto.

"Technology today is such that you can run a telephone system from anywhere in the world, for anywhere in the world. It's all fibre optics and SS7 signalling, which is a carrier language that enables different carriers to 'talk' to each other. That enables us to market service worldwide from here.

"When someone makes a telephone call, they get switched to our system, we process the call, we take those records and send them to the local phone company for billing and collection, and we then pay the carrier their share," he said.

In the United States, he said, dial-around calling is a $4- to 5-billion market, out of an overall long-distance market of about $80 billion, while the overall Canadian long-distance market is about $5 billion, said Zwebner.

Yak, which is the largest of the three dial-around companies now operating in Canada, has a run rate of about $50 million a year, "and the company is growing. We're adding 15,000 to 20,000 customers a month," he said.

As rates have fallen, he said, people are making longer calls. "Whereas an average long-distance call used to be three minutes, it is now seven minutes."

Although they know who their customers are, he said, "we tend to leave them alone. There are no mailings and we do not approach them. It's a no-gimmick service. We're not here to bother you. We're here to give you savings, and the savings can be substantial, he said.

"Most phone companies in the long-distance market are charging a monthly fee, so a person who is making $12 in phone calls is probably also paying about $4.95 to be on that phone company's plan.

"With us, the caller would pay about half of the $12 for his calls, and would not be paying the monthly fee, so we're talking about a 60 to 70 per cent saving on the phone bill."

His business is volume based, he said. "We have volume purchasing power, and we pass that savings on to the consumer. We will buy millions of minutes to destinations, and the more we add, the cheaper it gets for the consumer.

"The trend has been for our rates to go down. When we started, Yak rates to Israel were 21 cents a minute, and we're looking to be somewhere this year in the 10 cent range. Rates, on the other hand, never go up. They may sit at the same spot for awhile, but we do not raise them."

While some companies charge about 79 cents a minute to countries such as Morocco, said Zwebner, Yak charges 49 cents. "We're talking about 30 cents a minute savings."

Zwebner is proud, he said, that "in the past four years, not one employee has left; morale is high and it's a great team. They like what they're doing."

Overseeing Yak's various departments, including accounting, customer service, technology and marketing, is an 80-hour-a-week job, he said.

"Right now, my primary focus is both our expansion into the United States, and our plans to take the company public, which should happen this summer.

"That will catapult the company onto a different level and allow us to pursue some acquisitions. It will also attract some executive employees from other companies, and give us a higher profile with the carriers and suppliers," he said.

Many dial-around companies have "fallen by the wayside because they have over-expanded, taken upon too much debt, or made acquisitions which were over-valued. There has been a huge shake-out in the past two years.

"We've continued to grow on a step-by-step basis and we have attracted clients from competitors who have fallen apart. We are running a lean company; we didn't take on debts, we didn't expand too much too fast, and we didn't duplicate networks. That's the secret of our success."

Zwebner, a member of Agudath Israel Synagogue since 1981, stresses that his 80-hour work week runs only from Sunday morning until Friday afternoon.

"Shabbat is for my family. It is time for me to get energized for the rest of the week and get fed for the rest of the week."

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Arts & Travel

Actress's role is full of chutzpah

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

This summer, Montreal-born actress Michelle Polak is playing Hermia in CanStage TD High Park's production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

CanStage is marking its 20th anniversary of its first show in High Park with the play about a mystical forest inhabited by fairies, which runs until Sept. 1.

Polak's excitement about the role is obvious when she describes the story.

"Hermia is a wonderful character," Polak, 29, says. "I start the play with incredible conflict and high stakes. My father wants me to marry Demetrius. It would be a marriage of money and politics, but my heart is with Lysander. My father brings me to the Duke to have me marry Demetrius or be put to death by execution.

"Hermia is very feisty. She's a modern woman who knows what she wants. She's full of chutzpah, goes after her heart and what she believes in. At 19 years old, she's right at that beautiful split where adolescence and young womanhood begin. As a young woman, you start making your own choices in life even if they are disastrously wrong," she says.

As Hermia, Polak engages in physical fights, which should be a breeze for her. While attending Ryerson Theatre School from 1992-95, she was the first woman to win the Patrick Crean Award for Outstanding Actor Combatant with Distinction.

In addition to combat scenes, Polak and the other cast members play the music with a wide array of percussion instruments that imitate eerie sounds emanating from the woods.

Polak says she loves the whole experience.

"The first week we started rehearsals, I felt I was in summer camp," she says. "Early morning, we would do round-table script work, later in the morning we'd do music, and in the afternoon, we would do fight choreography and movement."

With a cast of 24, the play is the largest show Polak has acted in since she was in school.

"It is an enormous show – a huge undertaking. This production has been adapted. It usually takes three hours, but our director, Richard Greenblatt, has cut it to two hours, so that people who sit on the hill don't complain about sore tushies," she says.

Polak, who now makes her home in Toronto, says theatre is her main passion, although she has worked in television and film.

"I don't have an interest in being in *People Magazine*," she says. "That kind of acting I can leave for all the other actors."

Sick of the industry's commercial aspects, Polak stopped acting in 1999 for a year and went back to school. She entertained thoughts of becoming a midwife, but eventually realized she had to do what she loved.

"When you love what you do, you risk everything," she says. "I'd rather risk, so I came back and jumped without the net and community theatre caught me. I've worked consistently ever since, which is almost unheard of in this town."

The actress is booked until Nov. 10. In August, she will be doing double duty, moonlighting in the *Dream in Little Dragon* at Theatre Passe Murailles Mainspace. In the early fall, she will be seen in *Recto-Versal In Machin-E* – the first woman to perform this solo female piece – which originated in Quebec – in English. October finds her in *Two Little Words* at the Tarragon Extra Space.

A Midsummer Night's Dream begins 8 p.m. nightly, except on Mondays. Tickets are pay-what-you-can, with a suggestion of $15, and children 14 years old and under are free, courtesy of TD Bank. For more information, call the Dream Hotline at 416-367-1652, ext. 500.

Three Shakespearean roles for Posner

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Fresh out of high school, Rami Posner left his hometown of Winnipeg and spent two years with the Israeli Defence Forces. Now, in a major career shift, he is performing in his third season at the Stratford Festival.

"I draw a lot of parallels between the army and acting," says Posner, 27, who entered the Israeli army in 1991. "[It has] a lot to do with discipline. Being in the army was one of the most valuable experiences in my life. I learned a lot of skills that I still use in my life today."

After returning from Israel, Posner attended university in Winnipeg, where he discovered his love for acting. He took an introductory theatre class and by the time the course had finished, he knew he had found his passion.

He applied for and was accepted into the BFA acting program at the University of Alberta, where he played many roles, including Doctor Shpigelsky in *A Month in the Country* by Ivan Turgenev.

Shortly after he graduated, he was hired to perform in Stratford.

"It's such an incredible place," he says. "[It's a] piece of cultural history of the country. [It's] such an honour and reward to be here," he said. "You work with incredible actors. It teaches you and you're able to amass tools that you can apply anywhere."

This season, Posner appears in three Shakespearean plays. He plays Edward in *Henry VI: Revolt in England*, Palamon in *The Two Noble Kinsmen* and he makes a brief appearance in *Henry VI: Revenge in France*.

As Palamon in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, he battles his cousin, Arcite, for the love of Emilia. The two are captured and imprisoned while fighting for Thebes against Athens. Posner says the play illustrates why he enjoys acting.

"I like to be able to do things. I can't [act as I] do in normal everyday life," he says, referring to the fact that he literally "fights it out" for the girl.

Of his role as Edward in *Henry VI: Revolt in England*, the first play in a three-part series, Posner says, "It is a thrill to play royalty. Edward is an intensely complex character. [He] likes all the good things in life. It leads to his downfall."

The story of Henry VI is set during the War of the Roses and involves a battle for King Henry's throne among the kings' noblemen. The Kingdom is thrown into civil war and divided under two banners, the Red Rose for the ruling king and the White Rose for the rival.

Posner said the play is pertinent to the modern world.

"[It's] very realistic... [the] struggles for power," he says. "Watch the play and see how it pertains to politics in today's life."

Posner has also teamed up with his brother Ari, 30, as a composer. This year, the duo were the first-place winners of the Stratford Festival of Canada's Composition Contest for Young Composers for their composition of *Under the Greenwood Tree* from the Shakespearean play *As You Like It*.

"I come from a musical family," Posner says. "I was pushed in a good way towards the arts and always felt something in performing arts."

Henry VI: Revolt in England runs until Sept. 28 and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* runs until Sept. 29.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JERUSALEM YOUTH ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AUG. 5 AT HABONIM

The Jerusalem Youth Orchestra (JYO), conducted by **Albert Piamenta**, performs next Monday evening at Congregation Habonim in mid-town Toronto joined by 16-year-old singing sensation **Mika Lipschitz** of Jerusalem. Everyone is invited.

One of Israel's most celebrated youth ensembles, the JYO consists of 40 Israeli musicians age 12 to 18. The talented troupe has performed for the Knesset, on Israel television and in Europe and North America.

The present tour also includes visits to Hartford, New York and Ottawa, and a day of camping in Algonquin Park. It was arranged jointly by UIA Federations Canada, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the Israel Government Tourist Office and the Consulate General of Israel.

Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. (1 block north of Bathurst and Glencairn). Adults $12, students and seniors $10. Aug. 5, 8 p.m. Tickets, 416-636-7655, ext. 237.

* * *

Names in the News: Hungarian-born **Louis Weiss**, a member of the Sculptors Society, survived Auschwitz and Dachau, went to Palestine after the liberation, and came to Canada in 1976.

His replicas of the USS battleship *Missouri* and Budapest's Dohany Street Synagogue were presented to the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, and his replica of the Canadian Parliament was presented to Toronto's Columbus Centre.

Weiss's most recent work, a miniature scale model of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, is in solid brass and bronze. It was unveiled two weeks ago at Toronto's St. Paul's Basilica in honour of World Youth Day.

* * *

Koffler Dance Academy: Nadia Veselova-Tencer, a graduate of the Kirov Ballet School in St. Petersburg, is artistic director of the new Koffler School of Dance at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. A range of dance classes for ages 3½+ begin in the fall. www.bjcc.ca or 416-636-1880, ext. 271 or 258.

* * *

Actors Needed: Toronto Jewish Theatre seeks actors for two dramatic readings of *This Night*, a new award-winning Canadian play by **Robert Majzels**. The play focuses on the experiences of the children of a Holocaust survivor; the characters are **David Hellman**, a man in his mid-30s, his brother **Benny** in his mid-40s, and the ghost of their father. **Ari Weisberg**, artistic director. E-mail: ariweisberg@hotmail.com, phone 416-781-5527.

* * *

Symphony Wine Auction: The **Baroness Philippine de Rothschild** has donated numerous rare bottles to a fine wine charity auction and festival to be held in November in support of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The TSO's volunteer committee is seeking more such donations; tax receipts will be issued. Details at www.tsvc.on.ca/winefest.htm.

* * *

Names in the News II: Jen. H. Capraru is director of *The Disappearance of Janey Jones*, described as "a dark comedy-drama about depression, destiny and DNA." It opens at the Factory Studio Cafe (Bathurst and Adelaide) Aug. 1 as part of the SummerWorks Theatre Festival.

Capraru, artistic director of Theatre Asylum, trained in Berlin and New York and has been nominated for the John Hirsch Director's Award. Previous directorial work includes *Walking to Russia*, *My Mother's Courage* and *The Trials of John Demjanjuk*.

The Disappearance of Janey Jones runs through Aug. 11. Tickets are $9. 416-410-1048.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Genesis: Wild & Waste, an installation by **Rochelle Rubinstein**, features original works by **Rubinstein**, **Michael Amar**, **Lanny Shereck**, **Lyndia Terre** and **Susan Wosik**. Continuing at Lyndia Terre Gallery, 1469 Queen St., Alton, Ont. Meet the artists, Aug. 25, noon to 4 p.m. 519-940-8118.

• Original paintings, calligraphy and sculptures by **Bilha Morgan**, **Karny Rivlin Vorona** and **Sam Blang** are on view at Gallery 592, 592 Markham St. 416-532-0381.

• The Palemon Shipwreck of 1839: Lost Treasures from Cuba is a display of rare artifacts recovered from a shipwreck by a Toronto company, Visa Gold Explorations. Until Sept 22. Trevor Allan Gallery, Queen's Quay Terminal, 207 Queens Quay W.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Read Me a Story! is a joyful showcase of 1,200 children's books from 120 countries, with 21 gigantic murals illustrating folk tales from around the world. On view until Aug. 9 at the Allen Lambert Galleria, BCE Place, 181 Bay St.

• *Gold*, a Monty Pythonesque farce by **Larry Lewis**, involves actors, musicians, puppets and the costume designs of **Barbara Klunder**. Suggested donation $10 or PWYC. Seating is on the ground, so bring a blanket. Dufferin Grove Park, Dufferin St. south of Bloor. Continuing until Sept 1. Tuesdays through Sundays, 8 p.m.

• Sotheby's Israel is seeking works by major Jewish artists as well as Judaica, illuminated manuscripts and graphic works of Jewish interest to include in its upcoming October sale. To arrange for a Sotheby's evaluation, contact Jennifer Roth at 212-606-7916 or jennifer.roth@sothebys.com.

Musician strikes a chord with folk

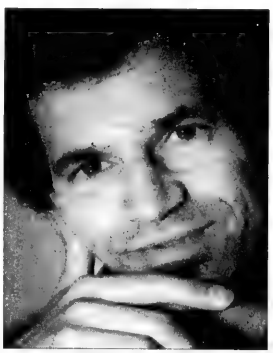
By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

The eerie and electric instrumental prelude reverberates, holding the notes in anticipation of a 15-song storybook by Noah Zacharin. The tales are sometimes reflective, sometimes hopeful, but always musically endearing.

Zacharin's just-released fourth CD, *Crow Dark Wind*, is a rollicking blend of finger-snapping folk rock and lovesick blues twang, all laid out on a shifting rhythmic bed of guitar grooves.

But the new disc, which has been well-received by critics and fans alike, almost didn't see the light of day, because Zacharin says the songs were "trapped" in his head.

"[They] wouldn't stop yowling in my head, 'Let us out, let us out,'" Zacharin says. "So I figured my only hope for relief was to do the work needed to give them a home outside the confines of my own cranium."



Noah Zacharin

Zacharin, who won't reveal his age, has been listening to that muse since he picked up his first guitar at age nine. He wrote his first song at 15 and began performing his own material at 17.

"Songs often begin when I'm playing guitar and stumble onto some sequence of notes or chord or riff that I haven't played before," he says.

"What I do constantly is write and play, which I do each morning while I have my first coffee. It has become a ritual of discovery and slow awakening, far more generous than the alarm clock and frying eggs and hurtling towards a taxi or a traffic jam."

The new disc, which Zacharin self-produced in his home studio, combines developed harmonies with skillfully penned melodies. The lyrics of the acoustically simple *Midnight* exemplify the foreboding yet reflective mood of Zacharin's work: "touch upon/ the round imperfect earth upon which we are adrift... venom & saliva & fire."

Zacharin describes the CD as "darker than any beer, yet energetic; in love with every ferris wheel and merry- go-round and hot-dog stand and woman and man I've ever come across."

Honing his lyrical chops in the Montreal poetry scene before moving to Toronto in 1987, Zacharin has published hundreds of poems, reviews and translations internationally. He has also written many songs, and has produced four full-length recordings of his own material as well as a number of collaborations.

Zacharin shies away from comparisons to other Jewish musical poets like Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen. But he says his Judaism does inspire his art.

"The consciousness that I am a Jew forms much of what I write; sometimes God appears as a theme in my songs," he says. In fact, where music and God meet, Zacharin often leads services at his synagogue. But guitar is his first love, and he values the effect his music has on his listeners.

"When people tell me they're really impressed with my playing, I say, 'That's good, but were you moved?'" he says. "Music is an expression, not an athletic event."

Zacharin's next show will be in Toronto on Aug. 24 at Clinton's. For information on CDs or upcoming concerts, visit www.noahsong.com. Next year this time, expect to see another new disc.

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Yanover, Anne (nee Safe), sadly, in hospital on Friday, July 19, 2002, at the age of 91. Beloved wife of the late Jack Yanover of Belleville, Ontario. Loving mother of Sandra Aiken, Jane (Bill James), and Beverly Friedman. Dear Nana of Sharry, Lisa, Kathy, Wendy, Steven, Jeffrey, Mark, Ken and great-grandmother of Jack, Ben, Mason and Quinton. Predeceased by brother and sister Ben Safe and Sue Black. Those wishing to make donations to Mt. Sinai Hospital Foundation, (416-586-8290).

NISENBAUM, Annie – on June 29, 2002, late of 55 Ameer.
GLUCK, Sidney – on July 10, 2002, late of 550 Cummer Ave.

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KURTZER, Percy – on July 11, 2002.
PRICE, Philip – on July 11, 2002, late of 33 Aristan Dr.
RAHMANI, Sara – on July 11, 2002, late of 131 Beechcroft Blvd.
HANDELSMAN, Pearl – on July 11, 2002, late of 127 Dalemount Ave.
IACOB, Alfred – on July 11, 2002, late of 107 Waterloo Ave.
DIMENY, Olga – on July 12, 2002, late of 2 Tamarac Dr.
RUBIN, Norman – on July 11, 2002.
SITSKER, Zalman – on July 12, 2002, late of 15 Torresdale Ave.
BENEDEK, Andrew Baruch – on July 2, 2002.
SPIVAK, Harriet – on July 3, 2002, late of 53 Gilmore Cres.
BUDD, William – on July 3, 2002, late of 44 Charles St. W.
LOKSHINA, Bella – on July 3, 2002.
WOZNICA, Wolf – on July 4, 2002, late of 132 Laurelcrest Ave.
BINDER, Litzie – on July 5, 2002.
GORINA, Raisa – on July 5, 2002, late of 4300 Yonge St.
BELSKY, Vela – on July 6, 2002, late of 163 Cocksfield Ave.
STERNBERG, Sinai Samuel – on July 5, 2002, late of 187 Searle Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

KHLEBTSEVICH, Ludmila – on July 8, 2002.
HEN, Reina – on July 8, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BARDENSTEIN, George – on July 7, 2002.
HAJNAL, Clara – on July 8, 2002.
ZALCBERG, Rubin – on July 6, 2002.
BOGOD, Genady – on July 8, 2002, late of 70 Park Lane Circle.
NASTASKIN, Perla – on July 8, 2002.
TIGELMAN, Sara – on July 13, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
GHOURTOVOI, Isac – on July 13, 2002.
ROSENZWEIG, David – on July 14, 2002, late of 132 Almore Ave.
SHAPIRA, Gideon – on July 15, 2002, late of 1-82 Castleview Cres.
GERO, Ilona – on July 15, 2002, late of 4 Wallbridge Crt.
SHAPIRO, Sylvia – on July 16, 2002, late of 225 Bayview Fairways Dr.
LINDENFELD, Leslie – on July 16, 2002, late of 139 Hillmount Ave.
BADER, Lillian – on July 17, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
PERLOV, Philip – on July 17, 2002, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
SHAPIRO, Anne – on July 18, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

MARCKS, Hildegard – on July 18, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
ZEISLER, Mosche – on July 18, 2002, late of 61 Regina Ave.
ZAKROISKI, Jan – on July 19, 2002, late of 262 Ridley Blvd.
GOUREVITCH, Mikhel – on July 20, 2002.
TCHERKINSKAIA, Maria – on July 19, 2002, late of 335 Driftwood Ave.
MILLSTONE, Freda – on July 19, 2002.
FEDER, Pauline – on July 22, 2002, late of 544 Douglas Ave.
GLASER, Stephanie – on July 21, 2002.
KRAUS, Steve – on July 22, 2002, late of 118 Burbank Dr.
SOBEL, Warren – on July 22, 2002.
DRORI, Rachamim – on July 23, 2002, late of 6000 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

WEITZMAN, Jean – on June 27, 2002, late of 25 Brunswick Ave., #347.
KIRSHENBAUM, Lou – on June 29, 2002, late of 3181 Bayview Ave., Suite PL 11.
SOLSBERG, Bill – on June 30, 2002, late of 2 Covington Rd., #202.
BERGMAN, Judith – on June 30, 2002, late of 6161 Bathurst St., #1208.
ZEILIG, Harry – on July 2, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St., #311.
SAMER, Bea – on July 2, 2002, late of 4455 Bathurst St., #616.
KRUEGER, Gertrude – on July 3, 2002, late of 37 Palm Dr.
LEIDERMAN, Sally – on July 2, 2002, late of 33 Wilmington Ave.
ARCHINOFF, Kylie – on July 2, 2002, late of 175 Aurora Heights Dr.
CANTOR, Miriam – on July 4, 2002, late of 3171 Bathurst St., #303.
COWAN, Ida – on July 3, 2002, late of 123 Spadina Rd.
KOPEL, Marvin – on July 3, 2002, late of 70 Montressor Dr.
KESHEN, Arnold – on July 3, 2002, late of 40 Homewood Ave., #1107.
HERSCH, Sylvia – on July 4, 2002, late of 4 Forest Laneway, #2702.
WALFISH, Marci – on July 5, 2002, late of 115 Black Hawkway.
LEIBOVITZ, Eddie – on July 4, 2002, late of 10 Torresdale Ave., #808.
CHERNOVSKY, Bernard – on July 5, 2002, late of 131 Torresdale Ave., #804.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

PATRICIA JOY ALPERT ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 11th at 10:30 a.m.

Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section 2

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The Family of the Late

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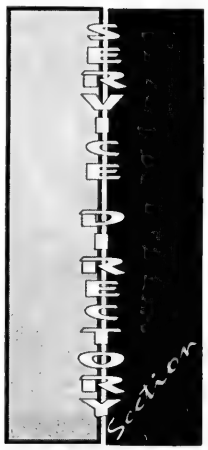
NEW IMMIGRANTS: Four hundred and fifty new immigrants, including baby Nachshon (inset) recently arrived at Ben Gurion Airport from the U.S.
[Israel Sun photos]



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Masters squash player shows no sign of aging

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Robbie Osher says he's getting quite close to the end of his career as a competitive squash player, but the 63-year-old three-time defending Canadian Masters champion (60+ division) shows no signs of slowing down on the court.

Osher has won at every level of the game since first picking up at a racquet at the age of 31 in his hometown of Johannesburg, South Africa. In fact, he can't find enough competitive matches among his contemporaries, so he has resorted to playing more youthful opponents in lesser events.

Osher won the 50+ invitational spring tournament in April, shortly after capturing his second straight Ontario Masters title in the 60+ category.

He went on to defeat Toronto's Peter Hatcher, a member of the world doubles squash champion team (60+), at the Canadian championships for the second year in a row in straight sets 3-0 (9-1, 9-4, 9-7) early last month at the Glencoe Club in Calgary.

"I play down in minor tournaments," said Osher in an interview at his downtown Toronto office, where he's the CFO of a real estate firm.

"I play in my age group at the provincials and the nationals because I want to be a provincial champion and I want to be a national champion."

While Osher – who has won all the tournaments in his age group since the start of last year – admits to being quite close to the oldest man on today's squash circuit, he says he has changed over time from a very fit player to a wise and skillful player.

He finds it very difficult to run these days, has a bit of arthritis and a little wear and tear of the joints from playing the game at such a high level off and on over the past three decades.

"You adjust for your age by not running so much… by playing the shots that get the opposition out of position," said Osher, who competes against guys 35 and older.

"It's all in the head. I've been in the game for over 30 years, so I work out strategies. I try to play on the weaknesses of younger players," Osher said.

Time restraints forced him into taking up squash after playing tennis for a lengthy period. At the outset, he put worked a lot on his game and within three years he reached South Africa's top level.

Osher was playing upward of eight matches a week of high-level squash at the time against guys in their 20s.

He grew tired of the game and left it for a number of years until he was old enough to play in more senior age groups. In the meantime, Osher took up long-distance running, eventually competing in marathons.

Osher returned to squash at age 43, and from 45 on he won all kinds of provincial and national titles in South Africa in the 45+, 50+, and 55+ divisions. He was undefeated in provincial matches from 1986 to 1994, the year he was voted South Africa's Provincial Veteran Squash Player of the Year.

Osher proudly recalls representing his country at the Maccabiah Games on three different occasions, winning six medals (one gold, four silver, one bronze) in the process.

"I think the camaraderie amongst us as Jews was fantastic," said Osher. "I can remember all the opening ceremonies where Jews from all over the world were there. For many hours, we just mixed with everybody. It was the greatest."

As a father of three daughters, the oldest of whom was already living in Canada, Osher says he felt the need to pack up and move the rest of his family here six years ago because of the insecurity in South Africa.

With retirement looming in a couple of years, Osher expects squash will remain a big part of his life both on and off the court.

"I've gotten so much out of the game, I want to give back all the experience I've had wherever I can," said Osher, the chair of Squash Ontario's competitions committee since 1997 and a volunteer coach to today's up-and-comers. "I find that I'm involving myself with a lot of volunteering work just on the squash side.

"I just want to take it easy, play socially. The competition's been great for me. It's given me a lot of recognition and a lot of self-assurance as well."

Maccabi Canada gearing up for 2003 games in Venezuela

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Maccabi Canada is planning to send 150 athletes and administrators to next summer's Pan American Maccabi Games in Caracas, Venezuela.

They will join an estimated 2,000 athletes from 15 Western hemisphere nations, along with contingents from Israel, Australia and Britain at the games, which are held every four years between Maccabiah competitions in Israel. The Pan Am games are sponsored by the Latin American Maccabi Federation.

Although the Canadian team is far from set, it appears Canada will be well-represented in basketball, with five teams participating. Canada will send a boys junior team (14-, 15- and 16-year-olds), a boys youth team (17-, 18- and 19-year-olds), an open men's team (adult), a women's open team and a master's (over 40) team.

Canada will also be well-represented in baseball with a boys youth team as well as open and master's softball teams. Organizers are hoping veterans of the 1985 Maccabiah Games softball tournament – the games' first-ever medal event in softball, in which Canada earned a silver – will attend, making it a reunion event, said Allen Gerskup, chair of Maccabi Canada's national athletic committee.

Other Canadian contingents will likely include men's and women's 10-pin bowling teams, a junior bowling team, tennis athletes, golfers (mostly masters), a men's water polo team, a men's beach volleyball team, junior boys soccer and as many as a dozen triathletes (both men and women).

Almost all events will take place at the Hebraica, a community campus with outstanding athletic facilities. "It's like a walled city… a real Olympic village," Gerskup said.

In addition to the athletic competition, organizers have scheduled cultural and social events for every night of the competition, which runs from July 20 to 27, 2003.

Maccabi Canada has appointed a number of coaches in the various disciplines and they are currently scouting talent for the national team.

Unlike the Maccabiah Games in Israel, the Pan Am Maccabi Games are not subsidized and each participant is being asked to pay their own way. Total cost will be $3,700, which includes airfare, hotels and food. Spouses, parents and other family members are invited to join the Canadian team, Gerskup said.

For more information, check out Maccabi Canada's Web site at: www.maccabicanada.com.

The Israeli flag flies during the opening for Fed Cup World Group Playoff, featuring the United States and Israel in Springfield, Missouri, June 20.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

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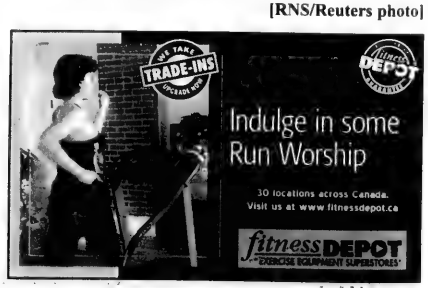

Twenty-something: an introduction

BY Jodi Kovitz

Hi. I'm Jodi Kovitz, and I'm known as the following: entrepreneurial, ambitious, creative, fun, caring daughter, sister, granddaughter and friend. You might also see me as (although I hate to admit it) a typical 20-something Forest Hill Jew.

This means that I come from an upper middle-class background. I had a bat mitzvah, attended a Jewish day school, a predominantly Jewish high school and a Jewish sleepover camp. I graduated with a semi-professional degree from the University of Western Ontario and will be heading off to law school in the fall. (Yes, you might think that a stereotype applies here.)

My prescribed role includes the following: become educated and successful, marry Jewish and essentially always be good. Talk about pressure.

Despite all these expectations, I have begun to ask myself some questions. What is expected of me as a 20-something Jew? Do I continue to practise Reform Judaism? If I fell in love with a non-Jew, what would that mean? What does it mean to be Jewish today? Is it spiritual? Is it a cultural identity? It is a religion? Is it in my genes?

Through conversations with my peers, I have discovered that I am not alone in my search.

My first attempt at writing this column turned out like a philosophical dissertation that read like *War and Peace*. In reviewing my work, I realized that I had written a piece that tried to meet the expectations I feel I have to live up to – rather than just being me. Recognizing this started me thinking about the first time I became aware of how important my Judaism is to me.

Oddly enough, this occurred when I was far from my cozy Jewish community, living in Milan surrounded by Roman Catholics. You would not believe how difficult it was to find a seder there for Passover. After scouring the Web, I ended up in a seniors home, singing the four questions in Italian.

What's funny to me is that the awakening of my adult Jewish identity happened when I was so far away from everything that I thought defined me as a Jew: family, friends, community and expectations.

When I returned from Italy, I revisited this undeveloped part of my identity and my desire to further explore how Judaism could fit into my life. I began to address these questions through a course offered at Kolel, The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Education, taught by Rabbi Elyse M. Goldstein, called Judaism and the Quest for Spirituality. We discussed traditional and modern rituals, sex, money and how to live with the cultural expectations.

The course enabled me to continue to build my Jewish identity and introduced me to other 20-somethings trying to figure it out. Together, we formed a group called Reviving Eden. The objective of our educational and social activities is to provide opportunities through which 20-something Jews can explore concepts of Jewish identity.

An opportunity to join us for a weekend of fun and spiritual exploration is coming up in August. Check out www.kolel.org/revivingeden. I will refer to events being put on by various groups in Canada that I think are relevant to this column.

From Starbucks to synagogue, we search. What do we face, being Jewish and 20-something? How do we deal with the expectations we feel have been placed on us by our parents, our peers and our communities?

It's clear that I'm no Tolstoy, but I feel pretty good about using this column to try to get a dialogue started. I will share my reflections on my own journey in dealing with some of these issues, and I encourage you to participate. Feel free to contact me at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

PECAN ZUCCHINI

3 cups julienned zucchini strips
1 tblsp. olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
4-5 tblsps. chopped toasted pecans
salt & pepper to taste
1/4 tsp. cayenne

Heat 1/2 tsp. olive oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté garlic and zucchini until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Add remaining oil, pecans, salt, pepper and cayenne and toss to mix. Serve hot. Serves 4.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Here we are in the midst of a sunny Canadian summer. Is anyone thinking of Jewish education? In fact, wherever one turns, one finds Jewish learning going on. We need only to get away from our rigid definitions that confine learning to schools to see the true picture of *Talmud Torah k'neged kulam*, the study of Torah as pervasive and comprehensive.

First, though, there are Jewish schools in operation over the summer. Those schools that follow more traditional notions of "Jewish time" as governed by the Hebrew calendar continue to operate through part of the summer and take their breaks *bein hazmanim*, between the periods.

There are also summer camps that add study to their schedule as naturally as they include baseball, swimming and hiking. There are religious camps (of all persuasions) and Zionist camps (also of every variety) whose very programs are an ongoing lesson in Jewish living.

Adult education continues in the summer in synagogues and community organizations. Jews attend services over the summer in city shuls and country shuls, and every prayer service contains an element of study.

Rabbis prepare over the summer to lead their congregations in meaningful prayer during the High Holy Days, and their preparations involve text study.

The members of our community who study a folio of Gemarah or a chapter of the Tanach each day do not interrupt their regimen over the summer.

All of this is to say that Jewish education is much more than schooling. It was designed as early as the Bible as an activity for all ages, at all times, in all places, and in all settings. Ironically, it is only since the advent of public education in the 19th century that Jews, like others, came to think of education as limited to the classroom.

Summer and winter, town and country, young and old – Jewish learning is always as close as the bookshelf or the computer screen. As Hillel said: *Zil g'mor*, Go and study...

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news

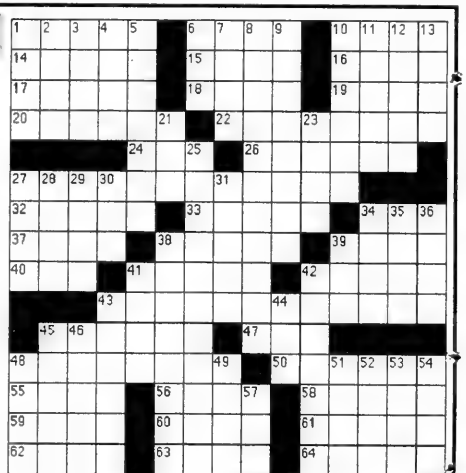
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 22.)

The Tower of Jewish Song
– in tribute to 27 Across
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Sang about rolling stone
6. Objectives
10. Door frame part
14. Huge, in Honfleur
15. Soil
16. Melville work
17. A second craft, secured to the first
18. A beaut
19. An adon, or nagid
20. Demand
22. Sales slogan
24. Perfected, ___ T
26. Silverware sometimes used for music
27. Wrote The Tower of Song
32. Speak
33. Acts boldly
34. Reign, in India
37. Lug
38. Females of the red deer
39. Wacko
40. Wine science prefix
41. ____ chance ('good luck' in French)
42. Architect Kevin
43. Sang with Paul Simon
45. Greek god
47. Distress signal
48. Sang opera in Denmark, NYC
50. Akherim (Heb.), in English
55. One by one
56. Tidy
58. Harvard man of music
69. Blackthorn or Allegheny plum
60. Snide remark, perhaps insulting
61. Federal legislative acronym
62. Louise Huxtable and namesakes
63. Former gas giant
64. Convent attendee

Down
1. 507
2. Baseball scrub team memb. (rare)
3. WWII invasion craft
4. To you, in Toulon
5. Barbra, with her first hit
6. Tokyo's former name
7. Singer Noa's family name
8. Uniform instructions
9. Poem parts
10. He sang in blackface
11. " ____ left his lips" (whodunit words)
12. Scrooge's dead partner, namesakes, familiarly
13. Augur
21. Mountain crag
23. Negative votes, old style
25. Supplementing Yuletide songs?
27. Sitar's cousin
28. Collar type
29. H.R.E. ruler
30. Beverly Sills, ___ Silverman
31. Tall flowering bulb
34. David sang "He is my ____"
35. Love can cause this
36. Wrote about uptown girl
38. Washing machine setting
39. Cheney
41. Macaque, native name
42. What a varmint did to my cattle
43. A Cockney could batten these down
44. Follows egg on Chinese menus
45. Lips can be this, in poetry
46. Aluminum giant
48. Table mountain
49. German president Johannes, family
51. Po is Hebrew for this
52. Bush defined an axis of this
53. What MacLean hoped trout would do
54. Stumbling block
57. Pical fish preceder



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AUTOMOBILE MAGAZINE, 1999

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BUSINESS STANDARD MOTORING, FEBRUARY 2002

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CanadianDriver.com, JULY 1999

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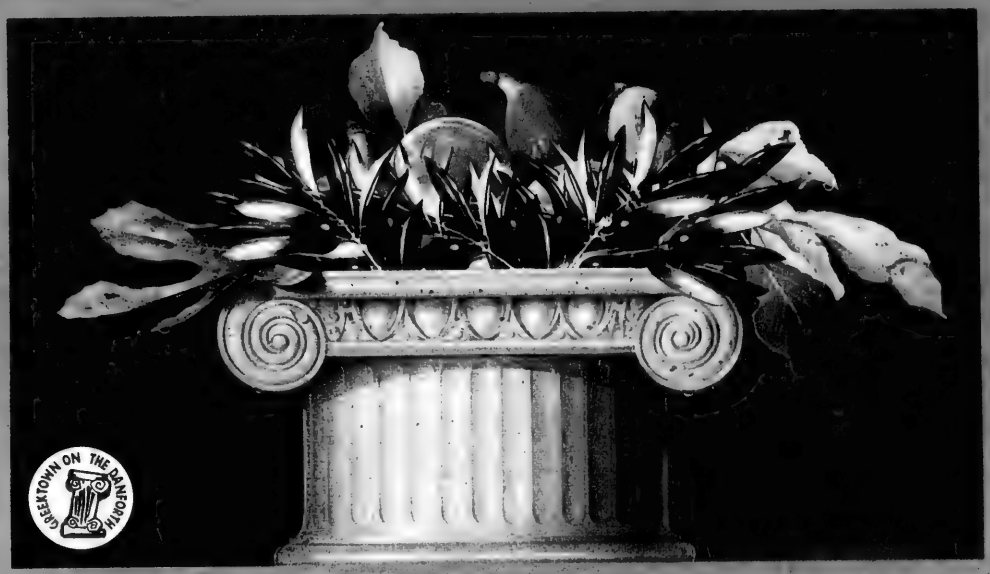

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

- DINING & ENTERTAINMENT
- FASHION, HEALTH & BEAUTY
- NATURAL & SPECIALTY FOODS
- SHOPS & SERVICES

KRINOS TASTE OF THE DANFORTH AUG. 9-11

ALL IN GREEKTOWN, ALL YOURS TO ENJOY!

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

GreekTown on the Danforth: Canadian heritage in the making

More than a tourist area, GreekTown on the Danforth is a community. In the summer, when the trees reach their full green and Toronto's restauranteurs put out their patio tables, GreekTown puts on its Mediterranean face.

Here, when friends and acquaintances greet, you are as likely to hear *"Kalí' imeral Ti kanis?"* as "Hi! How are you?" In the restaurants and cafés, you hear patrons converse in every language of the world.

While the music of Greek polysyllables will appeal to your ears, the most important thing is not the language, but the fact that people do greet each other. Bustling and busy as the community is, everyone — not just tourists, but everyone who lives and works here — is as liable to stroll as to hurry.

There is plenty on the Danforth to woo your senses, and make you want to slow your steps: bright color and exotic decor; the sounds of the bouzouki; the aroma of lamb souvlaki wafting from a grill; and the tastes of exotic foods. It is the restaurants above all — and the atmosphere they help create, at once lively and relaxed — which draw people from all over the city and beyond.

Many restaurants capture, in their decor, the pleasing colours and terraced style associated with the Greek islands and mountainsides. And while souvlaki is everywhere on the Danforth, its dining establishments take pride in offering the full range and flavours of Greek and other Mediterranean cuisines.

But the Danforth boasts many other fine ethnic restaurants as well. To name but a few, Japanese, Italian, and East Indian cuisine are well represented. And its cafés and dessert houses are unparalleled, both in number and quality.

GreekTown is also home to Toronto's finest natural and specialty food stores and many alternative health practitioners. And it's become a leading fashion destination, with a host of fine specialty boutiques for men, women, and children, as well as European-quality beauty salons and spas.

Enjoying a reflective pause in GreekTown

There is plenty of live entertainment here. At many establishments, audience participation is the rule, though after a fine, full meal, you may feel disinclined to dance on a tabletop.

There are a few other Toronto streets which are wider in actual metres, but the Danforth has an expansive feel about it which you don't find anywhere else. Majestic trees shade well-kept homes; here and there are streetside parks, where you can sit and rest your feet.

If you look closely, you see there is a solid community here. You see not only the tourists, but also the elderly and the children, as they shop, stroll or sit and chat in the cafés and parks. In the restaurants, waiters and bartenders offer everyone prompt, friendly service; there are plenty of regular guests whom they greet by name.

Nor is it just staff who do this. You will see the owners showing guests to their tables, greeting them warmly; in GreekTown, customers are family.

Also here are the institutions that belong in any healthy city neighborhood: schools, houses of worship, clubs, and community centres. People not only work here, they *live* here; and it is in great part because they keep GreekTown pleasant to live in, that it is pleasant to visit.

If you really want to get to know the community, chat a little with the staffs of different restaurants; you'll find that everyone knows everyone else. There is plenty of competition here, but it is friendly. To thrive, a restauranteur has to cherish the firm conviction that his or her establishment is the best; but in GreekTown, they do so without knocking the competition. If anything, the reverse is true.

It is from this wealth of restaurants that the "Taste of the Danforth" festival was born. This annual event has become so popular that GreekTown is closed to traffic for its duration. It's a great opportunity to sample the Danforth's culinary delights while enjoying its ambience, all in support of worthy charities like the Toronto East General Hospital Foundation.

While the Danforth is a community, it has never been a closed enclave. Saul Korman of Korry's Clothiers, an active member of the Jewish community, is also an enthusiastic promoter of GreekTown. Having been there for half a century — Korry's is now celebrating its 50th anniversary — Korman knows the people of this community, many of whom started as dishwashers and short-order cooks in the '50's and '60's, then opened the first modest Greek restaurants in the '70's. Many of them came here seeking both prosperity and freedom; the late Andreas Papandreou (a recent Prime Minister of Greece) lived in Canada from 1969 to 1974.

Korman shares with the people who live and work on the Danforth their joy in the prosperity and freedom of Canada. If you come to GreekTown, you are breathing, hearing and tasting Canadian heritage — not in a museum, but as contemporary history in the making.

Dramatic differences are the rule at Pan

Innovation. Creativity. Flair. Poignancy. All of these words apply in equal measure to **Pan**, where Greek / Mediterranean cuisine takes on a delightfully proprietary dimension.

Cited as "one of the city's best" Greek restaurants by *Toronto Life* magazine, Pan keeps its customers coming back by delivering consistently superb quality across an ever-evolving array of dishes that are deliciously different — sometimes subtly, often dramatically — from any other versions out there.

Pan's updated menu is a case in point. While retaining signature dishes like the Char-Grilled Loin of Lamb with fig and orange glaze and the Santorini chicken due to ongoing demand, it features a number of new, absolute must-try offerings. The Pan Seared Grouper is delicacy incarnate, with its thin strip of salmon, in a white wine cream reduction wrapped around asparagus and served with new mini potatoes and cherry tomatoes.

Topping the heartiness scale, without sacrificing refinement, is a Black Angus New York striploin served with garlic mash and grilled portobello mushrooms, finished with Madagascar peppercorns in a brandy-beef reduction sauce. And just when you think you've tasted the be-all and the end-all in seafood pasta, Pan raises the bar another notch with its Linguini with shrimp, calamari, mussels and sea bass in a heavenly basil tomato sauce.

PAN ON THE DANFORTH
516 Danforth Avenue
416-466-8158
Visit us at toronto.com

The dips — one standard by which all Greek restaurants can be measured and compared — still lead the Danforth parade in flavour and presentation.

Meeting elevated expectations isn't just a responsibility, it's fun, says owner Peter Kyriacou. "Our customers expect each meal to be better than the last; we wouldn't have it any other way." Peter, wife Maria and daughter Stella are a welcoming presence. Though Pan caters to an international clientele liberally sprinkled with movie stars and other show business personalities, this is one celebrity restaurant that always treats each customer with the same warmth and personal attention.

Recently renovated, Pan now sports a shiny new hardwood floor and a brighter, uptempo colour scheme, though the feel is still warm and artsy-vibrant. The stage is always set for a gala performance, and night in, night out, Pan rewards with an elevating dining experience.

Sun Valley obsessed with quality

Think you're good at spotting imperfections in fruit and vegetables? Think again. At **Sun Valley Fine Foods**, you may need a magnifying glass. In row on bountiful row, the produce at this sparkling fine food emporium comes as close to perfection as you'll ever find. Sun Valley shops the world over for the best that nature has to offer. One example: fresh herbs are flown in weekly from Israel.

Sun Valley brims with culinary delights in every nook and cranny. You'll find breads from Ace Bakery and Future Bakery, among others; cakes and pastries from Dufflet, La Rocca and Pauline's; and the finest cookies, crackers and jams money can buy. If it's delectable, it's here: caviar from The Caviar House, gourmet chocolates galore (dozens of famous brands including Lindt, Côte D'Or, and Guylian), and Toronto's finest selection of gourmet gift baskets.

Sun Valley's "designer collection" of fine spreadables, sauces and dressings includes a host of famous labels from around the world, as well as its own house brand of jams, sauces and dressings bottled for it by an award-winning supplier. Olive oil? Exotic brands too numerous to mention, including one exclusive to Sun Valley that was ranked #1 among all oils tested in a major media poll. New prepared foods are constantly being introduced, and Sun Valley's selection of Kosher products continues to expand.

Sun Valley Fine Foods
583 Danforth Ave.
416•469•5227
www.sunvalleyfinefoods.com
Open to 9 p.m. 7 days • Delivery available

If you're entertaining but don't feel like cooking, the party trays for which Sun Valley is famous are a phone call away, and their Deli dips and cold cuts are outstanding.

One extremely pleasant surprise at Sun Valley is price. You'd expect to pay a premium for the exquisite quality they offer, but you don't. "Value is part of our tradition," says partner Spiro Aravantinos. "We cannot and will not overcharge."

For the barbecue, Sun Valley's hand-cut shish kebabs are distinctively superior to the cookie-cutter variety you'll find in many supermarkets. They are typical of Sun Valley's obsession with quality; as an in-store sign proudly proclaims, they contain **NO MSG. WE NEVER USE IT AND WE NEVER WILL.**

Spiro thrives on the long hours that are part and parcel of the food business. "It's a labour of love," he smiles — and one that's rewarded daily. "When customers take our food home, in a sense they're taking *us* home."

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Taste the world at the 9th annual Krinos Foods Taste of the Danforth Friday Aug. 9 — Sunday Aug. 11

GreekTown invites you to Dinner! GreekTown is throwing a party and you're invited! The 9th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth will take place Friday August 9 to Sunday August 11. The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. on the Friday and continue to midnight, resume from noon to midnight on the Saturday and run from noon to 8 p.m. on the Sunday.

A taste experience . . . and a musical experience with free concerts

Says Bill Vomvolakis, Chair of the Krinos Taste of the Danforth Committee, "It's an amazing event. The Danforth is closed, the hundred restaurants put their tasting tables out on the sidewalk and the people come. Of course there is lots of Greek food, but there is an increasing number of restaurants representing other cultures: Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Cuban, Indian, and others. GreekTown has become a reflection of Toronto's multiculturalism."

The Tastes range in cost from $1 to $5 and are offered by the restaurants of the Danforth.

Great Greek music and amazing Greek dancers

And of course, what dining experience is complete without music? The Krinos Taste of the Danforth offers a musical experience as well as a taste experience. Performing on the Main Stage this year are 54*40 on Friday night, Jim Cuddy on Saturday night and The Backstabbers on Sunday evening. The concerts are all **FREE**. The Main Stage is located at Logan and Danforth; adjacent to it, you'll find the Labatt Beer Garden a welcome oasis when you need to "take a break".

Toronto Maple Leafs Breakaway Tour, Rock Climbing Walls, midway

And to extend your Greek cultural experience beyond cuisine, visit the ever-popular Greek Stage at Danforth and Pape. This stage is so popular, we recommend you come early to hear great Greek music and watch the amazing performances of the Greek dancers. The Boutari and Mythos Garden complements the wonderful Greek cuisine and culture.

To support the international cuisine now found in GreekTown, visit the International Stage where the VISA Fashion Show is featured. The International Stage offers music from around the world and also highlights the fashions found on the Danforth.

Proceeds to Toronto East General Hospital

Bring the children! We have the Toronto Maple Leafs Breakaway Tour, Rock Climbing Walls and the very popular midway!

Don't forget that when you visit the Krinos Taste of the Danforth, you are supporting the Toronto East General Hospital. To date the Hospital has received almost $500,000 to support the new Maternal and Child Care Wing.

Mark August 9-11, 2002 on your calendar. Don't eat before you come! And enjoy the 9th Annual Krinos Taste of the Danforth. Opa!

www.TasteoftheDanforth.com

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GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

The Blue Shoe Box a perfect fit for Danforth

Long. Slender. Elegant. The picture of classicism. A perfect fit.

That's the *store* we're talking about; we haven't even slipped on a shoe yet!

Fortuitously, the men's shoes offered here are every bit the aesthetic equal of the shop that sells them. Recognizing a niche for upscale men's shoes in GreekTown, proprietor Eliséo (Tony) Staffiere has filled it admirably with **The Blue Shoe Box** — so named because the shoes of his own design come in an elegant navy box.

The store occupies a small space, but what Staffiere and design consultant Maria Ramirez-Perri have done with it is magical. The elongated, pencil-thin premises — conceivably a metaphor for a long, slender foot — have an architectural history. The intricately moulded 70-year-old copper ceiling still shows splendidly through its fresh coat of white paint. Cappuccino-coloured spaccoed walls, exposed red brick and butterscotch-toned oak shelving frame a gleaming strip hardwood floor.

The Blue Shoe Box
499 Danforth Ave. 416-289-6727

Staffiere's father and grandfather were both shoemakers in their native Italy, and he's carried on the family tradition by designing his own line of custom men's shoes, *Eliséo Staffiere*, available only at The Blue Shoe Box. Made in Italy to his exacting specifications, they feature double leather soles, double stitching, and the finest quality leather uppers. As the manufacturer, Staffiere is able to offer these shoes — which equal or surpass many leading designer names in quality and styling — at significantly less than their real worth. He's also able to have them custom designed for clients with special needs, and offer the kind of personal service and expert fitting that many larger stores don't.

In addition to Eliséo Staffiere, The Blue Shoe Box carries fine lines like Kenneth Cole, Mephisto, and Ecco. A hot new Italian sport/casual line, Geox, features perforated soles for the ultimate in comfort and breathability, and is available for both women and men.

It's always exciting to discover a new shop that's beautiful, functional, and altogether different from any other in its category. The Blue Shoe Box is that kind of store.

Christina's effuses summery spirit

Always delightful, the Danforth really comes to full flower in summer; and nowhere is that summery spirit better exemplified than at the new, updated **Christina's.**

Thanks to extensive renovations undertaken by new owners Bill and Kathy Vomvolakis, Christina's exudes a newfound brightness and joie-de-vivre. Outside, its golden frontage sports elegant wrought-iron signage, and its patio is once again THE summer spot to eat, greet, see and be seen — an epicentre of Danforth activity. Inside, earth tones, buttercup yellow and turquoise form a soothing backdrop for newly-restored Greek etchings.

Christina's
On The Danforth
492 Danforth at Logan
416-463-4418
www.christinas.info

Christina's is ideally suited for private functions. Indoors, a cozy, slightly elevated dining area at rear provides intimacy; outdoors, the patio is always a hot ticket for open-air celebrations.

Most notably, however, Christina's new, authentically Greek menu reaffirms its position as a Danforth dining leader. In addition to the wonderful mainstream Greek fare you'd expect, there are many unique surprises you wouldn't expect. To cite but one example, the *Kolokithokeftedes* — minced, mildly spiced zucchini patties with potato, onion and parsley, gently pan-fried to golden crispness — are the perfect complement to any meal. THIS is what GreekTown is all about. The assorted dip platters (*Pikilia Mezedakia*, cold; *Christina's Pikilia*, hot & cold) are both teeming and delicious. The Seafood Souvlaki features large, marinated chunks of calamari, shrimps and scallops, grilled to perfection. The Greek Island Seafood Soup is heart-warmingly flavourful, the Grilled Seafood Salad on organic baby greens in orange thyme vinaigrette, piquant and precise.

The portions are extremely generous, the prices very reasonable, the wine selection greatly expanded. What better way to enjoy Christina's patio than by sipping on a glass of cool white wine?

Fresh fish and seafood lovers will be particularly pleased with Christina's new direction. Maritime innovations abound throughout the menu, from appetizers to salad to soup. There's even a seafood souvlaki! Traditional items also prove gratifying. The leg of lamb, succulently stuffed with spinach, sautéed onion, pepper and fresh herbs, is noteworthy, as is the vegetarian moussaka — elegantly and precisely layered.

Christina's. It's the perfect place to rekindle your love affair with the Danforth.

Kalyvia redefines "homemade"

Used in conjunction with restaurant food, the term "homemade" might seem contradictory; in the case of **Kalyvia**, however, it definitely rings true.

Mike and Peter Tsafatinos, who hail from the Greek town of Kalyvia, a few miles from Sparta, have seen their culinary efforts rewarded by an unerring reputation for authentic, "homemade" Greek cuisine at the Danforth's most approachable prices. This is no small achievement, considering that literally everything on the menu is prepared from scratch fresh daily.

KALYVIA
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333

Kalyvia's lofty standards for quality and freshness have earned it a four-star rating from *Toronto by Night Journal*, and a loyal clientele that has ushered Kalyvia into its second decade of success.

Under the watchful eye of Jim Tsafatinos (Mike's son) and a host of other family members, each and every dish emerges from the kitchen brimming with homemade taste. As befits a "homemade" meal, portions are gargantuan — worthy of any doting mother. The combination platters, priced from $26.95, offer a staggering variety of Greek specialties, yet each item is prepared with individual attention and care. The dips are particularly zesty; any three can be ordered for only $9.50. Highly recommended are the *Melitzanosalata* (eggplant), *Skordalia* (potato), and *Taramosalata* (red caviar).

The Mushrooms à la Kalyvia ($4.95) — sautéed in spices and brandy — is wonderfully decadent. And if you're partial to *Spanakopitakia* (spinach pies), you'll be able to taste the Kalyvia difference.

You won't find a better pizza anywhere in Toronto, due in large part to the dough, which is made fresh daily on the premises. Pizzas are available in five sizes, from individual to extra-large; the Greek style pizza, with its superb homemade sauce, is a logical choice, and rates a resounding 10 on the flavour scale.

The warm, peach-toned walls are adorned by Greek murals and original art. The ceramic-tiled dining room fronts a smaller, more intimate elevated dining area at rear with strip oak flooring.

Kalyvia is one of a very few places in Toronto where you can still enjoy the tastes and trappings of home in a family restaurant environment. It has "Mom" written all over it.

Traverso 2002: high style, modest pricing

Traverso, the eminently graceful knitwear collection from Athens, now has a sister collection (Sabbia) that's also making fashion waves.

Renowned in Greece for their elegance and quality construction, the *Traverso* and *Sabbia* lines are available in Toronto at 592 Danforth Avenue, across from Korry's. With its bleached oak floor, white-and-cream interior and antique trim, the shop provides a bright, sunny backdrop for these fetching designs.

Traverso features predominately natural, breathable fibres in many classic styles, yet even the simplest pieces often feature fanciful detailing that sets them apart from other popular knitwear lines. Sizes range from 4 to 14, and up to 16 for certain items. Summer colours include black on white, red, light blue and camel.

Traverso's appeal is enhanced by its transitional quality; warm enough for spring and fall, yet cool enough for summer, most garments carry effortlessly from season to season. Their timeless elegance also means they'll never go out of style, and "they wear magnificently," says owner Tracy Stamp. "We stand behind our product unconditionally."

Sabbia features a broader range of materials such as crisp, wrinkle-resistant European linens, cotton and lycra. It provides a carefree counterpoint to Traverso's classicism, but both collections are beautifully textured and priced far lower than what you'd expect to pay for this level of quality.

Moving into fall, there's a terrific selection of suits appropriate for the High Holidays.

So, to achieve the look and bearing of an Athenian beauty, you no longer need to *traverse* the Atlantic; just visit 592 Danforth and experience **Traverso** first-hand. Once you've run these wondrous fibres through your fingers, you'll want to make them a permanent part of your wardrobe.

INDOOR SALE 15-50% off
All summer & selected fall merchandise

592 Danforth Avenue (across from Korry's) 416•461•2995

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Sharifian's hair, salon services a natural

He's a dead ringer for Antonio Banderas, has a killer smile, and will give you the haircut of your life.

If you're one of the many women who travel from all over Toronto and as far afield as New York City to enjoy the Sharifian treatment, we'll give you the benefit of the doubt: it's his cutting and styling skills you're after.

In a 20-year career featuring lengthy stints in London, Amsterdam and Tokyo, Ben Sharifian has become known for his innate ability to enhance a woman's inner beauty as few other stylists can. Explains wife and partner Susan, who handles the salon's business affairs, "many of our customers can't verbalize what they want in a cut and style. But once Ben is done, they say, "That's it! That's exactly what I wanted!" Adds Ben: "being a good listener is an important part of being a good stylist".

SHARIFIAN
Salon & Spa
676 Pape Ave. at Danforth
416•469•4247
www.sharifian.com

But chic hairstyling is only part of the Sharifian Salon story. On their immaculate, spacious premises — one of the Danforth's largest — they offer a full range of esthetic and spa services. There are five private rooms, each dedicated to a separate service: pedicure, waxing, facials, massage, and full shower facilities. The staff includes a certified acupuncturist and aromatherapist.

The open, expansive, airy salon is bathed in soft, soothing golden and amber tones, from the cream-coloured ceramic tile floor to the warm pine ceiling. Naturally-aged exposed red brick and leafy green plants complete the picture, sending a soft but distinct message: RELAX.

In keeping with the natural approach, Sharifian uses only the finest natural and organic products for your hair and body.

Sharifian's move from the Bay/Bloor area, where he was located for a number of years, means you're getting elite Yorkville hairstyling and spa services at a fraction of Yorkville prices. Either Sharifian's hairstyling skills or the salon services would warrant a visit in their own right; the opportunity to enjoy both under the same roof — with friendly personal service — is irresistible. "This area suits us better," says Ben Sharifian. "It's more laid back. It's about taking life slowly, one day at a time."

Taking one day at a time sounds good, and a visit to Sharifian is a step in that direction. But once you see what he does to your hair, you'll wish that day could last forever.

*In **this** Hollywood, you always play the starring role*

1016 Pape Ave. • Tel. 416-467-6434 • E-mail: mpapa@total.net

Big Carrot's commitment to organics & service repaid by customer loyalty

In a field with an ever-increasing number of players, **The Big Carrot** has maintained its leadership position by stocking its shelves with products that are as good for the environment as they are for you, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. From humble beginnings in 1983, it has grown into metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living.

Organic, GMO-free, Kosher products

Run as a worker owned co-op since its opening, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. As it happens, many of these products are also Kosher.

Anchoring the Carrot Common Mall with a laid-back, homespun atmosphere that its customers value as much as the products themselves, The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market, a wholistic dispensary, and — thanks to its latest expansion — an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

While most health food stores carry a few brands of a particular item, The Big Carrot often has half a dozen or more, and its well-versed staff is more than happy to help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot has it.

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, muffins, and other wholesome *nosherie*, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher — or a combination thereof.

The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra pack.

Among many others, the Kosher products include Crofters Organic Premium Fruit Spreads from Ontario; tomato products from Utopia, also Ontario-grown; Seeds of Change salsas; Woodstock Organics Frozen Soups; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Jersey Farm Non-Dairy Soy Yogurt; cookies from Mrs. Denson's and Organica; Soy Delicious Non-Dairy Frozen Desserts; selected products from Eden Foods; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods.

THE BIG CARROT
NATURAL FOOD MARKET
"Searching for Nature's Finest"
348 Danforth Ave.
416-466-2129
www.thebigcarrot.ca
M-W 9:30–7 Sat. 9–8
Th & F 9:30–9 Sun. 11–6
Wholistic Dispensary
416-466-8432

The Big Carrot carries a tremendous variety of healthy sweets, including Tropical Source chocolate bars. They're organic, Kosher, made in Israel, and available in several delicious flavours. Try the Hazelnut Espresso Crunch!

The Deli counter offers more than 50 mouthwatering selections, both hot and cold. From the Organic Lentil Daal to the Organic Couscous Salad, every item is a taste and visual treat. It also offers a selection of sinfully delicious desserts *without the sin*, since they're free of refined ingredients.

The Big Carrot's Wholistic Dispensary, located across the courtyard, constitutes a store in its own right. Among other Kosher products, it carries Omega Flax Seed Oil and selected Solgar Supplements.

Of Toronto's growing number of juice bars, The Big Carrot's is the only one that's 100% organic, giving you, in a quick pit stop, the optimum high-octane fuel. There are over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, salubrious

Toronto's only 100% organic juice bar

substances, shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees. Hot sellers include the Musician's Magic (apple, pear, kiwi, Ginkgo) and the Energy Elevator (carrot, spinach, raspberry, Ginseng). This isn't just juice, it's a meal replacement.

Among the sandwiches, try the Grilled Tempeh, lettuce, tomato, red onion & honey mustard mayo — or design your own from a compelling variety of organic ingredients. Fresh, delicious and wholesome — just as Nature intended.

The events during a recent power outage exemplify the Big Carrot experience. Rather than becoming impatient and gnashing their teeth, customers simply relaxed, chatted, and munched on organic cookies cheerily dispensed by a staff member. If you want the word "stress" to disappear from your vocabulary — at least temporarily — shop here.

Through its continuing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit.

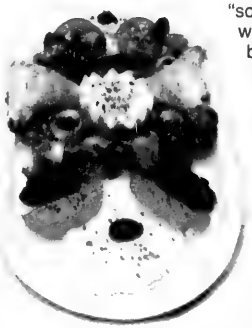
Astoria, Imago the hear

Astoria

390 Danforth Ave. at Chester Subway. • 416-463-2838
www.astoriashishkebob.com

Astoria. The mere mention of the name conjures up images of flaming souvlakis, mountainous portions that would make any *bubie* proud, and the kind of warm hospitality that is unmistakably Greek. This isn't just a restaurant, it's an icon.

Think "GreekTown", in fact, and you're liable to think "Astoria." For 28 years, this venerable "institution of higher dining" has come to symbolize the culinary qualities GreekTown is known for: great food, great quality, and great value. Most of Astoria's original customers are still regulars, and wouldn't dream of going anywhere else.



Astoria's now-famous "souvlaki window", always a beehive of activity, is an indelible image of Danforth life. And what souvlaki! Judged "Best of the City" by Toronto Life and "Best of Toronto" by Now Magazine, Astoria's souvlaki helped make it a multiple winner of the Toronto Sun's Readers' Choice Award as Toronto's favourite Greek restaurant.

Other jewels on the menu include hearty moussaka, exquisite broiled sea bass and salmon steaks – and Greek appetizers like grilled kalamari and grilled octopus, if you can keep your souvlaki craving at bay long enough to sample them.

Location and atmosphere are other Astoria assets. For a big restaurant, it's remarkably cozy, due to its corner location, dual outdoor patios (GreekTown's largest), and quiet, richly appointed interior.

Heading eastbound on Bloor, you know you're on the Danforth once you hit Broadview; but you don't really *feel* it until Astoria's white facade with its pale blue trim leaps joyously into view, bidding you "Welcome to GreekTown" in words that the food lover in you understands so well.

Across the street and just east of Astoria, another GreekTown player has emerged that promises to define multicultural entertainment the way Astoria has defined Greek dining:

If Astoria is the heart of GreekTown, then **Imago** is fast becoming its soul. Imago — pronounced ee-máh-go, and Latin for "an idealized mental image of another person or the self", is easy to fall for. Exuding joie-de-vivre, it's a giant collage of Greek imagery, featuring a liberal sprinkling of artifacts, patterns and shapes, a dash of intrigue, a pinch of kitsch, and a truckload of *chutzpah*, all done up in a glorious palette of rich pastels. Circles, ellipses and Greek hieroglyphics abound; there's not a right angle in the place. "We Greeks don't think straight," says owner Chris Skiouris (same family as the Astoria Skiouris-es), "but we *do* know how to party."

The ochre facade and entranceway is a stunning work of art in its own right: a delightful montage of bouzoukis, folk dancers, urns, goblets, and the Greek key that also shows up the railings, the tabletops, the front of the long elliptical bar, even the wrought-iron bases of some of the bar stools.

The entranceway segues into a purple and plum-toned interior, not unlike

t and soul of Greektown

the tropical beverages that are a hot item here.

Says Chris, "The Danforth has always been known as *the* place for Greek food and hospitality. But dining is only part of the Greek experience. Toronto has never had a club that captured the essence of Greek nightlife but still had the kind of universal appeal that would make it inviting to non-Greeks. Now it does."

How does Imago cater to the general population without watering down its Greek content? By offering a variety of entertainment that strictly Greek clubs don't:

- **Hot Salsa Wednesday:** Salsa dance lessons from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., live Salsa band from 9:30 p.m.
- **Sizmos (Earthquake) Friday:** Live 5 piece Greek youth bands play the latest dance music, plus live DJ.
- **Greek Island Saturday:** A night to remember, as you would experience on an island in Greece.
- **Rembetiko Sunday:** Imago moves into a mellower, more nostalgic mode with beautiful bouzouki music, a live 5 piece band, and a dress code.

Clearly, Imago has something for everyone. If you have an affinity for Israeli folk music, the Sunday Greek variety is markedly similar, but Imago's vibrance will appeal to anyone with a zest for living.

There are many fine patios on the Danforth, but Imago's split-level patio configuration is unique: air-conditioned outdoor seating below, street-level seating above. The interplay of indoor and outdoor environments merely adds to the fun.

With ambience to burn, it's not surprising that Imago has become a hot spot for film industry wrap parties and other gala events.

Time was, your visit to GreekTown wasn't official until you'd dined at Astoria. Now, says Chris, it isn't official until you've danced at Imago. For the true Greek experience, you simply have to do both — preferably in the same evening, he says.

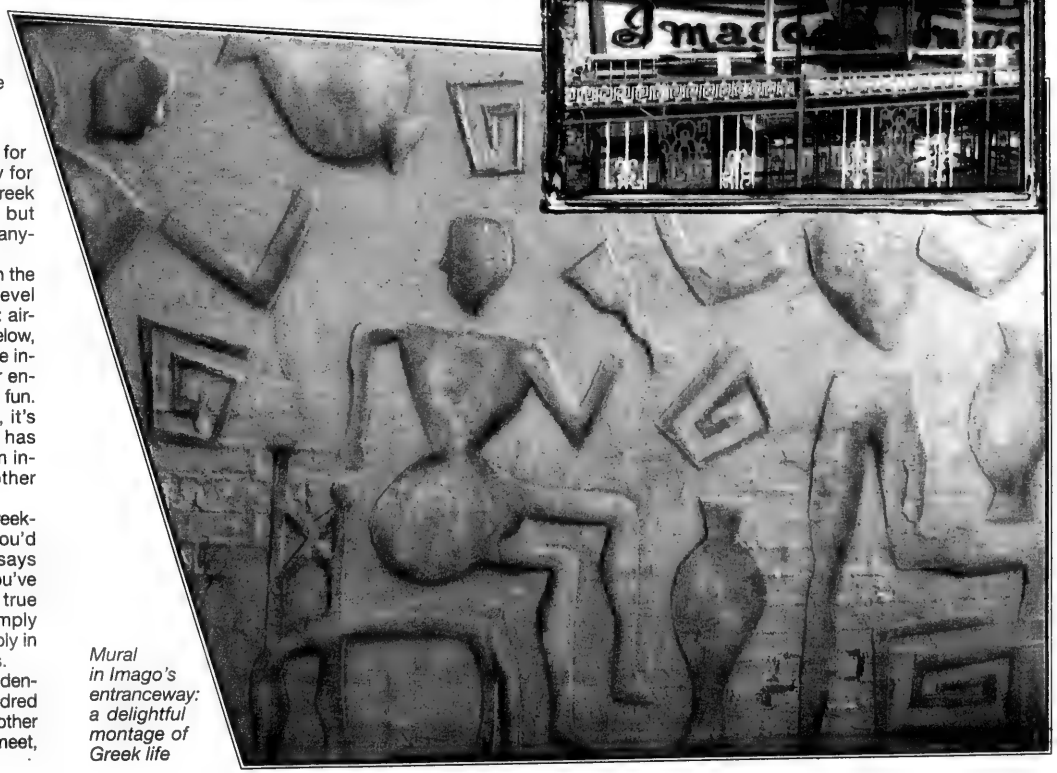
Astoria and Imago aren't identical twins, but they *are* kindred spirits: one the *fresser*, the other the partier, and when they meet, it's beautiful.

Imago Dicko Pub

433 Danforth Ave. 416-463-5554 • www.imagopub.com

Astoria and Imago have long been active in supporting a variety of charities, so their involvement in the upcoming Taste of the Danforth is a natural, says Chris. "It's an opportunity for everyone to eat, drink and be merry and support wonderful charities at the same time. How's *that* for a win-win scenario?"

GreekTown, anyone?



Mural in Imago's entranceway: a delightful montage of Greek life

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Computerized services aid investors

The age-old advice that you shouldn't put all your eggs in one basket continues to ring true when it comes to successful investing. In fact, diversification — or the way a portfolio is allocated among investment types — is more important than the specific stocks, bonds or mutual funds selected.

That's why Jonathan Sceeles of the investment firm Edward Jones offers a computer service called Portfolio Analysis. "Despite the proven success of diversified investment strategies, many investors own only one or two types of securities," says Sceeles. "Portfolio Analysis helps ensure that they're adequately diversified, and it enables them to see, at a glance, whether their current investments are on track to meet their long-term goals."

Portfolio Analysis lists and categorizes securities in an orderly way and has the ability to include income sources other than investments.

The program also provides a month-by-month summary of the income that investors can expect to receive from their investments, as well as simple graphs comparing their current investment strategy to the firm's recommended allocations.

"The comprehensive record of the client's financial situation provided by this service also can be helpful in record-keeping, particularly at tax time," notes Sceeles.

Jonathan Sceeles
Investment Representative

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors
798 Broadview Ave.
(just North of Danforth)
Toronto, ON M4K 2P7
(416) 406-1140
www.edwardjones.com

This computer service is available because of Jones' $30 million satellite network. The system, installed in 1989, relays data and video between the headquarters in St. Louis and Edward Jones' more than 8,500 offices spread across North America and in the United Kingdom.

"Our firm is always looking for ways to maximize available technology, and this service is an example of that," says Sceeles. "The computer program, which is free of charge, enhances the advice I give my clients, helping us make the most of their investments."

Edward Jones is a full-service investment dealer with one of the largest branch networks in Canada. It is a member of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada and the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and a participating organization of the Toronto Stock Exchange. Including its affiliates, Edward Jones serves about 5 million clients in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. from more than 8,500 locations.

Edward Jones is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund

Ampeli knows only one way: the right way

There's no substitute for freshness. In three short years, **Ampeli** has drawn the kind of rave reviews restaurants covet. Partners Tony Nina and Paul Vouzas attribute their success to a simple formula: use the freshest, highest-quality ingredients, lightly seasoned and prepared simply. Everything's cooked to order, meaning you have to wait a little longer for your meal to arrive; but the wait is more than worth it.

Meat and fish are always fresh, never frozen, and Ampeli has become renowned for both. You simply can't find better rack of lamb or Ontario lamb chops anywhere. The fresh fish is so popular customers usually specify, when making reservations, which type of fish they want. Red snapper, porgy, codfish, smelts, whiting — if it's just been caught, you'll find it on Ampeli's table the same day.

For Nina and Vouzas this means more legwork, combing the market for the freshest catch of the day. "This isn't an option," says Nina. "It's an obligation to our customers."

AMPELI
TAVERNA
526 Danforth Ave. 416-465-4001

Head chef Elias Cripouris has 35 years of experience in Greek cuisine, and it shows.

Warm ciabatta bread accompanies every meal with a side of olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Fresh pasta is hand-made on the premises, and all sauces are à la minute.

Ampeli's distinctive red brick exterior and huge patios, complete with bright flowers, are a welcome sight for anyone seeking Greek and Mediterranean cuisine as it's meant to taste.

> **"... Only at Ampeli did we meet moist, tender, roast Ontario lamb. Ditto the moussaka experience .... at Ampeli the moussaka was marvellously fragrant, full of rich flavours. Roasted mashed eggplant dip is zinged with fresh mint, and marinated octopus is tender with a lovely vinegar bite. Meaty little quails have been marinated for tenderness and are cooked just so, and the grilled fresh porgy is a paragon of Piscean virtue, with especially crisp skin."**
>
> ***Joanne Kates, Post City Magazines***

Sushi Delight: premium taste, value

With the ever-growing popularity of sushi, one name stands out for quality, freshness, variety, and price: **Sushi Delight.**

This bright, immaculate sushi bar is always bustling with activity, thanks to a menu that's as easy on the pocketbook as it is delightful to the palate. Complete meals, in a Bento box, range from $6.95 for the Vegetarian Box, which includes Tempura, to $11.95 for the Tokyo Box, which includes Sushi. Sushi Delight's Special Party Trays are a hit for large groups; priced at $29.95 for 48 pieces or $49.95 for 86 pieces, they offer tremendous variety and value. Custom catering is available, as is take out and delivery.

If you're just looking for a light meal or a tasty snack, four delicious Sushi Bar specials are offered: three at $6.50 and the delectable 6 pc. Sushi Pizza (a crispy Sushi Rice Base topped with Salmon, Green Onion, White Onion, Tobiko & Special Sauce) for $6.95.

You can taste the Sushi Delight difference in the freshness of the ingredients, and the entire menu is MSG-free. Good taste and good health go hand in hand.

The cheery atmosphere and caring staff make for unabated dining pleasure from first bite to last. Sushi Delight is everything you could want in a sushi bar and then some.

SUSHI COMBOS
(including Miso Soup & Salad)

Sushi Kyoto $9.55 *Tuna, Salmon, Hokkigai, Ebi, Kani, 3pcs. Cucumber Roll, 3 pcs. Salmon Roll & Choice of 3 pcs. Futomaki or 1 pc. Salmon Hand Roll or 2 pc. Salmon Sushi*

Sushi Osaka $12.55 *Tuna, Salmon, Hokkigai, Ebi, Kani, Tai, Tako, 3pcs. Cucumber Roll, 3 pcs. Salmon Roll & Choice of 3 pcs. Futomaki or 1 pc. Salmon Hand Roll or 2 pc. Salmon Sushi*

Sushi Tokyo $16.50 *Tuna, Salmon, Hokkigai, Ebi, Kani, Tai, Tako, Hamachi, Tobiko, 3pcs. Cucumber Roll, 3 pcs. Salmon Roll & Choice of 3 pcs. Futomaki or 1 pc. California Hand Roll or 2 pc. Salmon Sushi*

Chirasi $9.95 *Assorted Daily Fish & Seafood on Bed of Sushi Rice*

Maki Set $11.95 *6 pcs. California Roll, 6 pcs. Salmon Roll & Choice of 6 pcs. Futomaki or 6 pcs. Tuna Roll*

Vegetarian Roll Set $9.95 *6 kinds of Vegetarian Roll 18 pcs.*

Hand Roll Set $7.95 *1 pc. each Tuna, Salmon, Cucumber, California*

DINNER SPECIALS

A.	Special Box	$ 9.95
B.	Sushi & Sashimi Combo	$ 12.95
C.	Special B.B.Q. Set	$ 3.95
D.	Grilled Black Cod Fish	$ 4.95
E.	Hot Pot (Vegetable)	$ 6.95
	Hot Pot (Seafood)	$ 11.95
F.	Special Red Dragon Roll	$ 6.95
G.	Special Green Dragon Roll	$ 6.95
H.	Rainbow Roll	$ 6.95
I.	Special Maki Set	$ 12.95

LUNCH SPECIAL $5.95
11 am – 4 pm 7 days

461 Danforth Avenue 416•406•0288
Sun. - Thurs. 11 am – 11 pm
Fri. & Sat. 11 am – 12 midnight

Eighth wonder of the fashion world

If your fashion shopping brings you to **Eight**, you've definitely arrived. The fashions are hot, the music is hip, the service warm and personal. One question: Why "Eight"?

Don't probe too deeply. Remember, as a child, repeatedly scribbling your favourite number? Eight was owner Karin Kassabian's.

While the naiveté of childhood has been replaced by the moxy of 14 years in the fashion business, Eight still wears the badge of K's youthful enthusiasm.

Using a formula of 20 parts Queen Street urban chic, 40 parts Bloor Street style and 100 parts fashion flair — at *très* friendly prices — Eight flat-out rocks.

K, who learned her trade in one of Canada's largest fashion chains, knew "from day one" that she would someday own her own store. Now that her vision of that store has materialized at Danforth and Logan, fashion shoppers city-wide are feeling its vibe.

Part of Eight's special energy emanates from K herself, whose expertise and unassuming approach resonates with customers. "We operate on a 100 percent comfort zone here, not 99 percent," she says.

This comfort level extends to fitting, where K's keen eyes ensure that you'll look great in whatever garment you try on — or it won't leave the shop with you.

Eight caters equally to men and women of almost all ages. "My customers range from 16 to 66," says K, whose target market is "anyone who wants to look good and feel good".

Though Eight carries loads of hip denim for both women and men, it's much more than a jeans store. From mainstream styles to beyond-the-edge, Eight carries the later-than-latest in casual clothing from Italy, Amsterdam and other European fashion hotbeds. Because Kassabian's buying is intensely personal — "I wear what I sell" — you won't find Eight's pieces all over town. This suits K and her clientele just fine. "My taste may take me out on a limb, but lots of people have climbed onto that limb with me."

Obviously, Kassabian feeds off customer satisfaction. "I want you to leave smiling," she grins.

We are. Must have been something we *eight*.

Eight clothing
464 Danforth at Logan 416•461•5339

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Thuna Herbals' past a beacon for future

It's a delightful anachronism reminiscent of an old English apothecary shop. Fifteen hundred glass jars, each filled with a different herb or root, stacked high in orderly rows. The original creaking hardwood floor. And a proprietor who's all about knowledge and caring.

Established in 1888 (how's that for history?), this family business is now run by Evelyn Dorfman, the granddaughter of founder Dr. Max Harriman Thuna, and a staff of qualified herbalists on the original turn-of-the-century premises at 298 Danforth Avenue.

Over the years, the Thuna family has seen the use of herbal remedies — once the *de facto* method of treatment for most medical problems — lose ground to the synthetic drugs that have flooded the marketplace.

More recently, however, the pendulum has slowly but surely begun to swing back, as more and more people seek alternatives to mainstream medicine. Thuna's doesn't diagnose problems presented to them; rather, they advise customers seeking a diagnosis to obtain it from their medical practitioners. Some come with the blessing of their GP, but many are referred by naturopathic practitioners. Typically, clients come in on their own initiative.

Saul Pasen helped pioneer herbalism in Canada

THUNA HERBALS
298 Danforth Avenue
416-465-3366

Drawing on their schooling, Dorfman and staff choose from some 2,000 herbs, berries, roots, and leaves the precise combination most likely to alleviate an ailment presented to them. To cite but one example, a formula for bladder infection, or even interstitial cystitis, might include uva-ursi leaves, buchu leaves, parsley leaves, marshmallow root, corn silk, and goldenseal leaves.

Dr. Thuna and his children, including son-in-law Saul Pasen, pictured above, helped pioneer herbalism in Canada.

The current premises stand as a rich reminder of Canadian history. Even if you have only a passing interest in herbalism, you owe it to yourself to visit this Toronto landmark. And who knows — by asking a few questions, you might become further enlightened on this ancient practice.

Ici Paris: 27-year legacy of caring

Over the past three decades, **Ici Paris** has been at the forefront of scientific advances in natural skin care therapies.

Since 1976, this distinguished salon has continually reinvented its concept of delivering the best in skin care within a holistic approach to health and well-being. Its philosophy has remained clear: to search out and apply innovative techniques and advanced holistic therapies in order to offer its customers the ultimate in skin care treatments, products and stress escapes.

Ici Paris' outstanding reputation is based on its success in implementing this philosophy and a staff of highly educated, mostly European-trained estheticians, whose knowledge and experience have kept them in high demand and regard.

Ici Paris has a wide selection of products and services to suit every need: therapeutic facials, outstanding body therapies, and a range of head-to-toe treatments and packages that will leave you feeling relaxed and pampered.

In keeping with Ici Paris' holistic philosophy, they use only the finest natural, botanical-based products. All of their efforts are directed towards ensuring that your visit leaves you aglow with radiant health and well-being.

What better time to be good to yourself than the present?

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SCIENTIFIC SKIN CARE CLINIC
TORONTO'S HOLISTIC SPA
370 Danforth Avenue
416-461-1774
www.iciparis.ca
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If you're with child, then WITH CHILD is with you

You're expecting. Ideally, you'd like to find everything you need at a prenatal store that treats your child-to-be as if it was *their* child.

Enter **With Child**. Now in its eighth year as a one-stop shop for expectant mothers, this is one pre/postnatal store that goes the extra mile for its customers. An ultraconvenient location at the corner of Pape and Danforth — steps away from the Pape subway and a huge municipal parking lot — makes it doubly attractive.

With an emphasis on breast feeding, cloth diapering and attachment parenting, With Child carries a wide range of quality products. They're big on cloth diapers, from flat to fitted, and organic bedding. Brand names include Lunar Eclipse, Avent, Blissful Babes, Baby Trekker heart-to-heart carriers, and Bravado nursing bras. A huge selection of books is also available. In the fall, With Child plans to introduce a variety of high-quality European strollers.

More than the products, however, it's the warm, laid-back personal service that distinguishes With Child from other prenatal stores, says manager Tina Martins. With Child's mandate is to "ease the transition from pregnancy to motherhood. Most of us [herself and her associates] are parents ourselves, so we speak your language."

With Child has everything you need for your baby, but one thing you *won't* find here is pressure. "Motherhood carries enough of that already, without adding to it", winks Martins. So laid-back is the approach, she explains, that mothers often come in, breast feed and leave, without feeling obliged to shop.

with child
705 Pape Ave.
at Danforth
416•466•9693

While you're there, of course, Martins and her staff are only too happy to offer expert advice on any topic relating to childbirth. This kind of one-on-one support is always valuable, especially if you're a first-time mother. Starting in September, With Child will also offer interactive parenting programmes and mothering groups.

With Child's relationship with their customers carries through the pregnancy to the delivery and well beyond. They can arrange a Medela breast pump rental after your discharge. Their active interest in the ongoing welfare of your child comes as close to surrogate motherhood as you could possibly want.

If you're with child, then With Child is with you — every step of the way.

Octavia's fifth year of first-rate cuisine

When a restaurant defies convention and succeeds, it's news. When it continues to build on its early success well into its fifth year, it's headlines.

Who better to introduce a bold new concept than an old pro? With his legendary *Memories* gone but not forgotten, Tom Konis has shown, with son John and partner Tom Athanasopoulos, that there's always room for a new player when that player brings something new to the table.

Octavia resists the labels of Mediterranean and Continental, yet its menu features elements of both, and ripples with master strokes. It's much easier to savour the Poppyseed Grilled Salmon in a Lemon Butter Garlic Reduction than to define it. Peccorina Pizza with roasted red peppers, onions, wild mushrooms, soft ripened goat cheese and lamb rosemary sausage can't be categorized; it's simply splendid pizza.

Steak lovers take note: Octavia doesn't bill itself as a steak house, but its New York U.S. prime sets a standard that steak houses might well aspire to. Grilled to perfection and served in a Brandy Peppercorn sauce, it ranks below its competitors in only one respect: price.

After dinner, Octavia puts on its lounge hat and serves up some of Toronto's finest martinis. Dessert martinis are a specialty; among others, the Espresso Martini will put an exclamation point on your evening. And, unlike some establishments which merely encourage you to relax after dinner, Octavia's *built* for relaxation. Its intimate, leather-upholstered semicircular booths evoke a Roaring Twenties elegance, while the signature serpentine bar is pure 21st century.

Since opening, in fact, Octavia has continually updated its decor to ensure that dining pleasure and visual pleasure go hand in hand. In the current colour scheme, chocolate and mocha tones soothe and soften the mood. It's a uniquely modern dining environment favoured by those with avant-garde tastes.

OCTAVIA
414 Danforth Ave.
416-461-3562
menupalace.com/octavia

Make no mistake about it, though: the spirit of old-fashioned personal service is ever-present. The singular focus of the Octavia team is to ensure that both your meal and your visit are memorable, and no efforts are spared towards that end.

Increased popularity sometimes makes it more difficult to continue dealing with customers one on one. Thankfully, Octavia hasn't grown too quickly to forget where it came from.

Memorable cuisine, memorable service: both have "Tom Konis" written all over them.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Ouzeri thrives on fresh approach

Marrying European fine dining with Greek cuisine, Ouzeri has much to offer Danforth-goers.

Brothers Chris and Alex Trahiotis (whose father Jim was executive chef and partner at Burlington's famed Lord Nelson Restaurant) offer a menu focused on quality, not volume. "We prefer fifty superb selections to a hundred good ones," says Alex. "And freshness is paramount."

OUZERI

500A Danforth Ave. 416-778-0500
website: www.ouzeri.com
e-mail: dine@ouzeri.com

The wide variety of Greek appetizers bear out this claim, as do a number of intriguing entrées. Signature dishes include the wonderfully garnished and baked Oysters Ouzeri; Lamb Rosemary Pie; and Breaded Chicken with Wine Mushroom or Lemon Butter Sauce.

Fresh fish is available daily, and may feature Red Snapper, Sea Bass, Tuna, or whatever catch happens to be freshest on the day you visit.

Accompany these delectables with a fine wine from Ouzeri's extensive international list and you have all the ingredients of a culinary bonanza.

Ouzeri is a cheery, colourful, festive place with three dining levels and a patio that is among the Danforth's largest and liveliest. The service is friendly and extremely thorough, with ample wait staff to keep pace with your needs. The dining environment is immaculate, the cuisine impeccable. In short, Ouzeri is everything you could possibly want in a Greek restaurant.

"... the most delicious food on the Danny issues from a new style resto [Ouzeri] .... service is attentive .... Great smells issue from the open kitchen, and great tastes follow ...."
Joanne Kates, Post City Magazines

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Early or late, 521 goes down smoothly

Too often in our fast-paced lives, we find ourselves racing to and from dinner. **521 Café & Bar** has taken a stand against that mindset by encouraging dinner-goers to warm up to dinner, or wind down after it, with a relaxing beverage.

Just because it entices you to stop and smell the roses, however, doesn't mean 521 is slow-paced. It's a high-energy environment, always busy and abuzz with animated conversation. A wide range of international music is paced according to the clientele's energy level and mood.

521
CAFE BAR
521 Danforth Avenue
416 463 3968

This L-shaped gem occupies one of the Danforth's choicest corner locations, at Fenwick just west of Carlaw. Two separate patios — the smaller in front, the larger, more private one at rear — usher you into 521's boldly elegant interior. Original canvases of charcoal and burnt orange adorn the steel-gray walls. Slate-gray leather bench seating with polished oak backing spans the café's entire length, facing the mirrored bar.

First-rate scotches, martinis and speciality mixed beverages are 521's stock in trade. In particular, the 3 oz. martinis put to shame those of many high-profile downtown haunts. The specialty coffees and frappés are also first rate. Spanish coffee, Irish coffee, Monte Cristo — 521 delivers all with full strength and flavour.

Though it's a café first and foremost, 521 also offers delicious light meals, and prices across the board are eminently reasonable. For example, you can enjoy a lovely mixed garden salad with a hot pressed grilled sandwich for only $6.75. Plentiful cheese platters served with fruit or meat and grilled waffles are also specialties, and there's a variety of fresh desserts.

Brothers Frank and Lambros have been active in Danforth restaurants for most of their adult lives. In 521 they've succeeded in creating an environment distinctively different from any other on the Danforth. It's a smoking establishment with bar status, meaning you'll have to be 19 or over to enjoy it — but once you've reached that grand old age, you'll find that 521 was well worth waiting for.

So if this finds you heading down to the Danforth for dinner, why not budget another hour or two and turn a relaxing dinner into a *very* relaxing evening?

Every meal a special occasion at the Palace

At The Palace, every meal is a special occasion. From the moment you enter, you're treated like royalty — a feeling that's confirmed and enhanced with each and every bite.

A quick perusal of The Palace's menu reveals a selection of royal fare unmatched on the Danforth. The appetizers alone provide more choice than some entire menus, and they stand alone in terms of freshness, preparation and authenticity.

Among the hot appetizers, the Hot Mezze Platter (Kalamari, Grilled Octopus, Loukaniko, and Bifteki) is a meal in itself; among the cold, try the Cold Mezze Platter (Tzatziki, Taramosalata, Melitzanosalata, Kalamata Olives and pickled beets with pita).

If you can ever tear yourself away from the appetizers, the Avgolemono soup, a chicken & rice broth finished with gently whipped egg & lemon juice, is delicately prepared, the Greek salad crisp and lavishly portioned.

Rack of lamb and moussaka are two prized specialties of the house; you'll be hard-pressed to find their equal. The Lamb Kleftiko also deserves special mention; the combination of lamb, feta cheese, sweet bell peppers, onions and mushrooms is simply divine inside its phyllo pastry envelope.

THE PALACE RESTAURANT
722 Pape Avenue at Danforth
416-462-1166

The Palace is also highly reputed for its fresh fish; try the Grilled Swordfish Steak with lemon and herbs, the Whole Broiled Sea Bass, or the Atlantic Salmon Steak. Whatever your preference, you'll find it here, prepared to the absolute maximum of its flavour. It's easy to see why The Palace is the favourite spot for discriminating fish lovers.

As befits a Palace, there's a private Party room for up to 100 people. Located on the upper level, it's ideal for birthday parties, Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties, or any event requiring the kind of ambience a banquet hall simply can't provide.

The management and staff go to great lengths to ensure your comfort and satisfaction. A visit to this culinary kingdom is pure pleasure; nobody does Greek like The Palace.

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Pantheon's popularity prompts major expansion

Of all the restaurants in GreekTown, Pantheon's decor is perhaps the most inviting. The creamy white tile floor etched with gold is soothing, yet refined; the walls, alive with colourful murals, are capped with finely etched wooden trim; the tables, bedecked with crisp linens in white and gold, are flanked by real wooden chairs.

Now, thanks to a major expansion, Pantheon has doubled in size while retaining its charm, intimacy and — most important — its culinary excellence. The "west wing", with rust-coloured tile and working fireplace, merely means there's much more of Pantheon to love.

Though its mainstream Greek cuisine compares favourably with that of other Danforth restaurants, fresh fish is what keeps Pantheon's loyal following coming back in droves. Whole sea bass, striped bass, red and white snapper, orange roughy, black porgy, salmon, red mullet, sea smelts — the variety is incredible, the preparation impeccable. As one major daily noted, "Above all, small fish imported from Greece, such as anchovies and baby sardines . . . demand repeat visits. [This lovely fish] is what sets Pantheon apart from most Toronto Greek restaurants."

Chef Nick Paroussis — who, with partner John Troupis, is responsible for maintaining these lofty standards — clearly understands the best way to bring out the intrinsic flavour of fresh fish is to treat it delicately, a practise that also extends to the fresh Ontario lamb chops, which can be enjoyed on their own or as part of a substantial mixed grill.

407 Danforth Avenue
ACROSS FROM CHESTER SUBWAY
416-778-1929
OPEN 11 AM – MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS
www.greekvillage.com/pantheon

"... a winning charm ..."
"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."

Mouthwatering home-made desserts provide a fitting conclusion to your meal. In addition to the traditional baklava, you'll find Pantheon's walnut cake particularly enticing, and its honey cake will no doubt give rise to endless comparisons with you-know-who's.

You'd expect to pay a premium for such superb cuisine, but Pantheon's prices are actually below average for the Danforth. When you combine this with the aforementioned ambience, you're talking exceptional value for GreekTown.

Demetre's home-made ice cream irresistible

You're strolling the Danforth, minding your own business. Suddenly, you're being served a "Life Sentence" Belgian waffle with chocolate chip ripple ice cream, topped with bananas, fudge brownie, fudge and peanuts.

You're now just another inmate "doing time" at **Caffé Demetre** — swallowed up by a vortex of irresistible cones, sundaes, splits, gourmet coffees, cakes, crêpes and waffles, pies, flans — and the best ice cream you ever tasted.

Relax; it's a crime so common that the dessert emporium sells "over 2000 litres of ice cream a week" in peak season, according to partners Themy and Alex. The fact that it's home-made the old fashioned way (no additives, no preservatives) reduces somewhat the guilt of this unbelievably pleasurable indulgence. Demetre's is one of the very few places you'll find this "Real McCoy", and ice cream connoisseurs from all over Toronto seek it out. Its specialty cakes — for birthdays, Bar Mitzvahs, and other occasions — are similarly coveted.

You've served your life sentence, but there's no rest for the wicked. It's time for a "Sweetcar Named Devour" crêpe, with cocoa-chocolate ice cream topped with fresh strawberries and fudge. Wash it down with a cappuccino, espresso, frappé, steamer, or freshly brewed coffee (40 varieties in all).

caffé Demetré
Glacerie Patisserie

400 Danforth Ave.
at Chester Subway
416-778-6654

Here's the real scoop:
We do not serve store-bought ice cream. We make our own gourmet ice cream — right here! Our Super Premium iced Creams are made fresh daily on the premises using 17% cream and the best quality ingredients blended with our original Caffé Demetre recipes. Because we make it fresh here, the ice cream is not exposed to heat shock. That's why it's so creamy and so good. ENJOY!

What a place to pop the big question! Sweeten up your prey with a "Romancing The Cone" Banana Split (white chocolate, cocoa-chocolate ice cream and praline hazelnut ice cream smothered with fudge toppings, capped with a cone). And get the ring ready.

Now that (s)he's said yes, celebrate with an Aristo-crème dark chocolate truffle sundae (two scoops of cocoa-chocolate ice cream rolled in chocolate curls, served on a bed of fudge with chocolate chunks and sprinkled with Dutch cocoa powder).

Now that you've enjoyed the main course, it's time for dessert . . .

BBI a telecommunications leader

With almost every adult now using some type of electronic device, the dealership you buy that device from takes on added importance.

Now entering its 9th year, BBI has established a reputation for expertise and reliability not only in GreekTown, but citywide. As one of Ontario's fastest growing Bell Mobility dealerships, its operations include the retail sale of telecommunications products and services, the development of telecommunications solutions (data solutions, mobile office), and involvement in community and corporate events such as Taste of the Danforth, of which it is a founding sponsor. Savvy consumers and corporations alike seek out BBI for their knowledge and reliability.

Unlike many dealers who are cell phone vendors and little more, BBI is a complete mobile solutions and telecommunications centre. Sotiris Buseas and his staff are thoroughly versed in their products they sell, and will take the time to explain all the features of the device you purchase.

BBI's history of involvement in community events like the Taste of The Danforth is only natural, says Buseas. "The Taste is about culture, and part of culture is communications. We like to think we can help people get their messages across clearly — in English, Greek, Hebrew, or any other language."

Now, if he can only ensure that the parental advice dispensed over these devices will *actually get followed* . . .

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Official Communications Sponsor, Taste of the Danforth

For convivial meals, visit Mezes.

A *mezes*, as you may know, is a tasty Greek dish served as an appetizer. Together, several *mezedes* make a hearty meal.

Usually, each guest orders one or two, then everyone shares. This practise is common to many other cultures; to cite but two, Latin American *tapas* and Oriental Dim Sum attest to the wide appeal of this dining style.

"It makes for a convivial meal," says Mezes proprietor Sue Zindros. "It stimulates conversation, sharing good feelings as well as food; and it encourages people to try new things."

Suppose someone suggests that you sample a new kind of seafood. Never having tried it, you might hesitate to order it as an entrée, but you'd be more than willing to share it with friends or family. If each person in your party orders a different mezes, you'll have an incredible variety of tastes and textures to sample and enjoy. The next time you visit, you can make a point of ordering the mezedes you liked as entrées.

Hungry diners, in Sue's experience, tend to order familiar things, or "comfort food". Mezes encourages diners to blend the familiar with the new. The fact that everything at Mezes is made fresh from scratch with the finest natural ingredients is added incentive to experiment.

Most mezedes are vegetarian or seafood. One popular vegetarian mezes is *gigantes* — lima beans slowly cooked with tomato sauce and dill. Seafood mezedes include several varieties with shrimp; try them broiled with garlic, fresh vegetables and lemon sauce, served with tomato sauce. You might also enjoy breaded pan-fried kalamari with a splash of wine. Among others, the meat mezedes include *dolmades* (vine leaves stuffed with ground beef, rice, fresh tomato and dill).

Mezes' repertoire is by no means limited to its culinary namesake. Its entrées are spectacular; nowhere will you find better fresh fish or heartier lamb chops. There's a large selection of fine Greek wines to complement any dish.

A covered waterproof pavilion in front extends the convivial joy right out into the street. Outdoors or in, the Mezes ambience and culinary excellence shine through.

Mezes
AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE
456 DANFORTH AVENUE
416-778-5150
WWW.MEZES.CA

Staying young old hat at 569 Danforth

Just go to Korry's dot com. You'll find everything you need right there. Then drop me an e-mail." The words roll off his tongue. A precocious teenager surfing the web? A twenty-something fashion maven?

To look at Saul Korman is to see a man who wears his 50 years in the menswear trade as crisply as the impeccably-finished garments he sports. To listen to him, however, you'd swear he was a bright-faced, bushy-tailed youngster just out of school, raring to conquer the world — not an old-school veteran of the clothing trade.

The truth is, he's both. Old school and *nouveau* school, happily coexistent in one person. Old school enough to still answer his own phones — no hiding behind voice mail at this address — yet hip to the fact that his website has to be cutting-edge. If loving what one does is the key to youthful longevity, then Saul Korman not only has that key, he's got it firmly chained to his cummerbund — and isn't about to surrender it any time soon.

"It's my life," he says. "I don't know anything else." These are words of passion, not resignation; it's Korman's love for every minute detail of his business that has buoyed him through the decades, and touched those who've shared the journey with him: colleagues, customers, suppliers and — most of all — his fellow merchants on the Danforth.

"Name me one street — I'm not talking Toronto, I'm talking *anywhere* — that has what we have"

His tireless efforts to promote his chosen street have not only endeared him to his neighbours, they've also captured the attention of an entire city. His voice fills the airwaves, leaving no one indifferent. Both his trademark off-the-cuff delivery and the phrase "Five Six Nine Danforth Avenue" are indelibly stamped on the public consciousness.

"It's show business," he croons. "I love the limelight. Where else could a guy with a Grade 10 education get this kind of run?"

Grade 10 by the book, perhaps, but in the school of life, Korman got his PhD long ago. And if you're impressed by this upstart web surfer, wait until you hear him lecture!

"Suits are back. Men are dressing up again because they're starting to look for jobs again. You need to dress for the job you *want*, not the job you have." According to Korman, no less an authority than President Bush "has insisted that all interviewers at his press conferences be appropriately dressed."

When Bush league is good

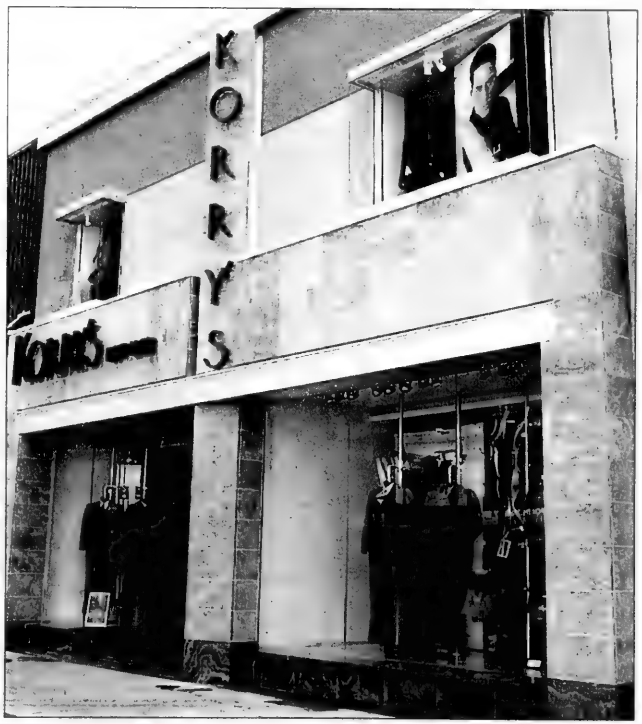
The reference to a head of state is appropriate, for Korman holds court on the Danforth as surely as Bush does in the White House. He's been called the King of the Danforth, the Mayor, the Duke, and other monikers, and they're all good, he says, "as long as they call me *something*." [No worries on that score]. "It means they're getting my message."

The *message du jour* continues: "People in general are buying better quality. As they acquire a taste for it, they come to appreciate that it looks better, feels better, lasts longer." The black Boss suit (as popularized by the film *Men in Black*), Korman explains, is in high demand. "It's a powerful, refined look, and it's incredibly versatile. It works for business meetings, graduations, weddings ... it takes you everywhere."

If you've heard the Korman story, you'll know that, fresh from the wilds of northern Quebec, he arrived in Toronto at the peach-fuzzed age of 18, jumped into the family business with both feet and shepherded it into the Korry's of today. In he process, he made his shtick and his street famous.

"I stayed on the farm because the greener pastures were here already"

Youth will be served, said Jack London. What he didn't say was that youth can sometimes come in the form of a sexagenarian who jackrabbits around his store on two replaced knees ("I got a two for one", he quips). He's celebrating 50 years in business, but where are the signs of winding down?



Before you can say "Five Six Nine", Korman segues into his favourite topic: the Danforth. "Name me one street, anywhere — I'm not talking Toronto, I'm talking *anywhere in the world* — that has what we have. The restaurants. The shops. The *people*." Those who ask him why he never sought greener pastures downtown may mean well, he says, but "they just don't get it. I stayed on the farm because the greener pastures were here already." Greener both literally and figuratively, he explains — never for a second would he have considered trading the European ambience, ethnic flavour and abundant greenery of the Danforth for the cement and right angles of the downtown core. "If there isn't a fruit and vegetable store every few blocks, it's not me."

Korman feels richly rewarded by his Danforth experiences. "If I never sell another suit, I'm happy". Is this really Saul Korman talking? [A telling wink]. The odds of Korman never selling another suit, of course, are about one in a million — or roughly the number of people expected at this year's Taste of the Danforth, which he's now trumpeting.

The suit he's "never" going to sell is already on your back. It fits you perfectly. You look better. You *feel* better. And, free of charge, you're getting a doctoral dissertation on the Danforth: 569 Good Reasons to Visit the World's Best Street.

A city. A street. A man. Fifty years and counting.

What else can one say but *Mazel Tov*?

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This Week

National

Former judge prepares to mark 100 years. *Page 6*

Excitement of policing attracted woman officer. *Page 7*

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Serious injury teaches student importance of CARD. *Page 24*

Arts & Travel

Young blues guitarist reaches across roads. *Page 30*

Sports & Leisure

Jewish teens to represent Canada in wheelchair tennis. *Page 38*

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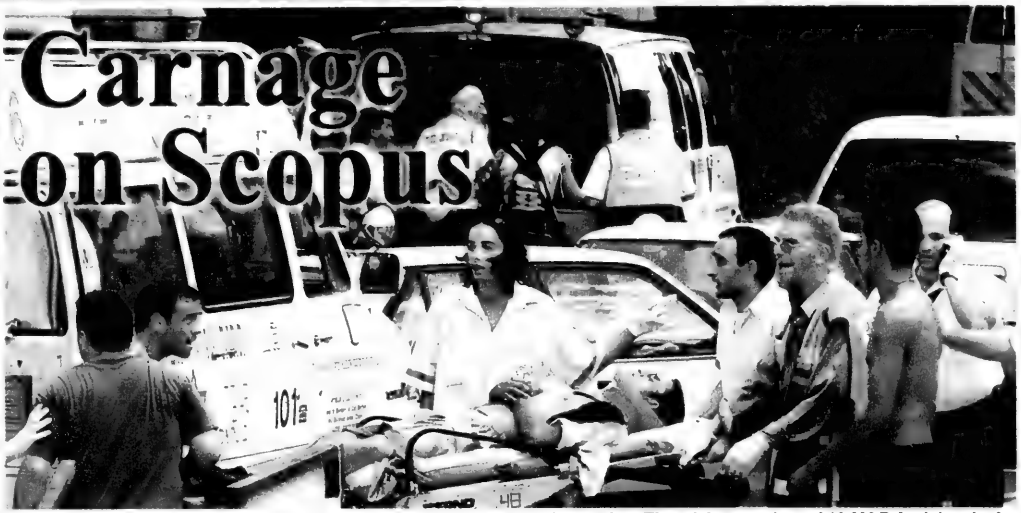
www.cjnews.com

Carnage on Scopus



Seven people were killed and more than 80 wounded last Wednesday in a bombing at Hebrew University's campus on Mount Scopus. Among the seven killed were five Americans. Hamas claimed credit for the murders. That night, an estimated 10,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip celebrated the attack. *Please see related story on page 26.*
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Parents frustrated with bicultural school

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

The taxi stopped where the paved streets of the Jewish Katamonim neighbourhood of Jerusalem merge into the Arab village of Beit Shufafa's dusty road. From there the directions to the Harel-Ankova home were vague – no street address, only landmarks to follow.

Backgrounder

As I made my way over the dirt path, Rivka Harel-Ankova welcomed me into her open door and led the way to her garden, walled in by the city's ubiquitous stone.

Beneath the hot July sun, I was quickly drawn into the dilemmas facing Rivka, a Canadian-Israeli mother, and Ilan, her Moroccan-Israeli husband, over their decision to take their son, Izzie, 8, out of Hand in Hand, an integrated, bilingual school nearby where Jewish and Arab children learn together.

The bicultural school opened in Jerusalem in 1998 with the intention of providing a curriculum that would allow students to strengthen their own identities while better understanding their classmates. The integrated educational environment was an attempt to encourage friendships between students and thereby promote peaceful coexistence in the area. There are three such schools supported by the Israeli Ministry of Education today – one in the Galilee, another in Jaffa and the third, the school Izzy attended in Jerusalem.

Continued on page 25

ISRAELIS AID CHILDREN IN MALAWI

A group of Israelis provide food rations for more than 1,800 orphaned children in Mongochi District in Malawi. The children are at risk of starvation due to severe food shortages across southern Africa.
[Shachar Zahavi photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Shofetim
Candlelighting: 8:11
Havdallah: 9:16

Toronto journalist visits the Jews of Iran — please see page 9

The News in Brief

Canada

Shul Reopens

VANCOUVER — Beth Hamidrash, Canada's only Sephardi congregation west of Toronto, welcomed congregants for Shabbat services late last month in a totally new facility erected on the same site as the shul's old building. Work to finish the new building's interior was halted last summer after the 100-family congregation fell short of funds by about $500,000. Outside donors helped complete the project, which cost $1.6 million in total.

Israel

Tour Cancelled

JERUSALEM — The Israel Philharmonic cancelled a U.S. tour after it couldn't find an American security company willing to guard its 100 musicians. Avi Shoshani, chief executive of the orchestra, said security companies told the symphony's American agent they are unwilling to take the risk because of the fear of terrorist attacks. The philharmonic will go ahead with scheduled summer tours in Australia and Taiwan.

Jackson Peace Mission

JERUSALEM — U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson met separately with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat on the first two days of a scheduled five-day peace tour last week. He said he would like to see both sides break "the cycle of retaliatory violence" but urged Arafat to "lead the way to end the bombing" and said he hoped the Palestinians would use non-violent resistance instead of terror. He later cancelled a meeting with Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin after Hamas took responsibility for the bombing at a Hebrew University cafeteria.

Taxi Driver Arrested

JERUSALEM — Israeli police have arrested an Arab taxi driver, Khaled Ashour, 41, of Jaffa, suspected of transporting two terrorists who carried out a July 17 bombing in Tel Aviv. Five people were killed, including three foreign guest workers in the double suicide bombing near Tel Aviv's old Central Bus Station. The Shin Bet domestic security service reported last week that Ashour said he picked up the bombers near the northern town of Ummel-Fahm and only realized they were terrorists when they threatened to hurt him if he refused to take them where they wanted. They allegedly first instructed Ashour to drive them to a shopping centre and then to a restaurant in central Israel, but the businesses were closed for Tisha b'Av.

World

Wiesel Museum Opens

BUCHAREST — A museum dedicated to Elie Wiesel opened near his birthplace in Romania last week. Dedicated by the Romanian government in the town of Sighetu Marmatiei, the museum will feature exhibits on the Nobel Peace Prize-winning author and on Jewish culture in the region. Half of Romania's 800,000 Jews died in the Holocaust. Fewer than 14,000 Jews live there today. Wiesel praised Romanian efforts to overcome its wartime fascist past. But a day later, after receiving the Star of Romania, the nation's highest honour, he said President Ion Iliescu had made "a noble effort" to educate Romanians about the Holocaust, but that he had not done enough.

Jews, Tutu Meet

JOHANNESBURG — South African Jewish leaders discussed ways to bring peace to the Middle East with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Tutu later said he felt "very good" about the outcome of the meeting. Earlier this year, Tutu irked Jewish groups by comparing Israel's treatment of the Palestinians to the treatment of blacks during South Africa's apartheid regime.

No Einstein Exhibit

BEIJING — Israel has cancelled an exhibit on Albert Einstein that was slated to open next month in China. Israel made the move after Chinese officials demanded all references to his Jewishness and support for a Jewish state be removed from the exhibit, a spokesperson for the Israeli Embassy in Beijing said. The Chinese also wanted no reference to the fact Einstein had been asked to become Israel's president.

Iraq Attack Opposed

LONDON — While in Britain to meet Prime Minister Tony Blair, Jordan's King Abdullah told the *London Times* he opposes U.S. efforts to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein without progress first being made in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He said an attack on Iraq would "really open a Pandora's box."

Chirac Criticized

NEW YORK — The American Jewish Congress (AJC) has criticized French President Jacques Chirac for reportedly complaining to the Israeli foreign minister last week that American Jewish organizations were under orders from Jerusalem to portray France as an anti-Semitic country. AJC called Chirac's remarks "reminiscent of ancient anti-Semitic stereotypes of worldwide Jewish conspiracies" and "a smokescreen" to hide the fact the French government took no action against hundreds of anti-Semitic acts over the past year.

Catholic Priest Builds Jewish museum

BERLIN — A Catholic priest is building a Jewish museum near Frankfurt, Germany.

The Zimmerman-Strauss museum is expected to open in the town of Nidda in October.

"Jewish life is an important part of local history and it must be passed on to coming generations," Wolfgang Stingl told the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper.

Stingl, who said he has been interested in Judaism since he was a child, has collected Judaica for years. Many of these items, including a prayer book, a curtain for a Torah Ark, the ceremonial blanket for wrapping a circumcised baby, and tfillin will be shown in the museum,whose building belongs to Stingl.

He said some material was given to him by former Jewish residents of Nidda who now live in Israel and in the United States. According to Stingl, a small Jewish community was founded in Nidda in the 13th century. In the early 20th century, the town had about 100 Jews. Today there are none.

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Agencies urged to apply for restitution funds

Designed to aid survivors

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Agencies that provide services to Holocaust survivors are being urged to apply to the Claims Conference for restitution funds to be distributed in the coming year.

Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress, both of which have a seat on the board of the Claims Conference, have sent notices to various agencies across Canada informing them of the funds available, said Michael Rosenberg, president of the survivors' group.

The allocations committee of the Claims Conference is scheduled to convene in November and agencies must get their applications in before then, said Keith Landy, president of Congress and a delegate to the recent meeting of the Conference in Luxembourg.

Eighty per cent of the funds allocated go to organizations that serve survivors, he said. However, in recent years "there has been either a reluctance to apply or lack of knowledge." Applications must be submitted on an annual basis, he said.

In past years, the Baycrest Centre and Circle of Care in Toronto have received allocations while disbursements have also been provided to agencies in Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver, Rosenberg said.

Generally, funds are allocated on the basis of an 80-20 split, with the bulk of the money going to social welfare programs and the remainder to Holocaust education projects.

Survivors can also apply on an individual basis for compensation for slave labour, Rosenberg said. Sixty-five per cent of all those eligible for compensation have already received some payment, while the balance of the funds allocated for this purpose will be distributed by the end of the year. A maximum of approximately $8,600 is available per person.

In the future, survivors of ghettos can expect to receive compensation for their imprisonment as well. Advertisements will be placed in newspapers explaining how to file a claim, Rosenberg said.

Meanwhile, news reports from Luxembourg, where the Claims Conference marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the survivor compensation agreement with Germany, indicated a major organizational shakeup is being proposed.

Israel Singer, president of the Claims Conference and co-chair of the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), has suggested a merger of the two organizations. Such a move would make restitution efforts more efficient, he argued.

However, the proposal was met with some resistance, with opponents saying it could lead to turf wars and would not resolve an ongoing debate as to how the restitution funds should best be distributed.

In the past, some survivors have complained that too much of the compensation money is going to Jewish organization and lawyers, and not enough to survivors themselves.

There's also a disagreement over whether survivors in less affluent countries than Canada should receive a greater proportion of the funds available.

"There will always be controversy over the distribution of money," Rosenberg stated.

Estimates put the number of Canadian Jews living in poverty at between 15,000 and 20,000, and among them are Holocaust survivors, Rosenberg said. These people are also in need of support from restitution funds.

When he suggested in an earlier interview with *The CJN* that perhaps "Holocaust survivors in better means would help those who are not, I was blasted with letters to the editor."

Rosenberg said many survivors believe their needs in Canada are as great as those experienced elsewhere. Others would like to see more of the funds going to survivors in other countries.

As to the proposed organizational shakeup, Landy noted the present day organizations were established long ago. "The artificial separation between the WJRO and the Claims Conference have blurred over the years."

Singer, along with Edgar Bronfman, was instrumental in pushing for creation of the fund that is now being allocated to survivors. "If he says it will provide a more streamlined approach, I daresay that will happen," Landy said. The result will be "just one organization that people can turn to."

The Claims Conference as set up 50 years ago to administer the restitution funds provided by Germany. It has distributed $50 billion US to more than 500,000 Holocaust survivors.

The WJRO was created in 1992 to deal with restitution issues outside of Germany and Austria. The Claims Conference is a founding member of the WJRO, which also includes representation from the Jewish Agency for Israel, B'nai Brith, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and survivor organizations.

The Claims Conference has paid or is finalizing payment to almost 100,000 slave labourers, mostly in eastern Europe. The sums include nearly $500 million US from a German foundation and $94 million from Swiss banks, with another $12.9 million yet to be advanced from the funds.

–With files from JTA

Seen at a recent meeeting of the Claims Conference is (from left) Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress; Julius Berman, chair of the board and of the executive committee, and Rabbi Dr. Israel Singer, president of The Material Claims Conference. The meeting took place at Luxembourg City Hall, the place where the original Luxembourg Agreements were signed with Germany in 1952.

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The ambassador was wrong

From the editor's desk

The man whose photo appears in the middle of this column, is Abas Sayad. He is 36 years old and, until last week when he was captured by Israeli security forces, was the leader of Hamas in Tulkarm.

Sayed is accused of planning a mass cyanide poisoning of Israelis. The charge is hardly farfetched, because Israeli authorities have also amassed a great deal of evidence that he sent a suicide bomber on the evening of March 27 to the Park Hotel in Netanya, where 29 Israelis were killed as they sat down at the seder table on the first night of Pesach.

Last week, Sayed's colleagues perpetrated yet another brutal atrocity on unarmed, innocent civilians. This time it was against a group of students and their friends in a cafeteria at Hebrew University on Mount Scopus.

It was lunchtime on a sunny Wednesday afternoon. The eatery in the Frank Sinatra Building on Mount Scopus was experiencing its peak customer traffic of the day. One of Sayed's Hamas confederates surreptitiously but unremarkably carried a nails-studded explosive hidden in a bag into the cafeteria. He deposited the bag on a table, left the room, left the vicinity and ignited the explosive by remote control.

As of this writing, 7 people have been reported killed, five of them American citizens. More than 80 people were injured, 12 of them critically.

The Hamas press release that accompanied the murders said the bombing was "a first response" for the death of Saleh Shehadeh, founder of the organization's Izzadin al Qassam military wing, and for the deaths of the 15 civilians in the Gaza bombing that killed Shehadeh last month.

The author of the press statement had obviously deliberately omitted any reference to the failed suicide slaughter at a falafel shop the previous day in Jerusalem – presumably because the bomber alone and not even one Zionist died in the operation.

The day after the Hebrew U murders, the American ambassador to Israel, Dan Kurtzer, a former student at the university, made the following observation. "The terrorist murderers – those who sent them and those whose action and inaction contributed to this despicable act – have descended to a new depth of depravity."

While I share the depth of the ambassador's shock and disgust, it is hard to agree with his assessment regarding Hamas' depravity.

Hamas owes its existence, its raison d'etre, its reason for living, so to speak, to one, and only one, quite depraved objective: the annihilation of another state and its people – Israel.

Hamas' charter, suffused with references to "the Zionists" and "the Jews," makes this explicit.

The preamble contains the following: "Israel will rise and remain intact until Islam eliminates it as it eliminated its predecessors."

In the introduction, the Charter reads: "This is the charter of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) which will reveal its face, unveil its identity, state its position, clarify its purpose, discuss its hopes, call for support to its cause and reinforcement, and for joining its ranks. For our struggle against the Jews is extremely wide-ranging and grave, so much so that it will need all the loyal efforts we can wield, to be followed by further steps and reinforced by successive battalions from the multifarious Arab and Islamic world, until the enemies are defeated and Allah's victory prevails."

There are 36 articles in the Charter. They amount to a constitution for the deconstruction of another state, a blueprint for "politicide," if not genocide as well.

"Only when [the Zionists] have completed digesting the area on which they will have laid their hand, they will look forward to more expansion. Their scheme has been laid out in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion... Leaving the circle of conflict with Israel is a major act of treason and it will bring a curse on its perpetrators." *(From Article 32)*

Abas El Sayad

There are indeed many conflicts throughout the world. Blood is also being spilled on soil other than that of Israel. But the majority of those conflicts are territorial disputes between nations or are disputes for control between similar but competing ethnic forces.

Is there any other country on earth whose very legitimacy as a country, whose sovereign existence and right to live, are denied *on religious grounds* by those whose chief means of confrontation deliberately targets children, defenceless individuals, helpless civilians and visiting students?

There can be no greater depths than the depravity in which Hamas already operates, glorifying and sanctifying the shedding of blood in the name of a God who must weep at the sight.

Alas, the ambassador was wrong.

—MBD

A TASTE OF ISRAEL: **The Shuk in the Park event on July 28, organized by Olive Branch for Israel, attracted hundreds of people to Suydam Park in Spadina Village for an afternoon of Israeli culture, food, entertainment and goods in the heart of Toronto. The event's organizers took a break from manning booths and running operations to pose for a picture. Standing, from left, are: Ben West, Amy Franklin, Grae Sibelman, Andrea Bergman, Shira Honig and Avinoam Silverman. Seated, from left, are: Karmela Vit and Vivian Ringwald. Absent is Shiri Achi Asaf.**

[Bev Bergman photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Young leaders join Keren Hayesod initiative

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Richard Diamond, chair of UIA Federation Canada's national young leadership executive, believes that if you're not working on developing new young leaders, you're not developing the future of your community.

A "young leader" himself in the Jewish community (the category encompasses ages 22 to 45), Diamond, 41, has taken a proactive approach to putting his beliefs into practice.

Last year he was asked by Harvey Wolfe, chair of Keren Hayesod, the fund-raising arm of the Jewish Agency for countries outside the United States, to become involved in developing international young leadership in the organization, as he did several years ago for the national group.

Since that time, Diamond has been to Israel twice, once in March at an international meeting attended by 100 senior leaders from around the world, and again in June to meet with counterparts from countries including Australia, England, South Africa, France, Germany and Poland.

Participants met with the director general of Keren Hayesod, Gad Ben-Ari, making the meeting "pretty high-profile," said Diamond, who is in the real estate development business. He did a Power Point presentation that included ideas on how to use business concepts to improve fund-raising effectiveness.

Now there is an international young leadership executive, although its mandate is not yet defined, Diamond said.

Lynn Kirshin, a former co-chair of Toronto's young leadership cabinet and an executive committee member of national young leadership, is one of six representatives on the international young leadership committee. The other representative from an English-speaking country is from Australia.There are also representatives from Europe and from Latin American countries.

Kirshin, a 36-year-old policy analyst, is excited about the "momentum you gain from having an international unified body. You can do much more."

Some of the group's initial goals include creating and maintaining a chain of communication among young leadership groups around the world, analyzing campaigns around the world and proposing ways to assist new campaigns, possibly through mentoring.

Although the specifics of campaign activities may vary from country to country, one thing Kirshin and her counterparts share is a love of Israel.

"It seemed everyone was interested in the same sort of things, raising money and putting the money to good use in Israel and the local community.

"The e-mails have been flying."

Jewish film posters tell a never-ending story

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Jerry Faivish calls his collection of 5,000 Jewish posters a never-ending story.

"Posters are a history of the moment," says the Toronto lawyer, who has more than 400 posters about Jewish films in his collection.

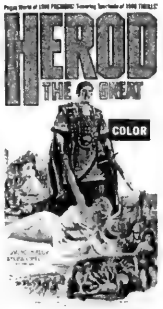
About 60 of those film posters are currently part of an exhibit, on until December, at the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

As the official film archive of the World Zionist Organization, it houses the largest collection of Jewish documentary film footage in the world, including material shot before and after the establishment of the State of Israel, motion picture records of many Diaspora communities and two special collections related to the Holocaust.

Marilyn Koolik, archive director, says she discovered Faivish's collection after he came to her office looking for an archive poster.

"When he told me about his collection, I knew it would make a powerful exhibit," she said in an interview from Israel.

She arranged a trip to Canada to view the posters and discovered a collection "that spoke to me. It mirrored what we have on film."



She selected a group that ranged from the early 1920s to the 1980s. "Among others, I chose biblical film posters, and film posters from the '50s, which are full of Hollywood hype."

The first film poster he acquired, said Faivish, was from a 1940s German film about the Rothschilds. "There was a censor stamp on it. Every movie had to have government approval.

"Since every movie was censored, people only learned about what the government wanted them to learn about. All they heard was anti-Jewish propaganda.

"A bombardment of anti-Semitic posters could cause people to think of Jews as less than human. When Jews were exterminated, people did not think they were dealing with human beings," Faivish said.

Each poster has its own "reason for being. Some are intrinsically beautiful, while others tell a story. A poster advertising plays produced in a post World War II refugee camp is powerful because it depicts part of our history."

Sometimes things happen because of a poster, said Faivish. "For example, this exhibit came about as a result of my seeking out the archive poster. It was divine providence."

He said you can learn a lot about people and their histories by how they react to a poster exhibition.

"One woman was moved by the *Ten Commandments* poster because she first saw the movie with her grandmother. That is a personal recollection, but it adds to a person's history.

"A poster reflects our history, but what people tell about the poster adds to our knowledge," he said.

Koolik said that the exhibit has turned a main corridor at Hebrew University into a gallery. "It is an amazing location. Whoever comes to the university cannot avoid seeing it. They always stop and look.

"These are very difficult times, and it is wonderful to see how the posters make people smile. The stories behind them, and the colours and designs all bring out memories. It adds something to people's day," said Koolik.

"The righteous man is an everlasting foundation."
Proverbs 10, 25

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Former Ontario judge prepares to mark 100 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

In a chat over lunch at the Forest Hill Place retirement home on Castlefield Avenue, centenarian Abraham (Abe) Lieff, a former justice of the Ontario Supreme Court and the first Jewish lawyer named to the Ontario high court, reflects on the many achievements he has made in his personal life and his career.

"Looking back, I've had a lot of fun," he says. "I've met many wonderful people," he says.

The things that stand out in his mind, he says, are "Nationally, the establishment of the State of Israel – that's our peoplehood – and personally, marrying Saidie [Lazarovitz, who died in 1999] in 1929 and having a wonderful life with her for 70 years, short a couple of months."

Former Justice Abraham (Abe) Lieff approaches his 100th birthday.

[Cynthia Gasner photo]

Lieff, who speaks passionately about his concern for the Jewish state, and Sadie visited Israel half a dozen times.

"I'm pleased that today, Jews can be in every big law firm, hospital, university – and all of this happened after the State of Israel was born," he says.

Lieff was one of seven children born to Esther and Bernard Lifshitz in the White Russian shtetl of Antopol in the province of Grodno. The family fled the anti-Semitic pogroms there in 1904 and came to Ottawa when Lieff was one year old.

Lieff attended Ottawa Collegiate Institute and was called to the bar at Osgoode Hall in 1926. He rose to become a well-known Ottawa lawyer and assistant Crown attorney. He became a magistrate in Carleton County before moving to Toronto in 1963, when he became a justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario at the age of 60. He was the first to take his oath of office holding a Jerusalem Bible, and the first to wear a kippah during the ceremony.

Became a justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario at the age of 60

In 1978, he retired at the mandatory age of 75, and then became a family law counsellor for 13 years, continuing to make changes in divorce and family law as a family law commissioner. (He advocated doing away with the adversary system in divorce.)

As a young man, Lieff worked as a newsboy, bellhop, soda jerk, an extra in various productions at the old Russell Theatre and a banjo player. He also recalls delivering a telegram to Sir Wilfred Laurier while he was working as a telegram delivery man.

"He chatted with me and gave me a generous tip for my services," he says.

He also taught Sunday school at Holy Blossom Temple to earn money for law school.

He says religion has played an important part in shaping his views. He still has strong links with Ottawa's Jewish community and Agudath Israel Congregation, the first Conservative synagogue in Ottawa which he founded and served as president for 15 years. He also served as chair of the board of education of Ottawa's Talmud Torah system and the national vice-president of United Synagogue of America. Today he attends services regularly at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Lieff has two daughters, Miriam, of Springfield, Mass., and Lois, a senior officer of the Jewish Education Council of Montreal, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Lieff has received numerous honours, including a human relations award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews in 1976. The annual Lieff scholarship for excellence in family law at the Law Society of Upper Canada was established in 1978.

He has also published an autobiographical memoir titled *Gathering Rosebuds*, published in 1991 by Gall-Papenburg Computer Systems in Toronto. It details a lifetime of service in such organizations as St. Vincent's Hospital, the Masons, the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa (he served as president of the Ottawa club in 1950), John Howard Society, Big Brothers, Canadian Jewish Congress and the Liberal Party.

For the past few years, Lieff has been sending photos and memorabilia to the Ottawa Jewish Archives and recounting stories of old times in Ottawa.

When asked what activity he enjoys most as he nears 100 years of age, he replies with typical humour, "I like getting up in the morning."

Correction

In the story, "Toronto shuls, groups unite to create organization" (*CJN*, Aug. 1), the phone number for United Chesed of Toronto was incorrect. For information about the organization, call 416-219-6679.

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Excitement of policing attracted woman officer

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Rennie Johnson's mom didn't like it much when, as a child, Johnson did anything that could be construed as even slightly dangerous.

As a Holocaust survivor, Eva Berchard had seen more than her share of danger, and as Johnson describes it, Berchard tried her best to protect her daughter from every unsafe situation, even those that were really not very dangerous.

Perhaps it's rebellion against those strictures that accounts for Johnson's unorthodox career choice as a gun-toting officer with the Toronto Police Service. Or maybe she has some hereditary pre-disposition to the work, as her late father, Simon, was briefly a police officer in pre-war Poland.

Either way, Johnson, 44, can recall that even as a five-year-old girl, the excitement would build as the family vehicle passed by the local police station in her native Winnipeg.

"My mom would say I'd be like a dog hanging out the window... I always had a strong interest in policing," Johnson said.

It was not a career choice her parents encouraged, but after moving to Toronto 23 years ago, and after being bored by an office job in a downtown business tower, Johnson was accepted as a police recruit.

Fresh out of police college, she was immediately assigned to 51 Division, the downtown detachment in the middle of one of the more colourful sections of town. It is bounded by Rosedale in the north, the lakeshore in the south, the Don River in the east and Jarvis Street in the west.

The area includes Regent Park, home to many upstanding citizens, but also home to many prostitutes, pimps, drug dealers and drug users – "a high volume of people with problems in life," as Johnson puts it.

As a beat cop, Johnson was exposed to the seamiest side of Toronto society. "I was involved in shootings, homicide, sexual assaults, in all aspects of police work," she said.

It was the kind of work that no doubt made her parents cringe.

"I've been in a situation a few times where I had my gun drawn," she said, "but I managed to defuse it."

On one New Year's Eve, she recalled, she and her partner were called to investigate a domestic disturbance. When they knocked on the apartment door, they were confronted by a man wielding a meat cleaver. The officers drew their firearms but managed to calm the individual, and there was no shooting.

Domestic disputes – not incidents involving drug dealers or hookers – are the most volatile, Johnson said. "You're dealing with very heavy emotions."

Policing is something like firefighting, she explained. In both professions, you experience "99 per cent boredom, and one per cent sheer terror, but you live for those moments of terror.

"It's the unpredictability of the job that offers the excitement."

Johnson believes that, as a woman, she brings a calming influence to tense situations, as well as a different approach than many male officers.

Some of her fellow officers, she said, resort to force when confronted with individuals who refuse to comply.

"I can't out-muscle them, so I try to outwit them."

Johnson admits to being in "a few hairy situations, but none where my life was in danger."

Rennie Johnson [Paul Lungen photo]

She said her career choice might in part be "a rebellion" against her parents' over-protectiveness. "I wanted to do something exciting in my life, and I looked at policing as an exciting career."

Among her assignments, she has gone undercover to smoke out drug dealers, she has infiltrated after-hours booze cans and she has posed as a prostitute to bust johns.

Dangerous assignments, to be sure, but one of Johnson's biggest fears was being assigned to provide security for neo-Nazi Ernst Zundel, whose "bunker" used to be located on Carlton Street, in the middle of 51 Division. Zundel, who has moved to the United States, often received police protection, but "it would have posed a huge conflict for me, with my parents as Holocaust survivors," Johnson said.

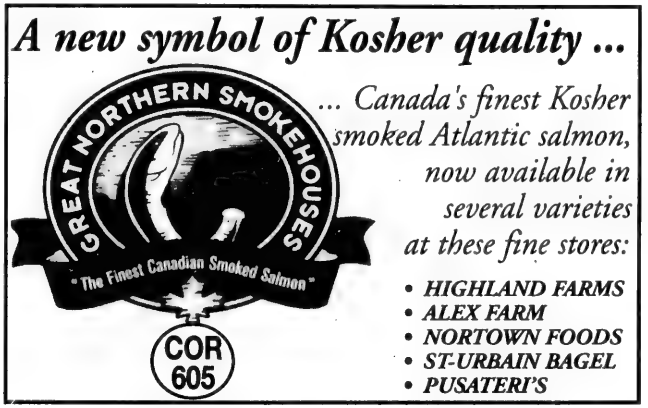
Luckily, she was never given that assignment.

About two months ago, Johnson gave up her beat at 51 Division and took a job as a training and education officer in the leadership development section of the police college. It's a desk job that's more or less nine-to-five, but it was something she felt she had to do as a single mom caring for two small children. Shift work was no longer in the cards.

In her new job, she handles diversity training for non-front-line officers and civilian employees. It's important for police officers to appreciate the city's diversity, including cultural groups, gays, and lesbians, people with disabilities and the elderly, she said.

Johnson said the Toronto Police Service has changed in her 18 years on the force. At one time, you were more likely to hear unintended comments that were somewhat derogatory. But as the wider culture has changed and those kind of comments have become unacceptable, police culture has shifted, she said.

While policing is still not a profession pushed by many Jewish parents, Johnson would encourage anyone to consider it. She invites anyone interested in discussing policing as a career to call her at 416-808-4802.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Dry Bones
SOON IT'LL BE ROSH HASHANA
AND I HOPE THAT THE NEW YEAR IS BETTER THAN THE LAST YEAR ONCE AGAIN
ONCE AGAIN?
YES.
I'VE HAD THIS SAME HOPE BEFORE!

Grudging conclusion from the UN

The United Nations last week released its report into the alleged massacre in Jenin during the incursion by the Israel Defence Forces there last April. It concluded, without reservation, that no massacre and no atrocities occurred there.

That finding, however, did not deter Palestinian Authority cabinet minister Nabil Sha'ath from saying that the report "identified what happened in Jen'n as a war crime and a crime against humanity." His statement, of course, was an outright lie, just as the accusations made against Israel and the IDF in the aftermath of the fighting in Jenin were also outright lies.

To be sure, the report contained the obligatory criticisms of Israel. No UN-authored report could ever be released without any. Israel was condemned for creating "severe hardships" for the Palestinians and for endangering civilians by relying upon heavy weaponry in densely-populated areas. Israel was also criticized for obstructing humanitarian workers, who, "in many instances," the report said, "were not able to reach people in need to assess conditions and deliver necessary assistance because of the sealing of cities, refugee camps and villages."

But in a departure from the precedent established by most UN reports, it also contained a rebuke of sorts aimed at the Palestinians, who were faulted for allowing some 200 armed fighters to use Jenin as their base of operations against Israel.

[Illustration by Michael Nissimov]

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had originally commissioned a panel to investigate the allegations of massacre. But when it became clear to Israel – by dint of the panel's composition, its terms of reference and Annan's unwillingness to accede to certain Israeli procedural requests – that the deck would be stacked against it, the Israeli cabinet decided not to co-operate. Annan had to call off the panel.

But, acquiescing to the agenda of its Arab members, the General Assembly requested, nevertheless, that a report be written on the IDF's conduct in Jenin. In the absence of even a flimsy thread of evidence, the authors of the report were unable to weave any fabric of massacre. The tone of the report is a grudging acknowledgment of that fact.

The real crimes at Jenin were perpetrated by the Palestinian fighters. They continue to perpetrate such crimes to this day. As Jerome Marcus, a former attorney with the U.S. State Department wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* in April, "Rather than 'trying to separate, to the extent possible, from military objectives,' the Palestinians went out of their way to hide military objectives behind, in, around and under civilian (and even humanitarian) objectives… The Palestinian terrorists, having planted themselves among civilians, have harvested a fresh crop of victims which they are now using for public relations purposes."

Ironically, last week's report will not help the Palestinian leadership achieve those purposes. But who, if anyone, is listening?

LET OUR PEOPLE GO…

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Alarmed by Israel's approach

We are alarmed by the Israeli-Palestinian situation, and as Jewish women and daughters of a Holocaust survivor, we feel it is our responsibility to express our concern about Israel's violent approach to resolving the conflict.

The Jewish people will survive, and Israel will continue to exist, as it should. However, we would rather our identity and survival be affirmed and reaffirmed through our skill as negotiators, and through our patience, generosity and compassion. Jewishness must not be secured through violence, the destruction of people's homes, the withholding of food, water, medical aid, the refusal to negotiate for land and the refusal of a right of return out of exile. Righteous Gentiles have been honoured for taking the risk of going against the dominant and repressive policies of the Nazi regime. Now it is our turn as Jewish women whose very existence is owed to those Righteous Gentiles, to turn to Israel and say, "This is wrong." In time, when the Palestinians look back at all the factors that contributed to the establishment of a free and prosperous Palestine, it is my wish that they have cause to thank the Righteous Jews for what they had the courage to give.

Paula and Lara Braitstein
Vancouver and Montreal

* * *

Banish prejudice, hate

As a Christian who lived in North York for 31 years, I was often served in various stores by people with numbers tattooed on their arm and became very aware of the pain of some of my immediate neighbours who were Holocaust survivors. For over 30 years, I have been involved in trying to help Christians understand the ramifications of the Holocaust and how the interpretation of Scripture by some Christians has fed, and still feeds, anti-Semitism. The recent murder of David Rosenzweig, whether a hate crime or random crime, is particularly tragic since his mother, a Holocaust survivor, is alive to mourn him. Whether Jewish or not, we are appalled at this brutal murder in the heart of the Jewish community in Toronto.

The constant barrage of criticism of Israel as it tries to defend itself from terrorist attacks and the hostility of some toward Jews here in Canada must add to the feelings of despair and sadness in the Jewish community. Many Christians pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for peace to take root in the hearts and minds of all peoples in the Middle East. May we Christians in Canada especially learn or continue to love our neighbour and to do our part to help banish prejudice and hate.

Edith Land
Guelph, Ont.

* * *

Reader troubled by complacency

I am deeply troubled. The present world situation seems incomprehensible; it confuses any sane, thinking person's vision of a world where so much potential for good exists and so much natural beauty abounds.

God must be weeping with frustration at the way human beings are wasting the possibilities for positive energy in the universe. Perhaps He is frustrated with humanity's inability to do better. I know I am.

I attend rallies and parlour meetings, plan trips to Israel, write letters, advocate, boycott countries and products where anti-Semitism is growing, raise money for Israel, call and assist families there. Yet I still feel helpless, despite understanding the importance of the power of one act and one voice.

We have a marvellous and strong Jewish community in Canada. So many care and give endless energies to do whatever they can.

But many detach and stand back. Travel plans remain unchanged. Trips to France and Europe continue. Ignorance grows. The "it-doesn't-really-affect-us-here" attitude remains unspoken. We are complacent because we live easy lives away from the stark realities of problems that have implications for all of us. We forget about doing good.

We must continue to educate ourselves on the facts. We must make personal decisions to help in many ways, every day. We must talk to our kids and our friends, our colleagues and our aquaintances. We must go to elementary and secondary schools, university campuses; we must speak out at synagogues and meetings.

I will be less troubled when each of us decides that our voices and actions matter. Every day. Everywhere. Now.

Susan Steinberg
Toronto

* * *

Bnei Akiva still goes to Israel

At this difficult time, it is more important than ever for us in the Jewish community to show our support for, and identity with, the State of Israel by visiting, encouraging others to visit, and ultimately moving to the Jewish state. Your readers may be interested to know that Bnei Akiva continues to send teenagers to Israel every summer on our Mach Hach b'Aretz program. Almost 200 high school students left this week on our intensive six-week Israel study-tour. The group included 16 Canadians.

Michael Sedley
Toronto

* * *

Seeking readers' help

I'm writing – more accurately, compiling – an oral biography of Mordecai Richler to be published next fall (2003) by Macfarlane Walter and Ross, an imprint of McClelland & Stewart. I'm seeking to interview, in person, by phone or email, anyone who may have known him in Montreal between 1940 and 1952, or even later, after his return to Canada in the mid-1970s. Memories, anecdotes, observations, analysis – any or all would be welcome and appreciated. I can be reached at mposner@sympatico.ca or at 416-322-0217.

Michael Posner
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

A visit to Iran

By MARLENE FINE

The courtyard of the synagogue in the city of Isfahan in central Iran is crowded with young boys playing soccer. They are dressed in blue jeans and baseball caps. Behind them, a dozen young and middle-aged women sit together talking in Farsi, Iran's native language. They are waiting for their children's Hebrew classes to end. They wear long coats, as is the custom for Iranian women, and scarves or *hijab* on their heads, as is the law. Although there are only 2,000 Jews living in Isfahan today, 12 synagogues are still in use.

This city began as a Jewish settlement. Its original name meant "House of Jews." For at least 2,500 years, Persia, as Iran was known until the 1934 name change, has been a home to Jews. They came here after their exile from Israel and the destruction of the First Temple.

Though the total number of Jews in Iran today is estimated at 20-30,000, down from 70,000 in 1968, it is still the largest number in the Middle East outside of Israel.

Why Jews continue to live in a country where the official religion is Islam and the country supports the destruction of the State of Israel is difficult for Jews outside of Iran to understand.

A visit to the 65-year-old Isfahan synagogue on Ostandary Avenue reveals only an optimistic future for Jews here. Renovations began a few years ago and continue in the adjoining building, which houses the new mikvah, schoolrooms and the salon used for celebrations. In the synagogue itself, Yehuda, one of the five leaders of the city's Jewish community, shows us the new doors on the arc, hand-painted in the Persian floral style which matches the bimah built by his father. Colourful carpets cover all the floors, also in the Persian style. Ornate chandeliers draw our attention to the ladies' section in the balcony.

Yehuda is small in stature and smartly dressed in jeans and a sport shirt. He graduated from Tehran University 31 years ago and now works as an architect and teaches at the university in Isfahan. He also owns a retail store that openly displays Hebrew writing and has a Muslim clerk. He has no plans to emigrate, although a brother and sister live in the United States and another sister lives in Israel. He says he has close friends who are Muslim. "The men are like brothers; the women like sisters," he says in good English, while lacing the fingers of both hands together to indicate a strong bond.

But in the next breath, he says that in a court of law, a Jew is of less value than a Muslim and can expect harsher treatment. He does not confess to any worry that this bond of friendship might not be strong enough to withstand a resurgence of the blatant anti-Semitism of the past.

Persecution of the Jewish minority has a long history in Iran. Treated as unclean, forced to wear red identity badges and live in filthy ghettos and limited in their choice of occupations, most Jews eked out a meagre living in isolation, not just from the rest of the country but from the world.

Not until the early 20th century, when freedom for the three main religious minorities – Judaism, Armenian Christianity and Zoroastrianism – was enshrined in the Iranian constitution, did Jews begin to be a part of civil society. It also granted one seat each in the Iranian parliament to the Jews and the Zoroastrians, and two to the Armenian Christians. That not one of these representatives had great power was not an issue. For the Jewish community, it meant recognition and legitimization. But as long as Muslim religious leaders were also the political leaders of the country, Jews continued to be treated as less than full citizens.

This started to change when Mohammed Reza Pahlavi took power in 1941. He was committed to a policy of westernizing Iran and he separated politics from religion by severely limiting the power of the mullahs.

The entrance to the Tehran synagogue.

During this period, there was a revival of Iran's Jewish people. According to Habib Levy in his book, *The Jews of Iran*, "Jews were so prominent in economics, industry, commerce, higher education, administration and in the arts and sciences that it was absolutely unbelievable that their roots were in the hellish ghettos in which their forefathers had taken refuge from persecutions and massacres… The years of Mohammed Reza Shah's reign may be considered the zenith of Jewish Iranian well-being and prosperity."

It was during the Shah's time that the relationship between Iran and Israel blossomed. As Levy says, "The king repeatedly affirmed Israel's right to exist."

But in 1979, the Shah was forced into exile and Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran. He declared it an Islamic Republic and placed conservative Muslim religious leaders in control of the government. Because Jews had profited so well under the Shah, they were held to account for his cruel regime and his recognition of Israel. Anti-Semitic acts increased. Some Jews lost their jobs while others had their land confiscated. Under Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran helped to form and fund the Hezbollah, and today the country continues to support Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, all organizations dedicated to the destruction of Israel.

Jewish shopkeepers in Isfahan [Malcolm Alexandroff photos]

After the revolution, some 40,000 Jews left for North America and Israel. The signs of the Jews' exodus can be seen in large bazaars where Chanukah menorahs and other Jewish items are for sale, sacrificed in order to lighten suitcases.

All Jews we talked to said they now have religious freedom. There are no security guards on synagogue gates and there is no camouflaging of the buildings' purpose. Hebrew is now allowed to be taught freely. Formerly, only Halachah could be taught in Hebrew while all other lessons were given in Farsi. And recently, they have been allowed to close their schools on Saturdays. They are also allowed to make and use wine for religious purposes, even though the possession of alcohol is illegal for Muslims. And, at Passover, the Tehran Jewish community produces matzah for all of Iran.

But even recent history shows that this so-called freedom is at the mercy of the whims of the Muslim religious and political leaders. The 1999 arrests and convictions of Jews on charges of spying for Israel are at the forefront of everyone's mind. In Isfahan, Yehuda tells us of the 24-year-old Hebrew teacher from their city who is one of those imprisoned.

Escalation of the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians causes Jews to become fearful of a backlash, so they try to distance themselves from the Jewish State. Last May, the Tehran Jewish community issued a statement condemning the actions of the Israeli army in Jenin.

In Tehran, only 10,000 Jews remain. Sarah is a 28-year-old dentist there. We met her at Saturday morning services in the Synagogue Haim Iran. She spoke English haltingly, but was eager to talk to us. She said she loves her country but we were doubtful because she spoke only of fear. Mail is inspected, she said, and e-mail is monitored. Correspondence from officials of western Jewish organizations is suspect. Could her loyalty be questioned? She politely refused to give us her last name. But, she said, the only reason she is thinking of leaving Iran is because she wants to marry a Jew.

"Once or twice a year," she said, "a Jew marries a Muslim and we are sad and angry."

In fact, intermarriage and conversions have became common in the last half of the last century.

In Hamadan, in western Iran, home to just 35 Jews, the site of the tombs of Esther and Mordecai is a stop for most tourists. As we entered the well-maintained shrine, we saw two Iranian men in their 50s, davening. Whether this was actually Esther's resting place or that of a later fifth-century Jewish queen, as some experts say, we were reminded of the story of Purim, and we understood a little more the significance of ancient Persia in Jewish history as a result.

Outside the mausoleum, we met Jacob, who was born in Hamadan but now lives in Tehran. He was visiting the shrine with his brother, who immigrated to Los Angeles 25 years ago. Although he was granted only a 17-day visa, we had no problem getting visas for three months.

Jacob is in charge of two of the 22 synagogues in Tehran. All have Shabbat services, he said, while seven or eight conduct services every day. Yes, he said in English, he could leave Iran if he wanted to, but his brother is not happy in California and wants to come back. This, even though Jacob was fired from his job at Iran Air because he is Jewish, he said. Their ties to Iran are complex. Is it defiance, we wondered, that keeps Jacob here?

Today, Jews and Muslims in Iran have extraordinarily similar political views. When there is no democracy, they say, everyone suffers and no one is free.

And although there are graffiti and many billboards say "Death to America" or words to that effect (we saw an anti-Israel billboard), many Iranians go to university in the United States and most have family who have emigrated there.

Discontent is growing within Iran. The economy is in decline, fuelled in part by an extreme growth in population, which is now at 70 million up from 30 million in 1978. The unemployment rate is more than 13 per cent and inflation is estimated at close to 20 per cent. A new Iranian aphorism circulating says: "When a mullah dies, a tulip grows from his grave. We would like all Iran to be a garden of tulips."

In the Isfahan synagogue courtyard, classes are over and mothers collect their children. These young Jewish Iranians might experience yet another revolution in Iran as their parents did before them. Too often, instability has been a signal for governments to divert attention from real economic and political issues by blaming Jews for the problems. This time, however, the outcome of the revolution might well determine whether this 2,500-year-old Jewish civilization survives.

Marlene Fine is a freelance journalist based in Toronto. She and her husband, Malcolm Alexandroff, visited Iran in April with the Royal Ontario Museum.

Where is Canada?

Spending a week in Washington, D.C., makes one aware of a number of things, some very interesting and others less so.

Not surprisingly, politics, and especially the American brand, plays a role in the media coverage. I read the *Washington Post* every day, and found it to be an interesting experience, for we do not have that kind of newspaper in Canada. Toronto's *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post* are vaguely comparable, but different in one essential aspect: As in other Canadian papers and journals, news from the United States is often, if not always, front and centre when it comes to non-Canadian events. But while the *Post* brought me information from all over the globe every day, I found not a single news item about Canada that was deemed interesting enough to be reported. Which makes me aware, once again, that for the average newspaper reader in the United States, Canada remains an unknown land. Fortunately, I said to myself, Canada had no disasters at the time that were severe enough to warrant an exception.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The reason for this situation is not hard to understand, for the disregard of Canada reflects the mouse-and-elephant syndrome: The big animal is aware of the smaller one only when it becomes bothersome. I did not have the time to find out whether the recent softwood problem that pitted the two nations against each other had made the news when the controversy was at its height. My guess is that it may have been mentioned briefly, but I'm not sure.

I tried to comfort myself with the thought that, after all, Mexico too did not make it into the *Post* during my stay in Washington, but I found that to be of little relevance. If I break a bone, the fact that someone else has the same problem may be interesting, but hardly comforting.

Of course, there is a lot going on in Washington, which takes me a long time to absorb, and that lessened the distress of knowing that Canada is invisible from there. Oh yes, on the page where the world's temperatures are reported, Canada too was mentioned. That, however, is small relief, since it had been brutally hot in both countries.

I have since come home to Toronto, which, when I wrote this column, was in the early stages of the Pope's visit. By the time you read this, the visit will already be history. Religious fervor, peacefully expressed, can be enormously energizing, and I am happy to note that this was Toronto's experience with the papal visit.

Conclusion of this Chapter

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since I first started to write this column. As I sit here from my desk at camp writing my final edition of this assignment, I cannot help but think about the profound changes that have taken place in the world in past two years.

Darcie Richler in Halifax

Two years ago at this time, Israel was a much safer place. The twin towers felt little vulnerability and when we heard about the country Afghanistan, it was more about the poor treatment of women than about terrorism. Now, of course, we feel uncertainty looming everywhere. Even here, at Camp Kadimah this summer, much has changed with respect to camp policy and the safety of the campers.

Leaving Halifax this past April brought on a whole palette of feelings. It was a relief to finally be finished university (my undergraduate degree, anyway), but with it came the inevitable question of "What next?" Because I cannot clearly answer that question just yet (please give me a week or so and hopefully this will all be solved), I will tell you in general terms what I plan for the next couple of years.

First of all, I will learn from the people around me and not jump into graduate school without some time to travel and experience something new. This past semester at school, I came to the realization that I am in no way willing to rush myself through the next couple of years. I am going to do my best not to succumb to the pressures that so many of my peers have felt to go right into something without trying out a few options first.

For some reason, there are many people around me who believe that not knowing what you want to do for the rest of your life at the age of 22 is a bad thing. Let me just say that there are many other people in my position right now, and we are all trying to figure it out on our own time. We know where we want to end up eventually, but the journey itself has not yet been established.

Yet while there is certainly some shock in not knowing where I will be or what I will be doing in a couple of months, it is exhilarating to know that whatever I'm doing, I will be experiencing something new.

In the meantime, with the new excitement of starting a new chapter in the fall, I am beginning to see that my camp days might be over. Being at camp is strange and fantastic at the same time. The summer is always better for me when I spend it outside, but I am feeling a little melancholy about the prospect that this could be my last summer on staff here. This is perhaps my only regret in not knowing where I will be next month.

Camp, especially Camp Kadimah, is such a special place to be. It could be the reason why I have not driven myself to complete insanity at the end of each university year. Sometimes, while sitting at my computer working endlessly on various papers, I reminded myself that come July, I would be back in the place that I love. Camp is also probably the reason why I am so relaxed about my decision to be a vagabond as of Aug. 13.

* * *

I would like to thank you all for following my column over the past two years. I have loved this experience, especially when I received your e-mails and thoughts. I have not finished writing about "Jewish singles issues," but hopefully sometime soon I will be able to share more on that.

Welcome to Joanna Grossman who will be taking over this column! I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Good luck to you all and hopefully we will communicate again one day soon.

A farewell from Winnipeg

Who would have thought two years ago that I would be writing my last *CJN* column at an Internet café in Rome, Italy? Well here I am, sitting at a computer in Europe, thinking back over the last two years and all the experiences I have drawn from to come up with my monthly articles.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

Europe provides a plethora of topics that I could write about, but one thing that immediately comes to mind is the word community. More specifically, Jewish community.

In my travels, I have encountered some Jewish communities and Jewish people who have given me an interesting chance to put my community back home in Winnipeg into perspective.

In Paris, I stayed in a hostel in the heart of the Jewish quarter. Kosher restaurants and kids with kippot surrounded me, provided me with a comfort level I usually feel at home or in Israel. In Vernassa, Italy (a very small town in the northern part of the country), a couple saw me donning my Camp Massad shirt and began speaking to me in Hebrew. This couple, originally from Israel, live in the town, which has a total of 10 Jews, but they manage to keep their Judaism alive by keeping Shabbat.

There have also been some negative experiences; for instance, near the Coliseum in Rome, I saw some anti-Semitic graffiti with a message of Holocaust denial, something I have never experienced in Winnipeg.

These situations are just some examples of how small the world is, how there are Jews all over the place, some struggling to keep their identity, others practising Judaism daily. It makes you realize how many of us take our religion for granted and are unaware of the world around us.

This trip also helps me look at my articles from a new perspective. I have been very lucky to have had the opportunity of speaking to Jewish readers across Canada. Like this trip in Europe, which has taught me about various Jewish communities on the other side of the ocean, the purpose of my column was to shed some light onto Winnipeg's Jewish community, provide insight into the life of a Jewish student in Canada and write about topics that provoked and tried to answer burning questions.

Writing for *The Canadian Jewish News* has been one of the most rewarding endeavours that I have undertaken in my 22 years. I have learned a lot about my own beliefs, and gained insight into my community and the Jewish people at large.

I greatly appreciate the input of all the people who have sent me additional information on a topic or the people who were passionate enough about a topic to let me know that they disagreed with what I had written. I thank the readers who wanted to ask me more, or just wanted to acknowledge that they read my column.

It is very important that there is a forum where Jews can discuss issues with other Jews, and for me, writing for *The CJN* has given me the opportunity to interact with other readers and learn more about a topic I was interested in.

It is often difficult to see the mainstream media's portrayal of the Middle East conflict, and therefore, it is refreshing to read *The CJN* and gain a perspective on the subject that I would not otherwise have. Jewish news in Canada (and around the world) can bring all of us closer, keep us unified and provide a place for us to learn and grow.

While my ties to Winnipeg and the Jewish community will never end, I look forward to learning about the new and larger community in Toronto. I will take all of my experiences from Winnipeg and use them to help me wade through the hustle and bustle of Canada's largest city.

I bid all of you adieu. Thanks for reading my column over the last couple of years. I have enjoyed writing and hope to speak to all of you again soon.

E-mail me at cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Muslim world swept up by anti-Semitism

Zacarias Moussaoui, a 34-year-old French national of Moroccan origin, is accused of being a co-conspirator in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The so-called "20th hijacker" is an archetypical Islamic fundamentalist. Being a radical Islamist, whose proponents hold demonic conspiratorial opinions of Jews, he is no small anti-Semite.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The only person facing charges in connection with last year's seminal events in Manhattan, Moussaoui pulls no punches in describing his enemies. In a federal courtroom in Washington, D.C. on April 23, he said, "I pray... for the destruction of the Jewish people and state, and the liberation of Palestine." In a second appearance on June 17, Moussaoui called himself a "slave of Allah," denigrated psychiatry as "an obscene Jewish science" and conceded that he is "openly hostile to the Jews."

As shocking as these statements sound, they are not unusual in Moussaoui's circles.

This strain of anti-Semitism was recently catalogued in an American Jewish Committee report by Hebrew University historian Robert Wistrich. As he put it: "The harsh reality is that, in the year 2002, anti-Semitism has become a major, not a minor, Muslim phenomenon and that many, if not most, of the Muslim leaders in the world today are anti-Semitic."

Radicals like Moussaoui, embittered by the Arab-Israeli conflict and the role of western powers in the Middle East during the colonial and modern eras, are not content with merely lambasting and demonizing Israel.

They knowingly cross the line into outright anti-Semitism.

Shortly after Arab hijackers crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washingtoin, D.C., last September, the Muslim world was consumed by two malicious rumours. The first, suggesting that the Mossad had orchestrated the atrocities, segued into the malevolent lie that Jews who normally work in the World Trade Center had been warned to avoid coming into the office at all costs on that fateful day.

These calumnies, revolting though they are, pale somewhat in comparison to the hateful incitement pouring forth from certain Islamic clerics.

On July 11, the *New York Times*, in a dispatch from Hamburg, Germany, reported that German police were examining the activities of a preacher who had urged his followers to "slit" the throats of Jews and Christians.

In its April 19 and Feb. 22 editions, the *Jewish Chronicle*, published in London, England, disclosed that the leader of an extremist Muslim group and a Muslim imam, both residents of Britain, had been charged with stirring up racial hatred by distributing leaflets and tapes calling on Muslims to kill Jews.

It gets worse.

It has been established beyond any reasonable doubt that the recent bombing of a venerable synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia, which claimed the lives of more than a dozen people, including, ironically, 12 German tourists, was the work of al Qaeda, led by the elusive Osama bin Laden.

And in Frankfurt, Germany, an Islamic militant from Algeria named Aeurobui Beandali is now on trial for trying to blow up a synagogue in Strasbourg.

"I admit to plotting to blow up a Jewish synagogue in France," said Beandali, who was arrested 1½ years ago after German police raided his apartment and found an arsenal of guns, grenades, detonators and chemicals for assembling homemade bombs.

If the aforementioned cases chill the blood, consider these facts.

Many recent anti-Semitic incidents in France, including attacks on synagogues, have been perpetrated by Muslims rather than Christians. The sole suspect in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, Abdul Rahman Yasin, currently residing in Baghdad, Iraq, told *60 Minutes* in June that Jewish neighbourhoods in Brooklyn, New York, rather than the twin towers, were his original targets.

And then there is the case of Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent who was abducted and murdered by Islamic radicals in Pakistan last winter. Fahad Naseem, a suspect in the murder, said that Pearl had been kidnapped because he was Jewish. Before he was killed by his captors, one of whom was recently sentenced to death, Pearl was forced to say, "I am a Jew."

The bitter anti-Semitism prevalent in Muslim societies today has infected intellectual and political echelons.

An example:

On March 10, *Al Riyadh*, a Saudi Arabian daily newspaper, ran an article by Umayma Ahmed al-Jalahma, an academic at King Faisal University, in which she accused Jews of using the blood of non-Jews to make Purim pastries. Under American pressure, the Saudi government issued an apology.

This vile reiteration of mythical Jewish ritual murder practices was elaborated upon in book form (*The Matzoh of Zion*) by Syria's defence minister, Mustafa Tlass.

Daniel Pearl
[R.N.S/Reuters photo]

Syria's president, Bashir Assad, had the temerity of greeting Pope John Paul II in Damascus with warmed-over remarks insinuating that Jews had murdered Jesus. And prior to his historic visit to Israel in 1977, the late president of Egypt, Anwar Sadat, claimed that Jewish businessmen were less than honest.

Throughout the Arab world and in Iran, where an Islamic revolution took place in 1979, the infamous Czarist forgery, *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, is openly sold. And in its covenant, Hamas, harking back to that 19th century tract, speaks of a diabolical Zionist plot to seize Arab lands.

The Arab and Palestinian media brim with anti-Semitic articles and Nazi-like cartoons, a perpetual source of racial incitement that undermines the idea of Arab-Jewish coexistence. And Arab school texts, even in a moderate country like Jordan, which has a peace treaty with Israel, characterize Jews in the most loathsome terms.

Such texts have been widely circulated. Last winter, the Los Angeles Unified School District seized 300 copies of an English version of the Qu'ran peppered with anti-Jewish references. The books were donated by a Muslim foundation as a "goodwill gesture" following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Holocaust denial is also in vogue in some Muslim quarters. On one Web site (www.fav.net), Palestinian propagandist Ibrahim Alloush writes about "alleged Holocaust lies." He warns that if Palestinians accept "the claims of the Zionists about the 'Holocaust,'" they run the risk of "accepting the rape of Palestine and the legitimacy of the Jewish invasion of Palestine."

The roots of Muslim anti-Semitism, reinforced by western anti-Jewish doctrines, run deep.

Islam regards minorities (dhimmis) like Jews – and Christians – as the People of the Book. They are worthy of tolerance, but as infidels, they are considered inferior. Although the Qu'ran contains positive references about Jews, it is also disdainful of Jews.

In Muslim countries, Jews were traditionally given protection in exchange for the payment of special taxes. But pogroms were not uncommon, and Jews were subjected to a panoply of discriminatory restrictions.

Bernard Lewis, a distinguished Princeton University historian, observes in *What Went Wrong?*: "In most tests of tolerance, Islam, both in theory and in practice, compares unfavourably with the western democracies as they have developed during the last two or three centuries, but very favourably with most other Christian and post-Christian societies and regimes. There is nothing in Islamic history to compare with the Spanish expulsion of Jews and Muslims [or] the Inquisition."

He might have added that the Holocaust was conceived and implemented by a Christian society.

The struggle for Palestine, Lewis says, greatly facilitated the acceptance of "the anti-Semitic interpretation of history, and led some to blame all evil in the Middle East and indeed in the world on secret Jewish plots. This interpretation has pervaded much of the public discourse in the region, including education, the media and even entertainment."

Islamic fundamentalists, who refer to Jews as the descendants of monkeys and apes, reject Islam's traditional tolerance of dhimmis.

"Like Osama bin Laden, they see Jews and Christians as part of the historic battle or crusade connected with European colonialism and Zionism, and they regard Israel as a Trojan horse of the West, a fifth column [in] Muslim societies," writes John Esposito in *Unholy War*.

Influenced by reactionary ideologues such as Sayyid Qutb and Ibn Taymiyya, Islamic fundamentalists have expropriated anti-Semitism into their world view and, much to the distress of Muslim liberals, disseminated it throughout the domains of Islam.

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Jewish Life

On World Youth Day

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

A story is told of the saintly Chofetz Chaim. Among his many accomplishments, he was a prolific author. Sorely needed monies for future publishing came from the revenues of his earlier works. The Chofetz Chaim would often then himself go out to sell his own books in order to raise funds for the printing of subsequent volumes.

On one of these trips through the Polish countryside, his wagon passed in front of a well-known roadside religious shrine. It was a given that passing this place meant the wagon driver would make a short stop for some devotion. The Chofetz Chaim was so taken aback that this wagon driver sped right past the shrine instead of making the customary stop or at least crossing himself, that he dismissed the driver and hired another one the first chance he had. Later he explained that he could not trust an individual who showed so little respect for his own faith.

My synagogue is located on Sheppard Avenue, one of the many thoroughfares of Toronto that were closed off to traffic for the recent papal visit and World Youth Days.

As we walked on that early Shabbat morning, it was in a blessed but eerie silence. But at noon, when the services ended, the scene outside the building was altogether different. Confronting us was an endless flow of young people, flags and police escorts marching to the nearby Downsview base, the main site of the event.

At first there was a pause as our eyes met. We looked and examined each other from a distance: the Jews on one side, men in dark suits and hats, women in their Shabbat dresses; the pilgrims on the other side, in shorts, shirts and sandals. I thought it best to break the tension of the moment and I walked over to greet them. *Shalom* was the quick and surprising response to our hellos. We laughed, shook hands a lot and smiled at each other. Then they broke out into song on the lawn of the synagogue! Apparently, this was an Italian group. I don't know what they were singing, but I did pick up the word *pas* – peace.

In all, it was a very respectable and even pleasant exchange. Although the whole event had the air of a rock concert, I prefer to see it as some have called it: the spiritual equivalent of Woodstock. Counterculture? Definitely! In the ways of faith, goodness and godliness.

A good thing, I think the Chafetz Chaim would say.

Old news is new again

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

At some point in their lives, nearly everyone in our modern society gets into the newspaper, even if only for a birth, marriage or death announcement. That's why the newly emerging searchable electronic archives of publications like the *New York Times*, the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail* constitute a giant leap forward for genealogists, historians and other researchers.

Locating a family-related obituary or news story used to require a time-consuming hunt through many reels of microfilm, with no guarantee of success. But thanks to a sophisticated process developed by the Ottawa-based company Cold North Wind, noteworthy items from the past may be pinpointed and retrieved in just seconds.

The *Toronto Star* database, called Pages of the Past, runs from 1892 to the present and is searchable in increments of up to five years. It is accessible for free through the Toronto Public Library and other library systems, mostly in southern Ontario. I recently spent several hours mining it for family references, and came away amazed at this powerful genealogical tool.

Keying in various names and search terms led me to dozens of references to my large extended family in Toronto from about 1910 forward. Perhaps my most exciting discovery was a 1929 obituary and photograph of my great-grandfather, listing the names of his 13 children. Seeking a branch in our family tree that had seemingly disappeared, I typed in the relatively rare surname; up came several items from the 1930s through the 1970s.

I also found many relevant family names in birth, marriage and death notices, World War II casualty lists, and stories about traffic accidents, court cases, sports competitions, musical performances, high school graduations and charity bake sales. The search engine smartly labels each reference as a news story, birth or death notice, social notice, real estate notice, business story, advertisement and so on.

Since genealogy is about much more than simply documenting names and dates, such items may add colour and detail to a family history. It's up to the genealogist to weigh the ethical and privacy considerations and decide which stories are best left in the past.

Cold North Wind scans each newspaper page from microfilm, then uses an optical character recognition (OCR) program to read every word of text. It has devised new systems of digitization and image quality enhancement to make images much clearer than they were on microfilm. Human beings, not machines, pin a content label on each story.

The *Toronto Star* Pages of the Past contains more than two million pages in 30,000 editions, according to Stephen Abram, the Toronto-based vice-president of corporate development for Micromedia ProQuest, the large international library reference publisher that handles Cold North Wind products. The archive "takes up two terabytes – it's quite huge," Abram told me.

Micromedia ProQuest also offers a bundling of some 35 Canadian heritage newspapers called the Paper of Record, as well as the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and many other titles. According to Abram, the *Globe and Mail* will soon be online from 1844 to the present. Primary historical materials such as the diaries of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King are also being readied to go online, as are more newspapers from the United States, Mexico, England and Australia.

For serious researchers, home subscriptions are available. For details and a demonstration, visit the Web site www.paperofrecord.com.

Conference News: The 22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy runs Sunday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 9, at the Sheraton Centre, Toronto. Daily registrations are available. Details at www.jgstoronto2002.ca.

Jewish Life

Chaim Potok (1929-2002)

Books
Bernard Baskin

Lovers of American Jewish literature will mourn the death of Chaim Potok. He was a man of many parts: an ordained Conservative rabbi, best selling author, humanistic professor at the University of Pennsylvania, experienced editor and much sought after lecturer.

He was also a talented painter whose expressionistic works were rich in symbolism. Despite his Orthodox roots, he drew liberally in his novels on the world outlook of many other cultures. Among American Jewish writers he was, perhaps, the major interpreter of the spiritual, emotional and intellectual conflict between traditional Judaism and secularism.

One literary critic wrote that Potok "conjured up a universe of men in dark caftans and fur-trimmed hats; Sabbath dinners awash in candlelight; the sounds of Yiddish in the streets and Hebrew in the synagogues; the wild abandon of a wedding dance; the talmudic explications delivered with knife-edge precision in a neighbourhood shul packed to overflowing."

His best-known novel, *The Chosen* (1967), introduced a wide audience to the fervent, insular world of chassidic thought and practice. The book was an astonishing success. Jews and non-Jews alike were caught up in the story of a brilliant young Jew, torn between his obligation to become a rabbi and the lure of the wider secular society.

At the height of the novel's popularity I was invited on several occasions to discuss the book with high school students. Today there are a million paperback copies of *The Chosen* in print.

In *My Name is Asher Lev* (1990), Potok depicted a gifted artist who wounds his traditional family when he insists on asserting his artistic integrity by painting nudes and interpretations of the Crucifixion.

The dilemma that confronts the author's protagonists, mostly adolescents on the brink of maturity, is one that he faced himself. Should he remain a faithful, unquestioning member of a closed community, or should he seek a broader outlook as a Conservative rabbi and popular author?

He disclosed that "no one can work with the novel and remain inside any fundamentalist sect." He confessed that when he left the confines of the yeshiva, he had to "rebuild my behaviour from zero. To this day there are people from the old world who won't speak to me."

Out of his experience as a chaplain in the United States army in Korea from 1955 to 1957 came *The Book of Lights* (1981), which deals with the meaning and beauty of Jewish mystical teachings.

His final work, *Old Men at Midnight*, is a trilogy of related novellas about a woman whose life intersects with the lives of three men of diverse backgrounds. Their life experiences, as related to her, encompass some of the portentous events of our century.

Despite the emotional pain and trauma that Potok's characters undergo, their deeply felt concerns and uncertainties are balanced and softened by his rich portrayal of Jewish family life, his lucid dramatization of Jewish study, piety and ethics, a love of Israel and faith in humankind.

Potok was a gifted and entertaining storyteller who at the same time challenged his readers with Jewish themes to explore and ponder. He will be missed. I joined with many others in reciting Kaddish in his memory.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Back to school resources

The days are still long. And the nights are warm. Even though most kids may not want to admit it, school is just a few weeks away. And as teachers begin to pull out their lesson plans, now is a great time for them to look at the marvelous Jewish educational resources that the Internet has to offer.

Let's start at the beginning, with early childhood education. Amy Weisman is a teacher in South Florida who wasn't able to find suitable Jewish material for her young students on the Web. So she created her own site with resources for teaching youngsters about the holidays, Shabbat, Bible stories and more. **[http://www.geocities.com/amynealw/]** You can find related material at the Jewish Early Childhood Educators' Electronic Toolkit. **[http://www.jesna.org/cgi-bin/earlychild.php3]** The Jewish Early Childhood Education Partnership is a research and advocacy group that is trying to sensitize Jewish communities about the importance of early childhood education. **[http://www.jecep.org/]**

CAJE, The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, presents a site full of ideas for creating a challenging and meaningful curriculum. You can even watch online video seminars on topics including working with children with special needs, teaching controversial subjects and communicating with parents. I was intrigued by Paul Epstein's lecture on Brainstorming: How to develop five teaching ideas on any topic. **[http://www.caje.org/]**

If you are trying to teach recent history and current events, you will need resources to supplement even the most current textbook. From Matzah to Matzav: The Current Crisis in Israel deals with such topics as The United Nations and Israel and Worldwide Anti-Semitism in the Wake of 9/11. **[http://www.caje.org/learn/israel_curriculum. htm]**

JESNA, the Jewish Education Service of North America, focuses on promoting excellence in education. JESNA has studied issues such as Jewish Day School Viability and offers complete reports online. The JESNA Directory of Central Agencies for Jewish Education supplies information about Boards of Jewish Education throughout North America. One helpful feature groups North American educators by specialty so you find experts in such areas as adult education, Holocaust studies or music and art. **[http://www.jesna.org/]**.

Is your school looking for Israeli teachers who could come teach for two to four years? Then check out the Jewish Agency's Department for Jewish Zionist Education Shlichut Program. **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/dept/shlichim/]** Another program offered by the department called Let's Twin matches students in schools in Israel and the Diaspora and helps them start a dialogue. You can find more about the department's programs at its huge Web site. **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/cen2.html]**

There are many more excellent Jewish educational resources on the Web, including the Academic Jewish Studies Internet **[http://jewish-studies.virtualave.net/]**, and sites created by the Department for Jewish-Zionist Education, **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/diaspora/links/]**, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. **[http://www.uahc.org/learning/]** and the Toronto Board of Jewish Education. **[http://www.bjetoronto.org/link.weblinks.a.html]** One of the most impressive initiatives belongs to the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland which has created Virtual Field Trips. These trips promote Internet literacy while teaching about institutions like the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. **[http://www.jecc.org/edres/medtech/vft/stage.htm]**

If you are a Jewish educator who would like to hone your teaching skills, then consider going back to school. The Melton Centre for Jewish Education at Jerusalem's Hebrew University offers a one-year Senior Educators' Program for teachers with three years full-time experience in Jewish Education. The centre also operates over 60 "Mini-Schools" worldwide for teachers and other adults who are interested in structured Jewish learning. **[http://sites.huji.ac.il/melton/top.html]**

And from Ramat Gan, the Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora also provides both lesson plans and courses at Bar Ilan University. There are programs geared toward school principals from abroad and for teachers interested in curriculum and professional development. **[http://www.lookstein.org/home.htm]**

Next week, more of the best Web sites for teachers, including Jewish music, clip art, quizzes and games.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Israeli citizens say thanks to young leaders

Twenty-one Canadians take part in UJC mission

By ANDREA RITTER

On the evening of June 30, our group of 21 young leaders from London, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto boarded a packed El Al flight out of Pearson International Airport, filled with the anticipation of joining our American counterparts for a week-long United Jewish Communities (UJC) mission in Israel.

Thankfully, most of our friends and family were overwhelmingly supportive when we announced our intention to make this trip at perhaps the most trying time in the young life of our homeland. We felt confident. We needed to go. Israel needed us.

Guest Voice

We arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport late the following afternoon, Canada Day. Proudly donning our baseball caps emblazoned with Israeli and Canadian flags, we gathered our bags and headed to the Tel Aviv Marriott to join the other 109 participants from Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and surrounding areas. Few of us knew each other well that first evening as we dined by the beach, the sun sinking into the Mediterranean behind us. Within a week, this feeling would change dramatically.

We set out early the next morning for our first stop: the Park Hotel in Netanya. We filed out of the three buses in which would spend so much of our time and into the lobby, brimming with the chatter of new friends getting acquainted.

But as we entered the banquet hall where 29 innocent seder participants had been killed just months before, our 130 voices fell immediately silent. Only the click of our cameras punctuated the quiet as we circled the room, taking in a scene to which CNN imagery could never do justice. The room had been tidied and scrubbed, but shattered mirrors and crumpled chandeliers remained to tell their tale. Together we lit candles and said Kaddish, many of us gazing up tearfully at a dinner knife still lodged in the charred concrete ceiling.

What we saw set the tone for an intense journey through the north. Our group went on to hear from volunteers with the Israel Crisis Management Centre, an organization that has been invaluable in helping the nation's immigrant population cope with heavy losses in the wake of recent terror attacks. We visited the seam line, where Israeli settlements lie adjacent to Palestinian-controlled villages along the country's narrowest strip. We learned of the challenges in guarding the security of these picturesque Israeli towns encircled by barbed wire, electrified fences and concrete barriers designed to deter infiltrators and deflect snipers' bullets. We were awed by the perseverance of our own people who live with this reality day in and day out.

Twenty-one UJC mission participants from London, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto stand before a newly arrived armored ambulance, a gift from Canadian Jewish philanthropists, at the Tel Aviv headquarters of Magen David Adom.

Yet, as our buses rolled along the modern, multi-lane highways from site to site on our packed itinerary, the scenery seemed almost shockingly peaceful. Thick groves of olive, palm, and banana. Endless fields lush with vegetables and melons. Climbing shrubs and vines bursting with magenta and crimson flowers. We were reminded that the intense beauty of this land remains indifferent to the violence and strife trumpeted almost daily by our headlines back home. Over the next days, the incredible sights of the Galilee, the Kineret and the Golan Heights sparked our appreciation for the magnificence of Eretz Yisrael, too often overshadowed by tragedy and fear.

Led by our expert guides, we toured richly historic sites, including King Solomon's fortress at Megiddo, Gamla, known as the Masada of the Golan, and the Golan Heights, where one can stand on Israeli soil and view Lebanon, Syria and Jordan all at once. We enjoyed a sun-filled afternoon of rafting on the Jordan River and a beautiful twilight boat cruise on the Kineret. We spent our shekels at the small boutiques and galleries in the mystical city of Safed where the scarcity of tourists has been sorely felt this year. We danced and sang together at evening parties and on our buses. And each day, our friendships and our passion for where we were and why we were there grew stronger.

Our bonds with Israel were further reinforced through opportunities to make some of our own small contributions in return. We volunteered at two absorption centres in Tiberias, where olim from Ethiopia and Argentina begin new lives as Israeli citizens. In the end, just talking with these new immigrants, listening to their worries and their dreams for a better life, seemed to outweigh the significance of the painting and gardening we did there.

Later, during our visit to the Tel Aviv headquarters of Magen David Adom, many of us lined up to give blood. Our small group from Canada was especially honoured to be present for the arrival of a brand new armoured ambulance, a gift from Canadian Jewish philanthropists.

The mood was perfect for the last leg of our journey: Jerusalem. Upon our arrival, we headed straight to Mount Scopus to say *Shehechiyanu* and drink a toast overlooking the city of gold.

We kept up our hectic schedule on these final days of our mission. At Hadassah Hospital, we met victims of brutal terror attacks recovering under the expert care of incredible physicians. We also enjoyed a rare, first-hand account of events in Jenin from Dr. David Zangen, one of the IDF's chief medical officers, who amazed us with his compassion and respect for all human life. We had just enough time for some shopping in the Old City before a tranquil Kabalat Shabbat celebration at the Kotel, a spot that was heartbreakingly empty for July. Still, watching the sun dip into the glowing hills of Yerushalayim was breathtaking.

When Shabbat ended the next day, so did our mission. Many from our group stayed on to enjoy some relaxation after the hectic trip was over. The rest of us packed our bags and headed back to the airport after a heartfelt *Havdallah* service and tearful goodbyes among new close friends. We had taken in so much together. It felt so much longer than one week, and yet we wanted more. We had no choice but to package our energy and enthusiasm and bring it back home to our friends and family, to encourage them to make the trip we had made. Some of us are already planning reunions with our fellow travellers.

Looking back, I think perhaps the most stunning aspect of our trip was the number of Israeli citizens – shopkeepers, artists, doctors, kibbutzniks, new immigrants, and even military personnel – who thanked us for being there. They told us we were brave for coming.

Imagine that.

Perhaps we were naively fearless. Hopefully we will all be back soon. Am Yisrael chai.

Andrea Ritter is a writer and past vice-chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's young leadership. This was her first UJC mission to Israel.

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Na'amat member leaves bulk of estate to Labour Zionist causes

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Larry Lichtenstein died in 1950 at age 18, his parents Israel and Brucha, were determined to channel their grief in a positive direction.

As longtime Labour Zionists, they decided to have a health clinic built in Kfar Saba, Israel in memory of their only child.

About 13,000 patients a year, including about 5,000 adolescents and children, now come to the the 50-year-old Lichtenstein Clinic to see physicians, psychologists, social workers and other specialists.

The couple's relationship to the clinic, however, did not end with its establishment. When Brucha died last year at age 94, 20 years after her husband, she bequeathed $750,000 to the Canadian Association for Labour Israel, an organization that raises funds for hospital and clinics in Israel.

Gert Weinberg, executive director of the association, said that Lichtenstein, a "lover of Yiddish" and a member of Na'amat for more than 70 years, also left $100,000 to Bialik Hebrew Day School to ensure the continuation of its Yiddish program, and $300,000 to Na'amat, which will be used to build an addition to its technical school in Haifa.

The money for the Lichtenstein Clinic will be used to build a second floor, install an elevator, enlarge the pharmacy, add treatment rooms and refurbish the existing building, Weinberg said.

"We know this is something she would have wanted to do. The Lichtensteins built the clinic, because after Larry died a painful death from bone cancer, they wanted money to go to health care. Our renovation is very appropriate.

"When staff at the clinic heard our news, they were elated. They were running out of space."

Lorraine Levene, executive director of Na'amat Canada, Toronto, said that because Larry was a teenager when he died, her organization decided to use its bequest to refurbish the Na'amat Technical High School and rename it the Na'amat Lichtenstein Technical High School.

The school, which now has about 270 students, offers co-op training in such fields as early childhood education, hair design and photography.

The addition to the school will include a library and more classrooms, which means it can accept more students, said Levene.

She said Lichtenstein is the first person she is aware of to leave such a large portion of her estate solely to Labour Zionist organizations.

"She was a unique person. She demonstrated that life must go on after a tragedy. Dedicating herself to worthy causes was a way of honouring her son," said Levene.

שיאור ענינו

גידי קורן וחברים

ארץ ישראל- קיץ 2002

ארץ ישראל, כפי שהיא נשקפת מבחוץ, היא מקום קשה, כואב, דואג, כל זה לאור חמשך פעולת הטרור. ארץ ישראל שמצאתי שם היזנה להפתעתי הנעימה מקום שוקק, פועם, שר שירה בציבור, נסע לפסטיבל תיקודים בכרמיאל ונוהר לפסטיבל למוסיקה קאמרית בקיבוץ כפר בלום. כן, יש בעיות כלכליות קשות ואבטלה גואה, כן, יש פעולות טרור, אבל אנחנו לא נפסיק לשיר, אנחנו נמשיך לחיות, כי חיים רק פעם אחת.

אני חייב להגיד שכל זה שימח אותי מאד, כי זה סימן לחוק פנימי וזו התשובה חכי ניצחת לאנטישמים הפלאסטינאיים ולאנטישמים באירופה וגם לאלה שכאן.

יש לנו בית בקריית אתא, והתאזה שם חונטת את נגיזה לקראת חסתיו כמו בכל שנה אחרת. עוד אני שם, במרחק של פחות מקילומטר מביתי נרצח אדם על היותו יהודי. אבל זה קרה ליד ביתי בטוחטטו, ולא ליד ביתי בקריית אתא. נדהמתי לשמוע ישראלים כאן אומרים בלהט שזה לא היה רצח על רקע אנטישמי. באמת! תאיש צעק "בסאדי ג'ו" ושלף את המסכין. זה מדהים איזו הדחקה מוכנים אנשים לעשות כדי לישון בשקט! יום אחרי חזדתי חלכתי לאותה פינה של באטקרסט ולותם שבה אני עובר לעיתים כה קרובות וחשבתי בליבי שהחיה הטאצית נמצאת גם כאן. אל תספרו לי שהרוצח היה יזוע כפסיכופאט! (מעניין איך שכל מוסכניק חופך לפסיכיאטר כדי לחוכיח שאיך כאן אנטישמיות וסכנה). בכל התקופות היו אלה הפחות מאוזנים, היותר מעוררים שותחילו בגלי האנטישמיות. האחרים הצטרפו אחר כך. אבל שישאר ביניהו.

חיפה חיפה

איני חיפאי, ועל כן טבעי שאיזני שוחה שם בביקורי בארץ, אז היזנה הפעם יצא לי לשהות במלון דן כרמל ארבעה ימים מול חנוף חנפלא של העיר חיפה הזו. בחעדר מוחלט של תיירים, היו במלון כשלושים איש, ואלוחים יודע כמה זמן חם יוכלו לשאוד בחפסדים כאלה.

פגשתי שם ארץ ישראל אחרת מזו של תל אביב- מנמסת, מסבירת פנים, מחייכת, פשוט תענוג! בחנות חמכולת נתנת לי עדף קופאית צעירה, שעל פי חמבטא שלה היא ערביה במחצאה ואמרת לי "יום טוב". לא עוד "שיהיה לך יום טוב" (ענו תרגום מאנגלית) אלא פשוט וקצר- "יום טוב". אחר כך אשמע את חברכה חזו פעמים רבות, והיא תעשה לי באמת יום טוב.

אחר כך חלכתי לסיור בגן חבאהי שחושקעו בו לאחרונה 250 מליון דולאר אמריקנים, פרי תרומותיהם של שישה מיליון בחאיים מאתאימים חמישים מדינות. ממש מדהים איך חפכה עיר חילונית כמו חיפה לְמרכז חרוחני של חדת חכי מדהימת בעולם. זהו סיפור מדהים על איש מוסלמי שחי באיראן ב 1840 וחמציא דת חדשה שאמאימה בשלום עולמי, בשוויון זכויות לאישה ובעד רעיונות שמתאימים לקליפורניה ולא לארץ מוסלמית קיצונית. לא מפליא לכן שלוקח לשלטונות באיראן שלוש שנים כדי לחפריד את ראשו מגופו ולחשליך את גופתו אל מעבר לחומות חעיר. חלמידיו מצליחים לחנגיב את חגופה מארץ לארץ ואחרי שלוש שנים של חלאות קוברים אותה בכרמל. עכשיו בנו שם גן שיורד מן הכרמל עד למשבה הגרמנית. זוחי יצירה מדהימה שחופכת את חיפה לאתר אטרקטיבי ממדרגה ראשונה. כשאחם נוסעים לארץ אל תחמיצו את חגן חבאחי!

דויד רזנצוויג חי"ד

קריסטי בָלֵב'פורד, כתבת חנשיונל פוסט בילחה ערב שבת עם משפחתו חאבלה של דויד רזנצוויג שנרצח על ידי אנטישמי מטורף. אם לא קראתם את העיתון חזה עד היום- היזנה עוד סיבה להתחיל ולחרגיש בביתי. אני מביא לכם ציטוט קטן מהכתבה חנפלאה חזו שנקראת "חבית שבו דויד רזנצוויג חי" ("חי" בלשון חווה ולא בזמן עבר)

"יום אחד בשבוע שעבר, חבן חצעיר, ילד מקסים בן שמונה עם רווח בשיניים, שאל את אימו: מה את חושבת יותר קשה- לאשה לאבד בעל, או לילד לאבד אבא? שאלה אותו חאמא מה דעתו, ועל כך ענה לה חילד שהוא חושב שיותר קשה לאבד אבא. ואז הוא הוסיף: "לפעמים אני חושב שזה טריק שמישהו עושה לנו, ושאבא פתאום יכנס בדלת....."

ואחיו בן חשנים עשרה אמר לאימו:

" יש משפחות, שכשקורה להן אסון כזה- הן מתרסקות...אנחנו צריכים להיות מאוד מאוד זהירים"...

הכתבה חביאה לְתודעה משפחה מופלאה, עם חרבה אהבת אדם, חום ואכפתיות. דרך חעצב חעמוק שחשתי, חרגשתי גם נאוות חזקה על שיש אצלנו ערכים כאלה, על שהתרבות וחמסורת היהודית שָמה את חמשפחה במקום ראשון. לא פגשתי את דויד רזנצוויג בחיין, אבל אני נאה בו ובמשפחתו ומרגיש שהוא מחזק אותי.

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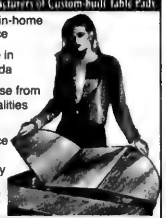

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On Campus/Academia

U of Toronto scholar reassesses Agnon's oeuvre

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A succession of scholars has pored over and analyzed the works of Shmuel Yosef Agnon, the first and so far only Hebrew writer to receive a Nobel Prize for literature.

Sharon Green, a Hebrew literature specialist at the University of Toronto, is the latest academic who has appraised Agnon's body of work, which includes *The Bridal Canopy* and *A Guest for the Night*.

Now she has written *Not a Simple Story: Love and Politics in a Modern Hebrew Novel*, in which she presents Agnon – the 1966 Nobel laureate – in a new light.

Sharon Green

Green portrays him as an artist cum thinker whose novels and short stories display a profound understanding of the social and political crisis at the heart of modern Jewish life.

Agnon (1888-1970), she argues, was essentially a Jewish nationalist and secular modernist whose critical portrait of Jewish life sought to hold Jews to a higher standard.

Today, in her estimation, Agnon is increasingly viewed through the lens of various fads, ranging from psycholoanalytic theory to gender politics.

"This is a strange irony, because when Agnon first began his literary career, he was seen essentially as a religious writer, and was criticized by some of his contemporaries for being overly sympathetic to an 'outmoded' way of life," Green says.

She contends that these conceptions of Agnon are basically flawed and thus fall short of an understanding of his place in the pantheon of Israeli literature.

"The uniqueness of Agnon is that he was able to capture the richness of traditional Jewish life, while at the same time he was absolutely clear-sighted about the dangers such a life holds for Jewish survival in modern times," Green observes.

"Agnon's literary genius is contained in his ability to hold in creative tension the Jewish religious tradition and the secular modern world, both of which he shows to be needed for Jews to thrive. The dialectical tension in his work is probably the reason why many readers find his works enigmatic."

Green, whose PhD dissertation turned on the problem of love in Agnon's work, was drawn to him as an undergraduate at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

"I found his works had a kind of profundity not often found in contemporary literature," she explains. "Although there are certainly other Hebrew writers of great virtuosity and power, they are all like heirs of Agnon.

"He is much like Shakespeare is to English literature. And like Shakespeare, he needs to be studied rather then read quickly for pleasure. Like most great art, it is worth the effort."

Citing Amos Oz's recent book about Agnon, Green believes Agnon's reputation has grown since his death.

Apart from Agnon, Green is also particularly interested in Isaac Bashevis Singer – the sole Nobel laureate in Yiddish literature.

"Singer is a master storyteller, and he deserves credit for helping bring Yiddish literature to the English-speaking world," observes Green, who wrote an essay about him in a reference book entitled *The Encyclopedia of the Novel*.

Her interest in Yiddish novelists is anything but coincidental.

"The study of Yiddish literature is absolutely essential for the understanding of modern Hebrew literature, and vice versa," notes Green, whose essay on the topic was published in a reference book called *The Golden Age of Yiddish Literature: From the Late Nineteenth Century Until the Outbreak of World War II*.

Hebrew and Yiddish literature are inextricably connected. As she puts it: "Most of the writers were at ease in both languages, and many of them published in both as well. For example, many of Agnon's earliest works were in Yiddish, while Isaac Leib Peretz's youthful writings were in Hebrew."

Green, who has been associated with U of T for the past 14 years, has also delved into modern Hebrew poetry.

Asked to assess the state of the genre and the poets she rates most highly, she replies, "I think the poetry of Yehuda Amichai is truly outstanding. Like Agnon in prose, he manages in his verse to convey a deep awareness of ancient Jewish sources, while at the same time capturing the cadences and sensibility of Israeli life."

Currently, Green is writing a book about the continuity and transformation of religious ideas in secular Hebrew poetry.

"Despite the common impression of Hebrew poetry being a completely secular pursuit, I'm intrigued by the fact that there is so much religious content in ostensibly secular verse. Why is it there, and what does it indicate about modern Jewish life? These are a few of the questions I hope to answer in this book."

In addition to Amichai, Green will include the following poets in her forthcoming book: Avraham Shlonsky, Leah Goldberg, Yocheved Bat-Miriam, Amir Gilboa, Abba Kovner, Dan Pagis, Natah Zach, Dalia Ravikovich and Yona Wallach.

Recently, she finished an essay on Chaim Brandwein, a professor of Hebrew literature at Brandeis with whom she studied. It will appear in a volume of essays to be published by Tel Aviv University Press this year.

"He was also a very talented Hebrew poet and short story writer," she says. "My essay is about one of his most vibrant stories, whose theme is the moral tension between religious tradition and secular modernity in Israel."

Green teaches in the department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. In September, she will teach a new, full-year course on modern Hebrew literature in English translation. It will be open to all students without prerequisites.

She was born and raised in Toronto. Her parents, Paul and Bess Mintz, were civil servants.

Her husband, Kenneth Hart Green, is an associate professor of modern Jewish philosophy at the University of Toronto.

They have three sons, Alexander, 17, Daniel, 13, and Jonathan, 10.

Coast to Coast

Manitoba's Sidney Spivak remembered as a gentleman

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — With the passing of Sidney Spivak last month, the Jewish community here lost a political and community leader who won praise from friend and foe alike for always being a gentleman.

Spivak died at age of 74 from complications related to heart surgery.

He learned the value of community work from his parents, community leaders Rose and Malick. An outstanding student, he earned a Master of Laws degree from Harvard University, after which he returned to Winnipeg to pursue careers in law, business and politics.

Spivak was a lifelong Progressive Conservative. He was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in 1966 and very quickly found a place around premier Duff Roblin's cabinet table.

He served in senior portfolios under Roblin's short-lived successor, Walter Weir. After the Weir government was defeated in 1969 by the New Democratic Party, Spivak was elected to succeed Weir as leader of the Conservatives in 1971, becoming the first Jewish leader of a major political party in the history of Manitoba. (A short time later, Izzy Asper became leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party, leaving Manitoba with two Jewish opposition party leaders in the legislature; the NDP government also had three senior Jewish cabinet ministers.)

While Spivak was able to improve on the Tories' electoral results in the 1973 election, he was not able to unseat popular NDP premier Ed Schreyer. After two more years as leader of the Opposition, he was unceremoniously ousted as party leader by Sterling Lyon.

Nonetheless, he served in Lyon's cabinet after Lyon won the 1977 election.

In 1979, Spivak quit provincial politics to run for federal Parliament. He lost to Lloyd Axworthy and walked away from the political arena to devote his energies to business ventures and community causes.

Sidney Spivak
[CJN File photo]

In his eulogy, Spivak's son, Harold, said his father "loved the game of politics and knew how to play it without rancour or personal animosity. He thoroughly enjoyed the intrigue, the strategizing and the intellectual battle."

While there were those who argued that Spivak may have won the 1973 election if he had not have been Jewish, others attribute his loss to Schreyer's popularity at the time. Within the Tory party itself, observers have noted that Spivak's major difficulty was not so much his religious background as that he was an urban "progressive" leader in a caucus composed mainly of "conservative" rural members.

A lifelong Zionist, Spivak served in the late 1980s and early 1990s as chairman of the Canada-Israel Committee. In the Jewish community he also held leadership roles with the Jewish National Fund, B'nai Brith, Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University, Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. In the wider community, he served as a board member of, and raised money for, a variety of cultural, educational and medical institutions.

Spivak is survived by his wife of 47 years, Senator Mira Spivak, and their three children.

Speaking for the family, Harold Spivak said: "Our father always seemed larger than life, like a fictional hero. He was a man of great achievement who generated so much warmth and love. Yet his greatest influence on us comes not from witnessing his public successes but from the strength of his personal qualities, his warmth and generosity, kindness and compassion, his humility and self-effacing nature, his great resilience and grace under pressure and his capacity to weather the ebbs and flows of life with a boundless sense of optimism and hopefulness."

Israeli press criticizes IDF's Gaza operation

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Approximately two weeks have passed since the Israel Defence Forces dropped a one-ton bomb on Hamas leader Saleh Shehadeh's Gaza hideout. The bomb killed Shehadeh and his associate but also, tragically, 14 Palestinian civilians, nine of them children.

International media reports and commentary continue to heap criticism on Israel for the attack. While the coverage does not blame Israel for Shehadeh's death, noting that he was responsible for the murder of as many as 200 Israelis, it chastises Israel for the large number of civilians killed and injured, and the high proportion of children.

Israeli and Diaspora Jews alike, intensely self-critical, immediately expressed sorrow over the civilian casualties. Interestingly, much of Israeli editorial comment, including the conservative *Jerusalem Post*, was as critical of the Gaza operation, and in some cases more so, than the major Canadian newspapers.

The Toronto Star's "No path to peace," (July 24) and the *Globe and Mail*'s "Death and rage in Gaza" (July 25), illustrate this. While condemning the operation, both acknowledged Shehadeh's bloody record and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's failure to control Shehadeh as required under the Oslo accords.

The *Globe*, calling Israel's action a "reckless" crossing of the "red line that divides self-defence from overkill," went on to observe the following: "There is no good reason to believe anything said by Hamas, whose stated aim is the obliteration of Israel. Nor is there any cause to mourn the death of Mr. Shehadeh, a mass murderer responsible for scores, perhaps hundreds of Israeli deaths... Mr. Shehadeh was a legitimate target who knew he was a public enemy number one, yet chose to place his family, and everybody else in the vicinity directly in harm's way. Nor can Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority entirely escape blame for Monday's slaughter." Still, the paper went on to note that "None of this excuses the pitiless ferocity of the Israeli assault."

John Podhoretz, writing in the *New York Post* (reprinted in the *Ottawa Citizen*) "Hamas kills its own" (July 29), made many of the same points as the *Globe*, but concluded that according to international law, by placing himself among civilians to be used "as human shields," Shehadeh himself bears direct responsibility for the tragedy.

Interestingly, most Israeli analysts do not go this far. The Israeli press was particularly critical of the military breakdown leading to the tragic deaths of Palestinian civilians. The *Jerusalem Post* was critical of the operation, asking "What was the military thinking?" It appears the Israeli media prefer to emphasize the ongoing need to avoid harming innocent civilians – as witnessed in its Jenin operation in April. It must exercise this caution, even as it pursues, as it must, the perpetrators of terrorist attacks.

Editor's note: This column was written before the July 31 bombing in Jerusalem at Hebrew University that killed seven people and injured more than 80.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Barrie Jewish community prepares to build first shul

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

BARRIE, Ont. — For Torontonians, this town along Highway 400 is normally just a place to grab a quick bite or fill up along the trek north to cottage country. Yet over the past decade, the Jewish population in Barrie has boomed, creating a community set to build their first shul.

Around 65 families regularly call Barrie home and their numbers swell to over 200 in the summer as an influx of cottagers populate the region 100 kilometres north of Toronto.

While there has been Jewish life in Barrie for 100 years, Jewish migration in large numbers didn't occur until the early '70s. Each decade since has brought a new wave of Jews, with the community growing more than 600 per cent from just under 10 families in 1973. The city itself has also undergone tremendous growth, skyrocketing from 26,000 people to today's total of 115,000 in just 30 years.

With a Torah donated a few years ago from the B'nai Tikvah Congregation in Niagara Falls and $750,000 raised, the Am Shalom congregation (formerly the Simcoe County Jewish Association) will soon begin construction on a 10,000-square-foot building on a piece of land donated by developer and former Barrie resident Henry Bernick.

"It is now the next stage of the community's growth," said Eric Allen, fund-raising director for the shul. "When the synagogue gets built, it will just be a magnet for people."

The concept of the shul building, which will have a library, community hall and Hebrew school, was designed for free by Toronto architect Cliff Korman.

Residents of the local Jewish community have pledged and donated $300,000. As well, Allen said, many non-Jewish residents in Barrie have felt compelled to support the shul because they realize how important it is.

Yet, it's the summer cottagers who populate the Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe region who have made the congregation's dream a reality, pledging an additional $450,000.

"The synagogue wouldn't exist without the cottagers' contributions," Allen said.

According to Allen, the shul will be open for service in the fall of 2003. The congregation still has a goal of raising $1 million.

Over the years, Barrie has been transformed from a cottagers' haven to a year-round home for Jewish families. People like the congregation's former president Marshall Green, who was looking for a change from Toronto, moved to Barrie to start a new life in 1973.

"[It was a] good opportunity to try something different," said Green, who moved to Barrie to article at a local law firm and found his first neighbour to be the local Anglican minister.

"Very few people had any experience with Jews," he said. "It was enjoyable to become a kind of teacher. It was very refreshing to be asked about my faith."

Community has become important to the former Torontonian, who said that practising Judaism wasn't as important to him when he was growing up in a Jewish milieu as it is now.

"[The] main thing about living in a small town is the effort and responsibility it takes to be Jewish," Green said.

Am Shalom has become a member of the North American Reform organization Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), with Rabbi Bernard Baskin leading the services for the past 13 years. Barrie is one of 27 small Jewish communities linked together by the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO) under the banner of the United Israel Appeal.

"For many many years, our community felt ignored," Green said. "The RJCO has done an amazing job at recognizing that there is a Jewish life outside of Toronto."

Of the 27 communities, Barrie is one of the few increasing in population.

"Our situation is unique. We're an hour to Toronto and all those cottagers," said Green, adding that "location, location, location" is a key reason for Barrie's success.

"They [Barrie] are experiencing the most growth and are definitely the youngest community," said Michael Soberman, director of community development for the RJCO. "Their proximity to Toronto offers a good compromise for people who want to live in a less urban place."

Jewish community leaders Marshall Green (left), Dr Gerald Levine (middle) and Eric Allen are part of the Am Shalom congregation in Barrie . In four separate waves the number of Jews has increased almost 600 percent since the 70's.

Green said when he arrived, he found few Jews, and most had intermarried. Even today, 60 per cent of the community is intermarried.

Before the '70s, he said, the community was very small and while they had a Hebrew school, they did not have a synagogue. According to Green, many of the kids grew up, went away to university and never came back. When he and his wife arrived, he said the community was "much older" than it is today.

In the '80s, a second wave of Jews moved to Barrie and the community grew to 25 families. Services began in rented halls, community centres and people's homes, and the community established itself as the York Simcoe Jewish Association.

Among the newcomers was Dr. Gerald Levine, the current president of Am Shalom. Levine, who grew up in North York, moved with his wife Elizabeth in 1985 because he "thought it would be a good place to start a medical practice." He said when he arrived, he did not know anybody and the Jewish community found him.

"I was working when I got a call from another doctor, asking me if I was Jewish," Levine said. "The other doctor told me to hustle [to someone's house], because they needed me for a minyan at a High Holiday service."

Allen moved to town in 1992, because he was simply "looking to settle outside of Toronto," and "Barrie [was] far enough away that it's a separate community.

"I didn't give much thought to a Jewish community. I wasn't expecting much from it," he said, adding that he was pleasantly surprised to find it very well-established.

With the new shul, the community is anticipating even more members.

"We get a call or two a week from people moving up," said Green.

However, as the population explodes, fears arise that the traditional family feel might disappear.

"[It's] unrealistic to say we're not going to change. [We] have to become more business-like," said Green. Allen added that they have been pretty lenient about things such as membership fees in the past.

Young families who first flocked here now have grown children who were born and raised in Barrie. But the youth seem to be going against the population trend and moving out.

"I'm probably not going to stay," said Levine's son Adam, who in the fall will enter Grade 12 at Barrie Central Collegiate, where there are five other Jewish students. "It's a great town to grow up in. But I want to do other things. I want to grow up and explore."

Green's daughter, Cesia, 22, is currently studying at Queen's University and also has no plans to return. She said she has lost touch with the few Jews she knew while growing up.

"There isn't a whole lot for me anymore," said the younger Green, who just spent the year studying in Holland. "Even Kingston has more. I've kind of grown outside of Barrie. I know my brother [who is currently in Chicago] isn't coming back and I would be very surprised if my sister [who is studying at University of Toronto] came back."

Adam Levine said he has grown up with some other young Jewish people and he has made at least four or five very close Jewish friends. But he said he "thinks they will be heading out as well. They want to do other things. I don't have the feeling that they want to stay."

He added that he may come back when he is older, and that he believes the community will survive because it welcomes many new young families.

Maybe the youths don't know what they are missing out on, because their parents agreed that it is mainly the lifestyle in Barrie that keeps them here.

Gerald Levine said he makes just as much money as a Toronto doctor, but doesn't have to fight traffic. He added he is right near the most beautiful spots in cottage country and enjoys the outdoor life and doesn't have to work as hard.

Marshall Green said he "doesn't make as much money [as a lawyer], but you measure it against the lifestyle and you can't complain."

"It's a great community," said Allen. "I couldn't see living anywhere else."

The Am Shalom congregation is always looking for members and for people to get involved in the new shul. If interested, please call 705-721-6126.

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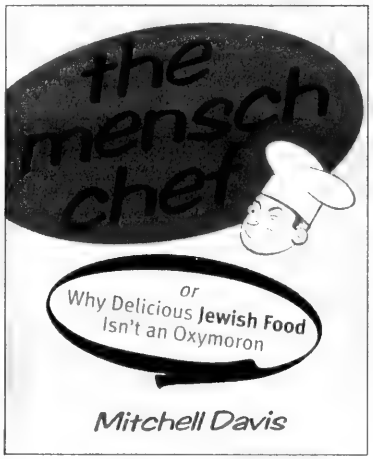
New cookbook helps beginners master Jewish food

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter



In his new cookbook, *The Mensch Chef*, (Clarkson Potter Publishers) Mitchell Davis has set out to prove that the most beginner of beginning cooks can prepare traditional Jewish food.

Recipes for classics such as cholent, potato latkes, basic brisket, and carrot and sweet potato tzimmes are written clearly and simply, and Davis assumes that cooks are making each recipe for the first time.

Davis, originally from Toronto, is a graduate of Cornell University's school of hotel administration. He has worked as a chef in France and Italy, and is currently a professor in New York University's food studies program.

His book, he says, is a primer of the "iconic Jewish foods you dream of – foods of your childhood, presuming your childhood was spent, like mine, in a North American Jewish enclave surrounded by Ashkenazim.

"It's an Ashkenazi ABC; it's a book for the first time you host a Passover seder and don't know what to serve, or a book to help you satisfy your craving for cabbage borscht, chicken soup and matzah balls, kasha varnishkes or gefilte fish."

For the true beginner, Davis gives a recipe's kosher status – for example, pareve, but if you add butter instead of margarine, dairy – and with most recipes, he answers the questions that he anticipates an inexperienced cook would ask. He also provides a background to the dish.

"Tzimmes is both a dish and a Yiddish word that means a little bit of everything all mixed up together, in short, a mess," he writes.

In a "*bissel* advice" about tzimmes (all the recipes contain little sidebars with these aptly named helpful tips), he says that the dish can be assembled, covered and refrigerated in advance, but he advises that you bake it the day you serve it. "Because the vegetables are very well cooked, I wouldn't advise cooking it days in advance; once you reheat it, the tzimmes turns to mush."

He admits the blintz recipe looks like a lot of work, but "it reads like more of a production than it is. It's just that writing down all of the steps sort of takes up more room than just doing them."

Sprinkled throughout the book are Davis's personal recollections. We learn about his mother's latkes, his grandmother's farfel and his family's favourite roast beef and roast chicken recipes (which follow).

BASIC BRISKET

3 large onions, coarsely chopped
2 large garlic cloves, smashed
2 large carrots diced, optional
6 oz. mushrooms, chopped
1 5-7 lb. brisket, trimmed of fat
1 tbsp. kosher salt
1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 tsp. granulated garlic
1 tsp. Hungarian paprika
6 oz. can tomato paste
1 bay leaf

Special Equipment: Large roasting pan with a tight-fitting cover or aluminum foil

Preheat oven to 350. Place chopped onions, smashed garlic, carrots, and mushrooms in the bottom of the roasting pan. Place the brisket fat side down on top of the vegetables. Sprinkle half the salt, pepper, granulated garlic, and paprika on the brisket. Turn it over and sprinkle with the remaining half of the spices. Spread the tomato paste all over the top of the brisket. Fill the can with water and pour it into the pan. Add the bay leaf, cover, and set in the preheated oven.

After two hours of cooking, remove the brisket from oven, let cool slightly and transfer to a cutting board. Now you can trim away the fat. Slice the brisket less than ¼ inch thick on the diagonal across the grain. Return the slices to the cooking juice. Once all of the brisket is sliced, recover the roasting pan and return to the oven for another 1½ to 2 hours or until meat is easily cut with fork. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature in gravy. Makes 10 to 15 servings with plenty of leftovers.

A *bissel* advice: Store the brisket in the gravy in the refrigerator for up to five days or freeze. Reheat covered in a 325-degree oven for 30 to 45 minutes, or until heated through.

ROAST CHICKEN

2 large onions chopped
1 large garlic clover, minced
4½ lb. roasting chicken
1 tsp. kosher salt
½ tsp granulated garlic
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
½ tsp. ground paprika
5 medium Yukon gold potatoes peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks

Special Equipment: roasting pan with tight-fitting lid or heavy-duty aluminum foil

Preheat oven to 350. Place onions and minced garlic in the bottom of the roasting pan. Set chicken breast side up on onions. Sprinkle ½ tsp. salt, ¼ tsp. granulated garlic, ¼ tsp. black pepper and ¼ tsp. paprika on chicken and in cavity. Turn it breast side down and sprinkle with remaining spices. Cover chicken and set in oven for one hour.

Remove the cover or foil and scatter the potatoes in the onions and cooking juice around the base of the chicken. Raise the oven temperature to 400 and continue roasting until the skin begins to brown, 15 to 25 minutes. Using two large forks or a pair of tongs, turn the chicken over so the breast is facing up. Continue to roast for an additional 30 minutes, until the skin has browned and crisped. The potatoes should be fork tender. Remove from oven and let cool for about 10 minutes before cutting up chicken to serve.

A *bissel* advice: The easiest way to cut up a chicken is to use a pair of sharp poultry shears or kitchen scissors. Do it in the roasting pan to avoid a mess on the counter.

Position the pan so you are looking at the rear end of the chicken. Use the shears to cut through the centre of the breast, starting at the cavity and ending at the neck. This will expose the backbone, which is the ridge in the middle of the bottom of the cavity.

Cut along both sides of the backbone to separate the chicken into two halves. Place one half on a plate. Snip the leg off the thigh at the joint. You should be able to separate the thigh from the breast just by pulling it. Remove the wing the same way you removed the leg, at the joint. Cut the breast in half to produce two equal portions. Repeat this process with the remaining half chicken. You should end up with 10 pieces.

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Mazel tov to Helen & Aaron Yermus on their 50th anniversary. With love from Judy & Rob, Esther & Stephen, Bob & Sura, and the grandchildren.

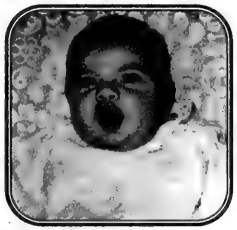
Mazel tov Racquel & Rory on your engagement. Love, parents, Rami & Jaime Benayon; Roslyn & Larry Berman, and grandparents Lucy Auday-Sahovaler and Shirley Berman.

Mazel tov Deborah & Daniel on the wonderful occasion of their engagement. Parents: Roy & Maureen Arluck and Terry and the late Carol Naken.

Congratulations to Maria & David Nagel who were married on June 16.

Happy third birthday to Miyah Rachel Perry with love from your parents Sima & Richard; brother Jorey; grandparents Murray Perry, Marilyn & Hushy Goodfield.

Mazel tov to Sharon, Brian, Nathaniel, Samuel & Shirelle on the birth of Rachel Kinneret Belmont on Nov. 14.



Mazel tov Max Dankner on your 77th birthday, from the whole family.

Mazel tov to Irving & Eva Nightingale on your 50th wedding anniversary from your loving children and grandchildren.

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 12 , is deadline for the Aug. 22 issue and Monday, Aug. 19, is deadline for Aug. 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Saturday, Aug. 10

MOSHAV BAND

The Moshav Band, from Israel and Los Angeles, at the Acrobat Lounge, 2464 Yonge St., 10:30 p.m. All ages welcome. Proceeds to terror victims in Israel. Tickets at door.

Sunday, Aug. 11

HEALING SERVICE

A healing service by the Toronto Jewish Healing Project, 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. Leaders are **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum** and music therapist **Mary Rykov**. Receive hope, comfort, faith and support to face the difficulties in your life. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group lunch meeting features guest speaker **Mike Schwab**, past radio host, speaking on Veganism and Compassion, at noon at Le Commensal restaurant, 655 Bay St. E. **Howard Koch**, 416-663-4076.

Monday, Aug. 12

THE MURDERED POETS

The Night of the Murdered Poets, 50th anniversary of the execution of Soviet Jewish writers and artists. Evening in Yiddish and English. Chair is **David Abramowitz**; guest speaker **Prof. Norman Shneidman**; readings; musical program **Lilian Keltz**, **Alan Gaensbauer**, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Sponsored by Committee for Yiddish UJA/Federation, and Yiddish Culture Council.

And What Else Is New

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2nd Annual Sheila Lederman Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the Cardinal Golf Club, Sunday, Aug. 25. Activities include silent auction, putting, closest to the pin/hole-in-one and long drive contests. Net proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. For information and registration, **Andrew Lederman** at 416-985-5483 or 416-223-4653 or **Cheryl Sherman** 905-738-9700.

TRIP TO ARTPARK

Adath Sholom synagogue invites you to a fun-filled day: its annual trip to Artpark, this year to see *Copacabana*. Sunday, Aug. 18, starting at 10 a.m. It includes a luxury air-conditioned bus. Bring a picnic lunch. Call 416-635-0131 to reserve.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Hebrew language studies with **Channa Sargon**, specialist in conversational and Hebrew language skills. Upcoming session begins the week of Sept. 2, day and evening classes available. Beginner, intermediate, advanced (*chug ivri*) levels. Explore current events, newspaper articles, literature, all in Hebrew. Classes held at 3995 Bathurst St., Suite 300. For information and registration, Canadian Zionist Federation, 416-633-3988.

LIVE FROM THE STATUE

Fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists Off-Site Series and **Tova Kardonne** present an exploration in modern dance of the Henry Moore sculpture Two Large Forms. Live musicians accompany two dancers at the corner of Dundas and McCaul just outside the Art Gallery of Ontario, Sunday, Aug. 11 at 12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m.

YIDDISH CONVERSATION

Yiddish conversational classes at Adath Israel Congregation. Begin-

Continued on page 23

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SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4" with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks talks cafes, movies art poetry nature animals. I'm open minded I value respect & sincerity friendships & genuine relationships **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old **AD#1136**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies sharing and cuddling. Please call and leave a message **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1186**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. Have a great one **AD#1132**

LET'S MEET
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, single parent w/ 12yr old son. A vivacious, lively, ambitious, hard working woman, she enjoys life, country walks, hiking, swimming, dancing, dining out, please respond **AD#1421**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating, camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest, sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail **AD#1070**

FUN & COMPASSION
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who is honest & romantic for a long term relationship **AD#1457**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call **AD#1260**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male **AD#1146**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs, with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call **AD#1318**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message **AD#1158**

MR WONDERFUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" with brown hair & eyes. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun. Seeking a Jewish traditionalist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams **AD#1248**

POSITIVE OUTLOOK
Single female, 65 yrs old, fun loving, classical. Enjoys travel, heart music, dancing outdoors, candlelight, wine, romantic places, has positive outlook on life. Seeks a complimentary man for long lasting for long lasting relationship **AD#1036**

SMART 'n SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish female 64 yr old, smart, spontaneous, compassionate & has good sense of humour. Seeks 65-75yrs male who's active, handsome, loving & kind who is ready to share loving relationship **AD#1071**

LOVES TO LAUGH
Debra is 46 yrs old, a single mom w/ 2 grown children and enjoys movies, dining, travelling, live theatre. She also enjoys doing home decorating and seeks a fun loving, easy going guy who loves to talk & laugh. Give her a call **AD#1111**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise please leave a message **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3" 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. If this is you, leave him a message **AD#1063**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point **AD#1439**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
She's down to earth, professional, independent & fun loving is seeking a male who shares the same qualities for a companion first and see how it goes from there **AD#1124**

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy is Jewish, in her 50's and attractive. She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes. She's sophisticated, sexy, warm, compassionate, sensuous and loves life. She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs, preferably tall, non smoking, sweet, kind hearted & well groomed. If you think you're a match, leave her a message **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman loves to travel & meet new people. She enjoys theatre and sports, and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old **AD#1405**

SEXY, SOPHISTICATED
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche. I'm 59-69 yrs, a non smoker, who's kind w/ good qualities. I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's, and I love life & dancing. I'm compassionate & sensuous. Call me **AD#1159**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad **AD#1051**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly, good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. Leave him a message **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling **AD#1438**

men seeking women

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1239**

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Have Questions? Call us: 416-236-8644 or 1-800-881-3878

What's New

Continued from page 22

ners, Tuesday evenings starting Oct. 1; Intermediate classes Wednesday evenings starting Oct. 2. Reserve now. **Louis Gula** 416-495-0919.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living (JCLL), Richmond Hill centre for Jewish education and communal activities, invites you to family-oriented High Holy Day services. Children's programs. 905-883-3844.

TEL-AIDE DISTRESS LINE

Tel-Aide: The Jewish Distress Line is starting training sessions for new volunteers. Interested volunteers please call 416-636-9695 and leave your name and phone number.

CLOSET SALE

Closet Sale every Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lots of new and used items for the family and home. Lots of free parking. Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

COUPLES BOWLING

Jewish couples bowling club is looking for couples to join. Group bowls every second Sunday night starting in September. This is a fun league – experience not necessary. **Michel** 416-520-1433 or **Harold** 905-882-0585.

KABBALAT LECTURE

Free Kabbalat lecture, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W., 416-631-9395.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors program, To Our Good Health, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Earl Bales Park. Speakers: **Dr. Brian Goldman** and **Francine Teller**, who speaks on Eat and Don't Feel Guilty. Bring lunch. Refreshments served. Entertainment by **Paul Mathew.** Members free. For reservations, **Goldie** 416-635-2860.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Aug. 8, sing-along with **Yitzchak Argaman**; Aug. 15, lecture by **Hassida David**; Aug. 22, bingo; Aug. 29, picnic. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Young at Heart Seniors Florida winter trip with breakfast included, this year again at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002. Casino Rama, Aug. 14, 28; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., Aug. 19, 17, 24, 31; Bingo 1 p.m. every Tuesday. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call the office 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna**, ext. 110: Aug. 13, political lecture; Aug. 20, trip; Aug. 28 (Wednesday) 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Israeli Festival for Bernard Betel Centre.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Sunday, Aug. 18-BJCC program registration begins. Pick up a copy of the new Program Book or call to find out more about all the great programs offered this fall.

Fall registration is now open for classes for children and adults at the new Academy of Ballet and Jazz at the BJCC. New artistic director is **Nadia Veselova-Tencer**, a graduate of the Kirov Ballet School. ext. 258 or 271.

The Royal Conservatory of Music joins the Koffler Centre of the Arts School of Music. Register now for fall classes for children and adults. ext. 228

New show at the Koffler Gallery through to Sept. 27. **Mark Sutherland's** Scratch, a solo show of sculptural works, sonic poems, bookworks, videos and audiovisual installations. ext. 380.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Music and the Jewish Soul: Programs coming this fall.

Teen Band (ages 10-17) Sundays, 3:15-5 p.m.

Hava Nashira: Sing the Music of Israel, Mondays at noon.

Women's Chorus, every second Monday, 8-9:30 p.m.

Shlomo Carlebach & Beyond Chorus, Tuesday evenings.

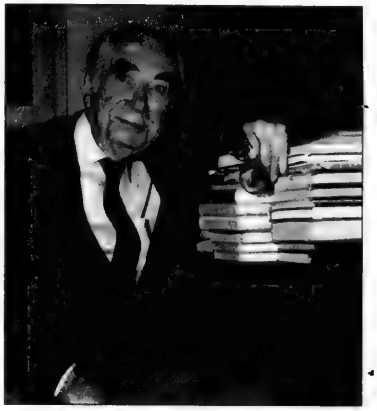
Study art with Annex artist **Sally Glanville**, Intro to Drawing and Painting, Mondays 7-9 p.m.

Art Appreciation: 6 great artists, 6 great styles Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16

Queen's opens J.B. Salsberg Papers to the public

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN



J.B. Salsberg [CJN File photo]

History students doing scholarly research and individuals interested in the labour movement and Jewish history in Canada can now, for the first time, study the J.B. Salsberg Papers.

The permanent collection, part of the Queen's University Archives, was opened to the general public last month.

It consists of extensive correspondence, speeches, reports, photographs, clippings, sound recordings and moving images, as well as other materials pertaining to the late labour organizer, politician, journalist and activist.

Notably, through an extensive number of taped interviews that span the decades, researchers will be able to hear Salsberg discuss his beliefs and attitudes.

The materials, which cover the period from 1913 to 1996, are located in Kathleen Ryan Hall on the Kingston campus. A description of the papers and other materials will also be available online through the Queen's Archives database and through the Canadian Archival Information Network.

Salsberg's niece, Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin, said that in 1999, the executors of Salsberg's estate granted exclusive use of the collection for two years to Gerald Tulchinsky, a Queen's history professor, and Adam Fuerstenberg, a retired Ryerson University professor. The pair are working on a biography of Salsberg, who died in 1998 at age 95.

"The family is very pleased that the scholarly and general communities alike can delve into J.B.'s rich and diverse resources for the study of Jewish life and community in Canada via the means of this collection at Queen's University," says Salsberg Ezrin.

The Queen's collection reflects not only Salsberg, but the world and times in which he lived.

Born in Lagov, Poland, Salsberg emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1913 at age 11. His career as a Labour Zionist executive, union organizer, Toronto alderman, Communist Party union strategist, MPP, journalist, in-demand speaker and activist for many causes, particularly Israel and Yiddish culture, put Salsberg in the forefront of Jewish and secular life.

A longtime columnist with *The CJN*, his ongoing debates with his creation, Uncle Eliezer, brought to the community, with wit and insight, a myriad of interests and concerns.

Salsberg's optimism, joie de vivre, questioning mind and ability as a storyteller, often in Yiddish, gave colleagues at *The CJN* many enjoyable and stimulating moments.

For more information on the J.B. Salsberg Papers, contact Jeremy Heil, technical services archivist at Queen's University, 613-533-6000, ext. 74462, fax 613-533-6403, or e-mail heilj@post.queensu.ca.

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Serious injury teaches student importance of CARD

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Three years ago, as she lay curled up on the hard wet dirt, drifting in and out of consciousness after a horseback riding accident, Abbey Simbrow wondered if she would ever walk again.

Now, not only is she walking, she is once again training in the sport she loves and helping people with disabilities at the same time.

Simbrow, 22, has loved riding since she started at six years old.

"When I was young, I was very introverted and shy. The connection with the horse was much more valuable than simply joining a group of girls and learning a dance routine," she said. "My cousins would joke that my first kiss was with a horse."

At 14, Simbrow was riding more seriously and beginning to compete. She also became involved with the Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD), a non-profit charitable organization that improves the quality of life for children and adults living with physical and cognitive disabilities through therapeutic horse-riding programs.

"[At that age], I didn't really understand the importance the organization played, but I loved the atmosphere and being around horses," she said.

Simbrow did her high-school co-op at CARD, but left to study in Italy for Grade 12 and OAC. Upon returning to Canada, she spent the summer of 1999 working at CARD and entered the University of Western Ontario in the fall.

She resumed riding and began shopping for her own horse so she could jump competitively.

But in October 1999, everything changed.

"It was my second time at the stable [in London]. The horse took off before I expected it to. I knew I shouldn't do the jump. He jumped a huge jump when in theory it was a small one," she said. "I fell forward [and the horse was in] full gallop. I thought I would get trampled, or killed, so I forced myself to fall off to the side."

She said the pain intensified by the minute and she started yelling. An ambulance arrived quickly and she was treated for a major spinal injury.

"I was screaming and screaming. I was shocked, but I wiggled my toes and fingers," Simbrow said. "[I thought], am I going to be paralyzed?"

She wasn't, but she missed almost three months of school while recovering at her home in York Mills with a broken back.

"The accident gave me a whole new perspective on what the [CARD] riders go through."

Slowly, she regained her confidence and by her second year at Western, she got involved with SARI, a therapeutic riding centre in London.

But her true home has been at CARD.

"If you're a disabled person who isn't necessarily accepted in the able-bodied community, when you come to CARD everyone is on equal ground," Simbrow said.

Abbey Simbrow (left) has been involved with the Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD) since she was 14, yet three years ago, she almost never walked again after falling off a horse. She's seen here with CARD rider Naomi Shofer (middle) and CARD's Board of Director's chair, Michele Green.

CARD has been operating since 1969 and has been based out of G. Ross Lord Park since 1979. It has 190 riders and 280 volunteers.

The chair of its board, Michele Green, said it's "really important for everybody to have a place where they can come where they're just accepted for who they are. That is what happens here.

"The purpose is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities," she added. "It improves quality of life, physically, emotionally and socially. Riders are faced daily with challenges and attitudes from other people that the message is for them, that they can't do things. Here they learn they can."

Green knows first-hand the importance of CARD. With retinitis pigmentosa, an inherited disease in which the retina degenerates in tiny patches, her vision continues to deteriorate.

By the late 1980s, she couldn't ride at "able-bodied stables," she said, because of her continuing loss of vision. After a few years away from riding, she heard about CARD and began riding with the group in 1993.

"I benefited so much. The program made such a profound change in my life that I wanted to give back," said Green, who began as a rider, but has now been on CARD's board of directors for eight years, including the past two as its chair.

Therapeutic riding, Simbrow said, has done amazing things for the riders.

One of those riders is Naomi Shofer, 8, who has cerebral palsy. When she began riding with CARD at 3½ years old, she couldn't walk. Now, she can.

"It's fun," Naomi said of riding with CARD.

Her mother, Daphne Tsur, said her daughter has also had outside therapy, but that Naomi "has improved so much since she [has been riding with CARD]. She feels very special and unique."

Simbrow is working for CARD again this summer. She is fully healed from her 1999 accident and is once again looking to purchase her own horse. In the fall she will graduate from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in women's studies. She plans to pursue therapeutic riding as a career.

"I just love it," she said.

To get involved with CARD, call executive director Sandy Webster Stolte at 416-739-8600, or visit CARD's Web site at www.card.ca.

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About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. My husband and I have an ongoing debate about feeding our 18-month-old and 3½-year-old. When our children say they are finished eating, he almost always disagrees and asks them to either finish all or part of what is left on their plates. This becomes a painful process with them fighting every step of the way. Who should decide when they're done – them or us?

A. Great question. This is a common mistake made by parents and consistency between parents is *essential*. Children are very good regulators, naturally of when they are hungry and when they are full. In most cases, you should let your children decide when they have had enough. Unless your child is not growing appropriately, you should never force food on him or her. Making children eat everything on their plate can lead to obese adults who feel they have to continue this custom. Forcing kids to finish their veggies, for example, before leaving the table, sets up eating vegetables as a punishment, leading to teens and adults who hate veggies. Yes, kids will get distracted easily and want to leave the table prematurely to play, watch a video or simply to practise their new mobility. Try to make mealtime enjoyable. The table should be a place they want to come to and stay at for a little while. Limit distractions in the surrounding area and let your little ones decide when enough is enough. They have hungry days and less hungry days, just like we do.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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Israel releasing PA tax money despite terrorism

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Despite continuing terrorist attacks, Israel is beginning to release frozen Palestinian tax funds to avert a humanitarian disaster in the Palestinian areas.

Given the Palestinian Authority's (PA) record of abysmal financial management – and rampant corruption – some Israelis are questioning the wisdom of the move.

For months, Israel unsuccessfully pressured the international community to stop funding the Palestinian Authority, arguing that the money was being used to fund terrorism or would free up other PA funds for that purpose. This week, however, Israel released some $15 million (US) to the Palestinian Authority as a goodwill gesture and a means of improving conditions for the Palestinian population.

Last Wednesday – the same day a bombing at Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus killed at least seven people and wounded more than 80 – PA Finance Minister Salam Fayed confirmed the money had been deposited in the PA's account at the Bank of Israel.

Fayed denied Israeli claims that Israel had set conditions on the transfer of the funds. "The Palestinian Authority refuses any conditions to get any of our frozen money from Israel. This money is the Palestinian right," he said in a statement.

Ra'anan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Israel doesn't want the money "to go to any of the Palestinian institutions where the money either goes into their pockets" or goes to "finance organizations that carry out terrorist attacks against us."

Facing severe international criticism for the July 23 assassination of the military leader of Hamas – in a bombing raid that also killed at least 14 Palestinian civilians – Sharon waived his condition that a monitoring system with U.S. participation be put in place to ensure that released funds are used correctly.

The move came after the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, warned the plight of Palestinian civilians was becoming catastrophic. After the Gaza debacle, it seemed, Israel could ill afford international condemnation for reports showing, for example, a rise in malnutrition among Palestinians.

Yet the move also comes amid revelations, contained in official Palestinian documents seized during an Israeli invasion this spring, of the elaborate mechanisms that PA President Yasser Arafat and other officials used to divert money from the PA budget to terrorist groups leading the attack on Israel.

Among the ruses, according to translations of the seized documents, was a system under which terrorists were appointed as assistants to official Palestinian security forces so that their salaries and operational expenses could be paid from the budget.

In addition, according to reports in the Israeli media, the Palestinian Authority manipulated the dollar-to-shekel exchange rate on donor funds from abroad, siphoning off the difference – some 20 per cent of the funds – as a sort of tax that could be hidden from auditors and used at Arafat's discretion.

According to the Oslo agreements, Israel has been the trustee of customs and value added tax from Palestinian purchases in Israel or on goods imported to the PA through Israel.

Shortly after the intifadah began in September 2000, Israel froze those assets on two grounds: Given the de facto state of war, it argued, the Palestinians might use any transferred funds for terrorist activities. In addition, given the PA's financial disorder and opacity, there was almost no way of guaranteeing that the money would go to the proper accounts.

Critics say Israeli policies are strangling the Palestinian economy and deliberately harming the civilian population.

According to preliminary results released last week from a study commissioned by the U.S. government's USAID, nearly one-third of young Palestinian children are chronically malnourished, more than four times the rate before the intifadah began 22 months ago.

Palestinians blame Israeli restrictions imposed during the intifadah. "It is time that people pay attention to the real crisis emerging," Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi said. "It's a type of collective punishment in terms of health that will have implications for generations."

Israel maintains that the restrictions it has imposed – such as roadblocks, curfews and revoking work permits – are necessary to stop terrorists from entering Israel, and notes that the steps have been taken in the context of a war the Palestinians initiated.

And yet Sharon apparently believes that the international community most likely will blame Israel, and not the Palestinian leadership, for the Palestinians' plight.

The socioeconomic situation in the territories has deteriorated considerably in the past month, due to the lengthy closures and curfews Israel has imposed. Israel is concerned about the social consequences of the economic stalemate, which include reports of famine among the poorer strata of Palestinian society.

Decisions such as releasing the tax money and allowing 12,000 Palestinian workers to enter Israel are attempts to alleviate the economic situation.

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F	SUZUKI BALENO 1.6	245
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Parents struggle with bicultural school

Continued from page 1

Although Rivka believes in integration in order to break down stereotypes, she plans to send her son to a different school next year.

She explained to me that she grew tired of placing the historical mess of the region on the shoulders of seven-year-old children.

Unfortunately, she said, "the children were being used to support political platforms and agendas that I didn't feel comfortable with."

Problems began to emerge over lessons dealing with national holidays. With two teachers in the classroom – all lessons are given by a Jewish and an Arab instructor – history is supposed to be delivered from the perspectives of the two peoples.

However, Rivka began to notice that the Jewish teacher taught the Palestinian version of history but the Arab teacher was not at all willing to present the Israeli side.

Tolerating different voices is a foreign notion to the Arab families in the school, the Winnipeg-born mother said.

There is a feeling that you're either "with them or against them" and there is no in-between, Rivka lamented, adding that it is very difficult to break through the self-imposed isolation on the other side.

"I believe in a Jewish state" and that there is a place here for Jewish and Arab peoples, Rivka said. The Arab families, on the other hand, feel that if they just wait long enough, they can "root out the Jewish state."

Arab families in the school did not accept that Jews have an attachment to this country and that places such as Ma'alat Hamachpelah (Abraham and Sarah's burial place) and Kever Rachel (Rachel's grave) are very dear to the Jewish people as well as to Arabs, Rivka said.

When the school began to delete traditional Jewish values for the sake of appeasing the Arab families in the school, Rivka decided she would look for another school for her son.

For Rivka, the answers lie in creating a more unstructured school environment with a focus on democracy and civil rights.

But right now, the Arab families, which make up two-thirds of Hand in Hand's school population, prefer a rigid teaching environment with an emphasis on the Palestinian narrative.

The Arab families appreciate the school because it is well funded and has good resources, but appear unwilling to make any compromises despite the changes the Jewish families are willing to absorb.

Debates occurred over basic Israeli national symbols, such as the possibility of changing the words to *Hatikvah* to make them more inclusive. However, there was no movement on the other side to be more accepting of the Jewish state's right to exist, Rivka said.

"With good will and common sense these problem can be overcome," she added. "But the other side needs to take some steps towards us."

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July 29

• Israel announced it had captured one of Hamas' military leaders on its most wanted list. Hussein Abu Kweik and his top lieutenant were captured during an operation near Bethlehem on Sunday.

July 30

• Documents signed by Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat prove that he was undermining the Oslo accords five years ago, according to *Yediot Achronot*. The report was based on documents Israel confiscated from PA offices. The documents show that in 1997, Arafat began to systematically create a group of militias and shadow armies, in violation of his commitments under the accords.

July 31

• At least seven people were killed and more than 80 people wounded by a bomb planted by Hamas in a cafeteria on the Mount Scopus campus of Hebrew University.

Aug. 1

• The body of 27-year old Shani Ladani, who was bound and shot in the head, was discovered near Tulkarm. The Israel Defence Forces said Ladani's murderer or murderers had taken advantage of the lifting of a curfew in Tulkarm in Thursday.

Aug. 2

• The Israeli army launched a renewed offensive against Hamas, sending dozens of armoured vehicles and troops into Nablus in an attempt to smash the terror organization's infrastructure in the city's Casbah (Old City). Three Palestinians were killed and two wounded. At least 15 suspected militants were arrested.

• The army demolished three houses in the Gaza Strip belonging to the families of suicide bombers responsible for fatal attacks against Israeli civilian targets in Tulkarm.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

'No other place I would rather be'

(The following column was written by Marla Bennett, the San Diego woman who was one of the victims of the July 31 terrorist attack at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She wrote it in May for the Avi Chai Bookshelf, a project for participants of Birthright Israel.)

By MARLA BENNETT

JERUSALEM — I've been living in Israel for over a year-and-a-half now, and my favourite thing to do here is go to the grocery store.

I know, not the most exciting response from someone living in Jerusalem these days. But going grocery shopping here – deciphering the Hebrew labels and delighting in all of the kosher products – as well as picking up my dry cleaning, standing in long lines at the bank and waiting in the hungry mob at the bakery, means that I live here. I am not a tourist; I deal with Israel and all of its complexities, confusion, joy and pain every single day. And I love it.

I got the "Israel bug" during my junior year, when I studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I had travelled in Israel before, but living here was a qualitatively different experience.

I left knowing I would return. I was not sure whether I would study or work, but I knew that my love for Israel, my desire to understand this country and my desire to learn more about Judaism were not yet satiated.

I came back to Israel a year-and-a-half ago – and what a year-and-a-half it has been.

In September 2000, I began studying at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, where I have been learning traditional Jewish texts from master teachers, with other students who represent a broad range of Jewish backgrounds and perspectives.

I have learned more in my year-and-a-half of study at Pardes than I learned during my entire undergraduate career.

But my learning is a result not only of the hours I spend pouring over material in the beit midrash (Jewish house of study), but also of my life in Jerusalem.

Hebrew U bombing victim wrote of her love for Israel

Here in Jerusalem, I've found a community of seekers: people who like me want to try living in another country, who want to know more about Judaism; people who are trying to figure out exactly what they want their lives to look like. The air is charged with our debates and discussions as we try to assimilate into our lives all that we've learned. Life here is magical.

It's also been difficult. Just a month after I arrived, the current intifadah began. My time here has been dramatically affected by both the security situation and the events happening around me.

I am extremely cautious about where I go and when; I avoid crowded areas and alter my routine when I feel at all threatened.

But I also feel energized by the opportunity to support Israel during a difficult period. This is undoubtedly an important historic moment for both Israel and the Jewish people. I have the privilege of reporting to my friends and family in the United States about the realities of living in Israel at this time and I also have the honour of being an American choosing to remain in Israel, and assist, however minimally, in Israel's triumph.

Marla Bennett

I remain in Israel this year as part of the Pardes Educators Program, a joint program between Pardes and Hebrew University. At Hebrew University, I am completing a master's degree in Jewish education while I continue to study classical Jewish texts at Pardes.

I receive a stipend each month from the Avi Chai Foundation, which is funding the program, and after I complete the degree in June 2003, I have made a commitment to teach in a Jewish school in North America for three years.

As I look ahead to the next year-and-a-half that I will spend in Israel, I feel excited and worried, but more than anything else, I feel lucky.

I am excited that I can spend another year-and-a-half in a place that truly feels like home, a home in which I am surrounded by an amazing community of bright and interesting friends who constantly help me to question and define myself.

I am worried for Israel – this is a historic moment, but it is also difficult and unpredictable. I feel lucky because the excitement always wins out over the worry.

The exhilaration of Torah and Talmud study, close friendships and a lively community far outweigh the fears. Stimulation abounds in Jerusalem – and I need only go to the supermarket to be struck once again by how lucky I am to live here. There is no other place in the world where I would rather be right now.

This piece was distributed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in partnership with Jewish Family & Life (www.jflmedia.com).

Mitzna tells Labor he will stand for leadership

By YOSSI VERTER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

HAIFA — Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna met last week with a number of top-ranking Laborites, including the party's secretary-general, MK Ophir Pines-Paz, to discuss his possible candidacy for the party leadership against current head and defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and MK Haim Ramon.

Mitzna told some of those he met that he has decided to run in the November primaries, although he is expected to officially declare his candidacy only in two weeks. In the meantime, he will put out feelers to determine his standing among party members.

A number of Labor Party ministers told *Ha'aretz* last week that Mitzna's joining the leadership race was good news for the party. Ben-Eliezer welcomed Mitzna's expected candidacy.

"We are an open and democratic party," he said. "I welcome Mitzna's entrance into national-level activity, and will be happy to see him by my side in the party's leadership."

Ramon also welcomed the news. "Having a number of candidates standing for the leadership will mean that Labor Party members will be able to choose the best candidate for the job," he said.

The mayor's meeting last week with Pines-Paz, which was held at Mitzna's request, took place at the party's Tel Aviv headquarters. At the end of the meeting, the mayor asked to look at the leadership election regulations that were approved by Labor's central committee two weeks ago.

Mitzna can submit his candidacy from Aug. 15 until Sept. 1.

Labor sources believe that should Mitzna decide to run for party leadership, he is likely to cause more damage to Ramon than to Ben-Eliezer, since Mitzna and Ramon share a similar support base. Mitzna, like Ramon, supports a separation fence as well as Labor's immediate departure from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's coalition government.

Mitzna is also expected to eat into Ben-Eliezer's base by grabbing the vote of those who would support the current chair simply because of their dislike of Ramon. Mitzna is also likely to get many votes in Haifa, where the majority of Labor supporters would otherwise have backed Ben-Eliezer.

In a series of interviews last week, Mitzna said his consideration to run for the party's leadership was prompted by the fact that there is currently no alternative to the right-wing government. He also expressed his support for the Clinton proposal that supports the establishment of a Palestinian state, an evacuation of settlements and a formal agreement over Jerusalem.

Amram Mitzna

Mitzna also took the opportunity to call on Labor to quit a government over which it has no influence, adding that party voters do not view Ben-Eliezer and Ramon as individuals who can bring about change.

Sports, Science and Culture Minister Matan Vilnai is also said to be mulling running for party leadership, while Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg may also reconsider a run.

Israel & the Jewish World

A three-pronged fight against terror

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Analysis

Israel will attempt to operate on three levels against suicide terrorism. It has already used two methods in the past – military action against terrorist targets in the Palestinian territories, and efforts to ease conditions for the Palestinian population that is not involved in terrorism.

The third method, newer for Israel, is to make things difficult for families once there is proof that they supported or helped suicide attackers.

Regular military action, even after the Hebrew University campus bombing, has become a repetitive ritual, with predictable cycles of operations – taking over certain areas, including comprehensive control over specific neighbourhoods, arresting suspects and destroying weapons and munition caches. These actions make life very difficult for the Palestinians who live in such neighbourhoods and towns, and often claim more Palestinian casualties, usually from among those involved in terrorist activity. Such operations are often accompanied by support from the air, whether planes or helicopters.

The Israel Defence Forces will go back to places in which it has already operated, including Gaza. The assassination of Hamas military commander Salah Shehadeh, which led to the accidental killing of 15 innocent civilians and the wounding of dozens, is not the last of the operations that will take place in the Strip.

In recent days, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has added his voice to those calling for more aid to the Palestinian population not involved in terrorism. Sharon's two aides, sent to Washington last week, were apparently affected by a firm phone call from U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice on the issue. The two, Dov Weisglass, Sharon's personal attorney, and the chief of staff of the Prime Minister's Office and Sharon's military liaison, Maj.-Gen. Moshe Kaplinski, heard Rice bluntly say that Israel is treating the civilian population badly and that the U.S. president is critical of the Israeli approach.

Sharon's new attitude is being welcomed by the defence establishment, including the army. Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer has been seeking such a policy for a long time.

Orders have been given for further abatements, including increasing the number of Palestinians with permits to work in Israel, even though this will make closures on the Palestinian cities, necessary for the war against terror, more difficult.

There is a contradictory approach from another perspective as well: on the one hand, more Palestinians will be allowed into Israel, but because of the strict criteria laid down by the Shin Bet security service about who will be allowed into the country, so far, they haven't been able to fill the quotas already allowed. Ultimately, the Shin Bet will have no choice but to ease its criteria, or the political echelon's promises to Rice and the president won't be kept.

The third, relatively new area in which much more aggressive Israeli measures will be seen will be in the action against the families of suicide terrorists, specifically against those who aided, abetted or supported their relative's terror mission. The Shin Bet is most aggressive in demanding this measure and they are fully backed by Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon, who is said to have commented that suicide bombers should know that suffering will follow their families for the rest of their lives.

Ya'alon is an enthusiastic supporter of house demolitions as a punitive measure against the families of terrorists, as well as the expulsion of relatives who were involved in some manner with the terrorist's planing. He believes it is more moral to expel a dozen families of suicide bombers than to put millions of Palestinians under curfew for extended periods of time.

Despite the sudden flurry of media attention to the issue of expulsions, the issue is only at its earliest stages and various proposals are still under discussion.

Most children don't feel Jewish: mixed marriage report in U.S.

By NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — Most students in the United States who are born in homes with only one Jewish parent do not define themselves as Jewish, according to a new study by researchers from the University of California in Los Angeles.

The study, which was commissioned by the Hillel Jewish students' organization, found that the children of mixed marriages have a very tenuous link with religion, and most have lost all connection with Judaism. The findings have caused a stir in the United States, where almost half the Jewish population marries out of the faith.

The UCLA researcher, Linda Sax, polled hundreds of students during their first year in college, comparing Jews with non-Jews and asking those of Jewish descent about their attitude toward non-Jews and their plans for college and life.

From the very first questions, in which the students were asked to define themselves, the vast gap between those born to two Jewish parents and those who had only one Jewish parent was clear. While more than 90 per cent of those born to two Jewish parents defined themselves as Jews, fewer than half of those from mixed marriages did. Of those whose mother was Jewish, some 40 per cent defined themselves as Jewish when they came to college, while only 16 per cent of those whose father was Jewish saw themselves as Jews.

The study also found that in families where the mother is Jewish and the parents are divorced, the children were more likely to consider themselves Jewish once they left the house.

The study also found that on the whole, Jewish students consider themselves less religious than non-Jewish students.

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Pictures by Lisi Tesher

Oved Ezouri at the Bernard Betel Centre with one of his watercolours.

Betel Centre brings out the best in a man

Oved Ezouri says it has changed his life and nourished a love for painting

Oved Ezouri learned early to meet life's challenges head on.

His family moved from Iraq to Israel when he was 17 because the Second World War had started in Europe and there had been two murderous pogroms against Jews in Baghdad.

In Israel, Oved became a bookkeeper and accountant for the Israeli government. As a hobby, he studied fine arts during the evening, becoming an accomplished artist.

But his two brothers who had gone to Canada persuaded Oved to move here for a better life. In Toronto, where he arrived with his wife and son in 1975, he found part-time work as a bookkeeper.

Years later, when he was divorced, Oved searched for the opportunity to explore the various facets of art and music which had nourished him earlier. He found the Bernard Betel Centre.

And for 14 years he has benefitted -- making new friends and participating in programs. The centre's art workshop enabled him to try working in ceramics, jewelry, painting and calligraphy.

Oved became a volunteer, teaching others the techniques of watercolour, woodworking and design, and making wooden airplanes and dreidles.

He joined the choir, and at special events his rich baritone voice leads the singing of O Canada and Hatikvah. He is also a valued member of the intergenerational committee.

His paintings are prominently displayed in the centre and a portion of each sale is donated to the non-profit organization.

Oved says the Betel Centre is like a second home to him and has changed his life, giving him the chance for personal growth and creative expression.

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Oved at work on his latest painting, completed at top.

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TODAY'S TEENAGER NEEDS MORE!

By Linda Shapiro

Today's teenager spends about seven hours a day sitting in school, plus even more hours riding on the bus, doing homework, talking on the phone...**Today's teenager needs more.**

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They need to stimulate their minds with thought provoking issues, socialize with other Jewish teens and have fun. They need to feel good about their accomplishments and themselves.

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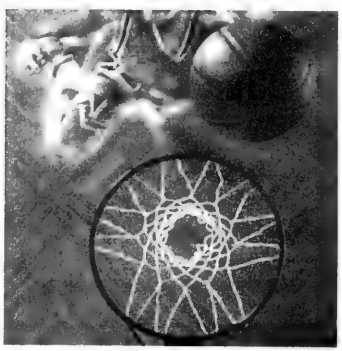
Every teenager has a place in the Jewish community and the ability to make a valuable contribution. Every teenager must also realize that he or she has a special role in the unfolding of Jewish history. Regardless of background, every teenager can make a difference.

HEALTHY ROLE MODELS

They need to form relationships with role models, two or three years older than themselves. They need to interact with men and women who are grounded, with a realistic perspective on life. All too often, teenagers become manipulated by Hollywood, television and the internet.



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18-year-old blues guitarist reaches a crossroads

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Guitarist and singer David Jacobs-Strain began his blues music apprenticeship with guitar lessons at nine, and now that he's 18 he's reached a crossroads.

A veteran of the Northern American folk and blues festival scene whose latest recording, *Stuck On The Way Back*, has just been released on Canadian blues label NorthernBlues Music, he's looking at a full-time career in music.

But university also beckons. Jacobs-Strain just passed up scholarship offers from both Harvard and Yale and plans to attend Stanford University this fall. He chose Stanford because his music contacts are on the West Coast.

Undecided about what to study, he's narrowed it down to the social sciences or the humanities. "Music is my career at the moment," he says. "We'll see if it survives Stanford, or vice-versa."

Jacobs-Strain, from Eugene, Ore., began taking guitar lessons at nine and stopped a couple of years later. From then on, he taught himself and learned by watching master players at festivals and workshops, including Washington State's Port Townsend Country Blues Workshop, where he became its youngest faculty member ever in 1999.

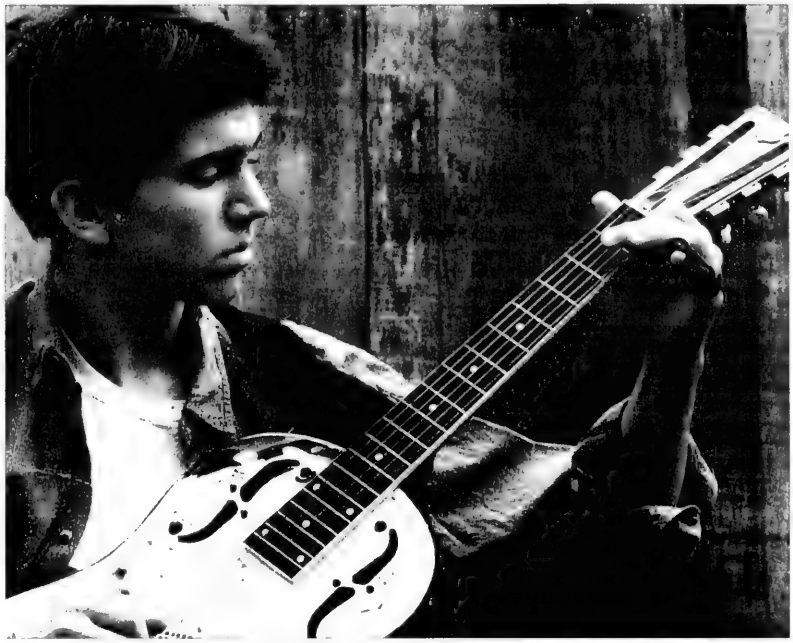
At 10, Jacobs-Strain heard Walker T. Ryan, a Eugene-based blues artist, and was riveted. Ryan's intense blues affected him "in a very gut-level sort of way," Jacobs-Strain recalls.

Ryan became one of his mentors. Around the same time, Jacobs-Strain heard the classic recordings of Mississippi Fred McDowell, Lightning Hopkins, Robert Johnson and Skip James.

"The people that I learned from had learned the music from the original pre-war blues artists in the folk revival of the 1960s," says Jacobs-Strain, who performed recently in Ottawa and Toronto.

"Walker calls his music 'American underdog music.' Playing this music always has had a rebellious and political overtone for me."

A natural performer, Jacobs-Strain first took to the stage in 1994 at the Eugene Saturday Market. He went on to play the Oregon State Fair, and at 12 he made his Seattle debut at the Northwest Folklife Festival.



Guitarist and singer David Jacobs-Strain recently released Stuck On The Way Back.

"It was clear from those early experiences that David was not only a fearless performer, but that the experience of the performances propelled his musical development forward," says Michael Strain, David's father. "This led me to look for other opportunities for him."

Strain, a research scientist at the University of Oregon, became his son's manager, with no music-business experience and little knowledge of blues music.

As David's manager, Strain tries to maintain a level of professional detachment, which, he says, "not only helps avoid some of the usual traps of the parent-child relationship, but also provides more credibility when approaching music presenters and helps to avoid the 'stage parent' syndrome."

Strain says that as a small child, David was intense, earnest, energetic and communicative.

"We have always found ourselves being pulled into his project and activities, which have included many things – art, woodworking, musical-instrument building and rock climbing.

"He did the artwork for the new CD as well as his earlier self-releases. No rest for the weary!"

Stuck On The Way Back, Jacobs-Strain's latest and fourth CD, includes traditional music, seven self-penned tracks and songs written by other artists. The singing and the playing, by Jacobs-Strain and other musicians, is intense and hypnotic and the subjects of the songs are serious.

The songs range from Jacobs-Strain's *River Was Green*, about pollution, to R.L. Burnside's *Poor Black Mattie*, about a man who worries about a woman who is losing her sanity, and Jacobs-Strain's devastating *Black And Blue*, based on a true story about the misfortunes of a young woman.

"*Black and Blue* is about a friend of a friend. The girl became hooked on heroin," Jacobs-Strain says. "She met an older man in a BMW who kept her well supplied so as to take advantage of her, and then abducted her. The line 'black and blue' refers to the bruise on her arm where she injected herself."

Needless to say, Jacobs-Strain's acoustic music is not "party" blues, the electric blues most often heard at nightclubs. "I've always been attracted to the darker, more spiritual side of the blues," he says. "I play very little party blues. It's a lot of fun, but lots of people are already playing that stuff."

Jacobs-Strain aims to keep the blues alive, so he pushes the boundaries of the music instead of playing old songs note for note. On *Stuck On The Way Back*, he's added some African instrumentation, for a world-music sound at times.

His new CD, he says, "has some of the feel of an old blues album, but it's not a traditional album. It's not a repetition of the past just because it's acoustic."

Jacobs-Strain expects that *Stuck On The Way Back* will be more of a money-maker than his three previous CDs, which were released independently without promotion.

"I have to make money playing music. It's a job, but I'm not in it to get rich," he says. "Money will be more important when I'm in school next year."

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Eye on Arts

BY Bill Gladstone

FRANZ KAFKA EXHIBIT OPENS AT NEW YORK JEWISH MUSEUM

The City of K.: Franz Kafka and Prague is an exhibit of photographs, manuscripts and books set in a series of innovative multimedia environments that put the German Jewish writer **Franz Kafka** in the context of the city in which he grew up, and illuminate the imagination and psyche that created his powerful literature. The exhibit opens Aug. 11 at the Jewish Museum in Manhattan.

Although Kafka never specifically mentions Prague in his famous short stories or novels such as *The Trial* and *The Castle*, the city and writer are intrinsically linked. The City of K examines the effect of Prague on the author and his works. Kafka was born into a middle-class Jewish family in 1883 in Prague, the third-largest city of the Austro-Hungarian empire. He died of tuberculosis in 1924 just before his 41st birthday.

1109 Fifth Ave. at 92nd St. Until Jan. 5, 2003. Web site: www.thejewishmuseum.org or 212-423-3200.

* * *

Committee for Yiddish: Night of the Murdered Poets is the 50th anniversary commemoration of the execution of Soviet Jewish writers and artists. The evening in Yiddish and English is sponsored by the committee for Yiddish (UJA Federation) and the Yiddish Culture Council of Toronto.

The program features chair **David Abramowitz** and guest speaker **Dr. N. Shneidman**, with music by **Lilian Keltz** and **Alan Gaensbauer**. Admission is free. Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St. (Enter from parking lot.) Monday, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Books of Note: Two recent works present some writings by towering individuals in modern liberal Jewish thought.

Born in 1881, **Mordecai M. Kaplan** kept a diary from 1913 until the late 1970s, earning the distinction of being perhaps the most prolific Jewish diarist on record. He left 27 volumes, each with between 350 and 400 handwritten pages. Editor **Mel Scult** presents the first volume of an ambitious abridgement. *Communings of the Spirit* (Wayne State University Press) takes in the years 1913 to 1934, which were obviously pivotal for this founder of the Reconstructionist movement. The diaries are brimming with intelligence; Scult calls them Kaplan's greatest literary achievement.

An English Jew: The Life and Writings of Claude Montefiore (Vallentine Mitchell) is presented "to mark the centenary of the birth of liberal Judaism" in England. **Montefiore** (1858-1938) asserted that Christianity was essentially an offshoot religion of Judaism and brought both Christian scriptures as well as the Hebrew Bible within the compass of his thought. This volume, edited by **Edward Kessler**, is a select anthology of Montefiore's writings, together with Kessler's own clear analysis.

And here are details of several recent books pertaining to the Holocaust:

The Nazis' Last Victims: The Holocaust in Hungary has emerged in paperback from Wayne State University Press. It contains a series of essays about the event that **Winston Churchill** described as perhaps the worst war crime in all of history. The book was edited by **Randolph L. Braham** and **Scott Miller**, has a foreword by **Michael Berenbaum**, and appears in association with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Hitler's Austria: Popular Sentiment in the Nazi Era, 1938-1945, by **Evan Burr Bukey** (softcover, University of North Carolina Press) is an examination of popular opinion in Hitler's homeland after its annexation to Germany. Bukey contends that the majority of Austrians, despite widespread dissent and discontent, supported the "Anschluss" regime and its anti-semitic policies until the bitter end.

From the same publisher comes a softcover edition of *Troubled Memory: Anne Levy, The Holocaust, and David Duke's Louisiana*, by **Lawrence N. Powell**. The book is a chronicle of the dramatic battle between a Holocaust survivor and a strident neo-Nazi in postwar America.

* * *

Names in the News: Michael Rubinoff, whose company is producing the production of *A Chorus Line* that runs Aug. 9 to 17 at Toronto's Jane Mallet Theatre, says his goal is to "produce and revitalize mid-sized musical theatre in Toronto." *A Chorus Line* is the first in a series of musicals that he intends to mount. He is also producing the original musical *Seder* for a workshop performance at the Ashkenaz Festival at Harbourfront on the Labour Day weekend.

For tickets to *A Chorus Line*, visit the Web site www.mrubinoff.com or phone 416-366-6754.

* * *

Children's Writing Workshops: Sydell Waxman, award-winning children's author, is conducting writing workshops for children at Indigo Yorkdale. Aug. 14 at 10:30 a.m. for grades 3 and 4; Aug. 15 at 10:30 a.m. for grades 5 and 6. Registration on site or by calling Indigo Kids, 416-781-6660.

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A dude ranch for city slickers

By RANDY ROWETT & KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

SHELL, Wyo. — The Hideout at Flitner Ranch teaches city slickers – doctors, lawyers and computer geeks – to become cowhands, wranglers and fisherman.

Nestled in the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains, this family-owned-and-operated dude and cattle ranch was founded by Arthur Flitner in 1906.

Eighty-eight years later, his grandson David and David's wife Paula opened the still-working ranch up to tourists, catering mainly to grown folks wanting to experience cowboy and cowgirl life first hand.

Guests get to live out a western fantasy and be John Wayne or Annie Oakley, even if it is just for one week. It' s a bit like camp, but with all the bells and whistles – perfect for adults, although kids over 10 are allowed.

We novice riders were shaking in our shiny new city-bought cowboy boots, which the wranglers – the keepers of the horses – said are better for dancing than the rigours of riding. So we exchanged our footwear for dusty second-hand boots, and in no time we were taught to ride, western style.

Luckily, the wranglers have great patience – especially with those whose only previous horseback riding is on a merry-go-round. And the ranch's singing wrangler, Stewart Reed, calmed both horses and riders with his cowboy hurtin' songs, which helped soothe the pains some novice cowpokes were feeling in the saddle.

For the leisurely vacationer, there are half-day scenic rides across 250,000 acres of rolling terrain, including spots with names like Devil's Leap and Dinosaur Loop.

But the real test is working with the real cowboys to herd Angus cattle across the open pastures, a job that keeps you in the saddle for an entire day. The wranglers teach guests skills such as team penning and sorting – cowboy-speak for getting your act together and taking it on the dirt road.

Co-writer Randy Rowett prepares to hit the trails.

Riding at the Hideout isn't all work and no play. At the end the week, guests are invited to participate in a "dudeo," teaming up and competing in clown-like antics on horseback.

Off the horses, activities include trap-shooting, archery, fishing and the Big Horn Airboat Ride. Nearby attractions include Yellowstone National Park, Thermopolis Hot Springs, Buffalo Bill Historical Centre, Cody Nite Rodeo and the Museum of Flight and Aerial Fire-fighting, with its Royal Canadian Air Force Airtanker C-119.

"Tracks Thru Time" is offered by Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite Tours with Geo-Science Adventures, owned by Cliff and Row Manuel, a retired couple who discovered this pre-historic highway with their geologist nephew Erik Kvale.

Many guests make an annual pilgrimage to the Flitner homestead.

"Paula and I have travelled all over the world, but now the world comes to us. We have people sitting around our table from everywhere," David Flitner says.

Hideout manager Julie Côté and her Bernese mountain dog Baloo, the ranch's unofficial mascot, welcome guests to the ranch from April to October. The main lodge at the Hideout consists of 10 rooms in five cabins, one room in the lodge and four mini-suites, all with wrap-around porches that are beautifully designed to view the breathtaking scenery. Rooms have coffee machines, phone and satellite TV and access to laundry facilities, while suites have a full kitchen and a washer and dryer.

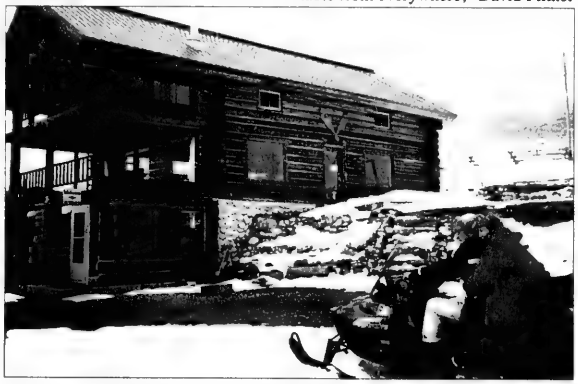
In the evening, novice wranglers gather in the lodge to swap stories and view digital photographs of the day's adventures on a big screen. An outdoor hot tub helps to ease stiff joints and saddle sores.

If you want a little intimacy, check out the Upper Hideout, which is open from July to October. Its six rooms in three cabins are 8,200 feet above sea level.

The third Flitner hideaway is the Snowshoe Lodge on Snowshoe Pass. In winter, this cozy mountaintop getaway with three private cabins and one lodge room is only accessible by snowmobile – and half the fun is getting there. Snowmobiles are available to rent during your stay.

The Hideout is 110 kilometres from Cody, Wyo. United and Delta Airlines offer connecting service from the Cody airport. Billings, Mont. is 225 kilometres from the ranch, with flights available on United, Delta, Northwest and Continental. The Hideout provides free transportation from both airports.

To book your western odyssey, call the Hideout at Flitner Ranch at 1-800-354-8637, email: info@thehideout.com, visit the Web site: www.thehideout.com or write: P.O. Box 206, Shell, WY 82441, USA.


In winter snowmobiling to Snowshoe Lodge is a lot of fun. [K. Kates photos]

Anger begets questions and triangle of tension

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

At the heart of Tina Silver's play, *Anger Begets*, is the question: Should modern Germans suffer for the sins of their wartime fathers? The answer is cloaked in shades of tolerance and animosity in the one-hour play recently staged at the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Anger Begets centres around Marnie Levine (Sarah Dickinson), a Jewish stand-up comic seeking a new roommate with her friend Jennifer (Erin Marian) to help with expenses. Annie Sinclair (Kelly Bolt), an Ottawa lawyer travelling in Toronto for mysterious business, seems perfect: she's clean and sweet and wealthy.

But when Marnie discovers that Annie is the granddaughter of a suspected Nazi war criminal who has lived in Canada without persecution, the friendship is threatened. To add to Levine's ire is Annie's devotion to her grandfather – she offers legal advice during his citizenship hearing in Toronto.

The topic hits close to home for the playwright. Silver, who toured Europe in 1998, felt uncomfortable going to Germany. But she decided to carry on with her plan and see if the stereotypes of modern German anti-Semitism were true. She says she expected to dislike the people she met, but found them to be cordial hosts.

"When I crossed the border," Silver, 36, says, "I saw a beautiful country, with very little remnant of the past ugliness."

She became fascinated by what she calls "the relationship between the persecuters and the persecuted," and felt compelled to write about the topic.

She wrote the script and submitted it to the Theatre BC's Annual Canadian National Playwriting Competition. After she was announced as a finalist, the play was workshopped across the country, and the writing was fine-tuned to create a piece Silver was happy with.

Silver, a graduate of York University's theatre program, says the play raises troubling questions that will stir the minds of Jews and non-Jews alike.

"It made me think," she says, "and I felt like all three characters: I became upset like Marnie, I was the voice of reason like Jennifer and I felt Annie's pain dealing with this dreadful legacy."

Chris Coculuzzi directs the angry episodes without submitting to rageful exits or clichéd finger-pointing. Facial expressions teeming with pain, surprise or hatred often say more than the script.

As the triangle of tension mounts and the play questions whether modern Jews should regard modern Germans as the monsters of the Adolf Hitler era, the impartial roommate Jennifer says, "Anger begets anger, it doesn't solve anything."

But Marnie is too strong-headed to "let a Nazi get away with murder" by allowing Annie to continue living peacefully in her home.

Silver says Marnie thinks with the mentality of "If I was born in a different place, in a different time, I could be a Holocaust victim."

The play ends with the question lingering long after the lights dim. As Silver felt during the writing process, the audience can't help but sympathize with Annie, a German who never raised a finger against a Jew, and who helps an old man she presumes to be innocent.

Pictured (from left) Kelly Bolt, Erin Marian and Sarah Dickinson in *Anger Begets*

Yet the Jewish question evokes similar sympathy. As Marnie says of the Holocaust, "I didn't live through it, but I certainly have to live with it."

Biblical story of Job produced as a hip-hop musical

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

Right from the start, Montreal natives Eli Batalion and Jerome Saibil clicked.

It was obvious from the first time they worked together, producing a radio play about Chanukah for a seventh-grade project at Bialik Hebrew Day School, that they shared a goal: they both wanted to work to their full potential on the play and the many assignments that would follow.

"We realized we were both distinct in wanting to put in serious effort into these projects and make them original, creative and funny," Batalion said recently in an interview.

Their ambition paid off. Since their first creative collaboration 10 years ago, the duo has written, directed and produced movies, videos, plays and songs. In 1998, they formed a production company called Foqué dans la tête Productions.

This summer, Batalion and Saibil, both 22, have been travelling across Canada showcasing their play *Job: The Hip Hop Musical*, an adaptation of the biblical story of Job that has received rave reviews.

"The lyrics are mile-a-minute fast and can't stop laughing funny," wrote Richard Ouzounian, theatre critic of *The Toronto Star* in his review of the play.

"Batalion and Saibil have created a new theatrical form, and it's ready for Off-Broadway," wrote Amy Barratt of *The Montreal Mirror*.

Eli Batalion and Jerome Saibil retell the Job story as rappers MC Cain and MC Abel.

In the original story, Job is a God-fearing, upright man who shuns evil. When the Lord decides to test his loyalty, Job loses his family, his possessions and his health. He suffers greatly but remains true to God. In response to Job's loyalty, God doubles his possessions.

In Batalion and Saibil's adaptation, rappers MC Cain (Saibil) and MC Abel (Batalion) retell the tale in the context of contemporary corporate life. The vocabulary of the play includes academic words and references not typically heard in hip hop music – the pair rhyme "epistemology" with "apology," and words like "volition" and "circuitously" are sprinkled throughout the script, as are mentions of literary classics such as James Joyce's *Ulysses*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*.

These references are telltale signs that the duo is fresh from the world of academia. Both graduated from Brown University in May – Saibil earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy; Batalion earned bachelor degrees in philosophy and psychology.

The play reveals the pair's Jewish roots not only because of its biblically inspired plot, but also because the script contains Jewish in-jokes. At one point, the main character Job Lowe and his wife Prof. Lowe are discussing Lowe's fall from grace at work – he has lost many of his benefits, his salary has diminished and he eventually loses his job.

"I think I smell something fishy," Prof. Lowe says. "If we appeal it, could there be some kind of wishy-washy way we can stop them from squishing you like a potato knishy?"

In another scene, the pair engages in what appears to be Russian dancing, singing "Yiih, yiih" as they squat and kick out their feet. Saibil said they got the idea for this choreography from *Fiddler On The Roof*.

Their version of the tale ends with Job and his boss going for falafel.

Saibil and Batalion have used Jewish references before, including in two of their previous Fringe Festival plays: *Everything You Wanted to Know About Yourself But Were Afraid to Ask Freud* (2001) and *Carl Rosensweig, How Was Your Vasectomy?* (1999).

While comedy is an important part of many of their productions, Saibil and Batalion say that their work is about more than just making people laugh – it has artistic purpose.

"We are trying to send a message or teach something or provoke a thought," Saibil said.

"We try to do things people have not done before. At the very least, the goal is to provoke audience members to re-evaluate previous conceptions."

With *Job: The Hip Hop Musical*, one of their goals was to change people's opinion of hip-hop music. The pair believes they have succeeded in altering theatregoers and reviewers' pre-conceived notions.

"People may have dismissed hip hop music as a loud, obnoxious form of music. Now, the reviewers have said they appreciate it," Saibil said.

Today, as Batalion and Saibil make the transition from full-time students to full-time artists, they are confident in their ability to continue producing thought-provoking productions.

"We are occasionally dissuaded, told the entertainment industry is really tough," said Batalion.

"[But] our previous success is testimony to the fact that we can make a living from it, so we are going to keep on going."

For upcoming shows by Foqué dans la tête Productions, check out their Web site at http://fdltproductions.com/.

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$689K. Magnif. fam home within walk dist. to religious schools & shuls. 4+3 bdrm, 4 baths, fin'd bsmnt w/2 bdrm, 3 pce bath, hot tub, outdoor pool. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

QUIET CUL DE SAC/NEW PRICE!
$599K. Fabulous 3400 sq.ft. Greenpark home. Premium lot, 5 bdrm, 4 baths, main floor study, formal living & dining room! Large family size kitchen. Shows well! Michelle Noik* Ext. #289

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$319,900. Beautiful condo features 2 bdrms, 2 baths, solarium, grand marble foyer, upgraded kitchen w/top of line appliances, full ensuite, laundry, 2 parking spots. M. Noik* Ext. #289

DUPLEX! AVENUE ROAD/CHAPLIN
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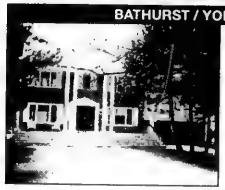

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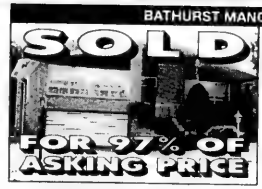
*BROKER

BATHURST MANOR



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* * *

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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100 CANYON AVE.
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259 SENIORS

New Horizon Sr. Club meets Mondays for bingo, 1x/mo. outings to Mandarin Rest. Hungarian speaking club. New Members Welcome! Aug. 10- music & dance night. Call Sun., Tues. or Thurs., 2-5 pm, Edith or Olga, 416-256-1892.

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

Have an interesting relationship with your mom/daughter? Know someone who does? The producers of Little Miracles and Family Dance are making a TV series on the mother/daughter bond for the W network. We're looking for women willing to share all kinds of stories. Like going to school together, preparing for a competition, becoming a mother/grandmother, dealing with religious differences. To find out more, call Nisha at 416-888-3548 or Arlene at 416-531-5300 or e-mail: mothersanddaughters@hotmail.com

RE: RACHEL BLOOM

Anyone having knowledge of the whereabouts of Rachel Bloom, who may have been a resident of the City of Montreal, & who gave birth to a daughter on or about March 7th, 1947, in the City of Montreal, is asked to contact the solicitor for the said daughter, namely, Jack Lambert, Barr. & Solic., Suite 200, 620 Wilson Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3K 1Z3, ph. 416-226-6333 or fax 416-226-6344. A reward will be given for information that assists his search, the purpose of which is to help trace inherited medical conditions within the family.

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305 ARTICLES WANTED

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330 OBITUARIES

COHN, Meredith – on July 6, 2002, late of 44 Charles St. W., #4702.

RUMACK, Sarah – on July 6, 2002, late of 2 Neptune Dr., #511.

GARTEN, Sidney – on July 9, 2002, late of 5005 Dundas St. W., #904.

DUBINER, Frieda – on July 8, 2002, late of 260 Heath St. W., #1002.

ATKIN, Murray – on July 8, 2002, late of 53 Sheila Cres.

HOFFMAN, Goldie – on July 9, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

SWARTZ, Harry – on July 10, 2002, late of 369 Pape Ave., #307.

BERMAN, Harriette – on July 10, 2002, late of 345 Sherbourne St.

TENEBAUM, Alan – on July 9, 2002, late of 497 St. Clair Ave. W., #1024.

GOLDSTEIN, Anne – on July 11, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

JACOBS, Edith – on July 11, 2002, late of 333 Clark Ave., #319.

BENNETT, Bernard – on July 12, 2002, late of 221 Chaplin Cres.

MILTON, Isador – on July 11, 2002, late of 2121 Bathurst St., #524.

LOEB, Lois – on July 13, 2002, late of 71 Bentoak Cres.

SHANKER, Samuel – on July 13, 2002, late of 327 Betty Anne Dr.

BUBB, Sidney – on July 13, 2002, late of 6200 Bathurst St., #1114.

GERSTON, Dorothy – on July 11, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

FINE, Frances – on July 14, 2002, late of 85 The Esplanade, #508.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

GELGOR, Boris – on July 12, 2002, late of 10 Tangreen Ct., #905.

LITWIN, David – on July 13, 2002, late of 121 Agnes St., #502.

SHEAFFER, Herbert – on July 14, 2002, late of 17 Shelborne Ave.

SHAPIRO, Ellis I (Litch) – on July 14, 2002, late of 240 Heath St. W., #802.

ROBINS, William – on July 16, 2002, late of 50 Evanston Dr.

SILVER, Molly – on July 16, 2002, late of 171 Dunblaine Ave.

DANSON, Evelyn – on July 16, 2002, late of 3303 Don Mills Rd., #3401.

WAYNE, Alan – on July 18, 2002, late of 668 Roselawn Ave., #UG4.

MANDEL, Bernard – on July 17, 2002, late of 7601 Bathurst St., #1107.

FREEDMAN, Herman – on July 20, 2002, late of 90 Fisherville, #1102.

GROSSMAN, Lee – on July 19, 2002, late of 50 Rosehill Ave., #302.

DOBKIN, Raymond – on July 21, 2002, late of 95 Prince Arthur Ave., #103.

BIBACK, Murray – on July 20, 2002, late of 85 Skymark Dr., #1003.

CONSARELLI, Piero – on July 20, 2002, late of 1900 Sheppard Ave. E., #2305.

HILARY, Ann – on July 21, 2002, late of 150 Dalemont Ave.

SANDLER, Minn – on July 21, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

ZIGELMAN, Anna – on July 24, 2002, late of 3636 Bathurst St., #407.

LOBEL, Hugo Joseph – on July 23, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.

STEINBERG, Anne – on July 24, 2002, late of 260 Searle Ave.

GOODMAN, Tillie – on July 24, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.

GOLDBERG, Emauel – on July 24, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BEKKER, Barry – on July 25, 2002, late of 18 Lochinvar Cres.

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330 OBITUARIES

KENIGSBERG, Sidney – on July 23, 2002, late of 429 Wilmer Rd.

SAMUEL, David – on July 23, 2002, late of 130 Neptune Dr.

FISHER, Howard – on July 23, 2002, late of 111 Ridelle Ave.

PINTO, Eric – on July 24, 2002, late of 250 Heath St. W.

MILSTEIN, Samuel – on July 24, 2002, late of 59 Palm Dr.

SCHWARTZ, Isidore – on July 24, 2002.

DADOUN, David – on July 24, 2002.

WINTERS, Sylvia – on July 25, 2002, late of 107 Combe Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

HERMAN, Elvira – on July 22, 2002, late of 6079 Montevideo Rd.

FEGELMAN, Murray – on July 22, 2002, late of 21 Mayfair Ave., #204.

FOSTER, Harold – on July 16, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St., #1008.

COOPER, Lily – on July 18, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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will take place

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Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Yavneh Zion Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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TOBY SHEINFELD ז"ל

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Sunday, Aug. 18th, 11:00 a.m.

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330 OBITUARIES

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PATRICIA JOY ALPERT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 11th at 10:30 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section 2
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Barney Zelig Barenholtz ז"ל
will take place
Tuesday, August 20th, at 12:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PATRICIA TAYLOR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 11th, at 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

336 CARD OF THANKS

The **USHER** family are grateful to friends and family for their kindness and donations in memory of the beloved
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Jewish teens to represent Canada in wheelchair tennis

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Joel Dembe hopes to one day compete in the Paralympic Games – what he calls the ultimate test for wheelchair tennis. But for the time being, Canada's top-ranked junior is ecstatic to be going to the World Team Cup in Tremosine, Italy, next month.

The Hamilton-area resident, ranked 20th overall in the country, will team up with Canada's second-ranked junior, Edmonton's Laurie Zalmanowitz, to form Canada's first entry in the event's junior division. A wild-card berth was granted following Tennis Canada's application to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) based on the strength of its junior players and the development of the sport within the country.

While Tennis Canada has only been managing the game for the past four years, wheelchair tennis is one of the fastest growing sports worldwide for people with disabilities, being played in more than 70 countries.

However, participation levels across Canada still rank far below those of wheelchair basketball and sledge hockey.

Dembe, who hopes to crack the top 15 in Canada by year's end, has five years of wheelchair tennis experience, but says he's still a few years away from playing in the open draw, the game's highest level, on a regular basis. Currently, he enters opens in smaller tournaments.

Dembe will be playing in the second draw, one level below open in Italy, while Zalmanowitz will compete in the B division.

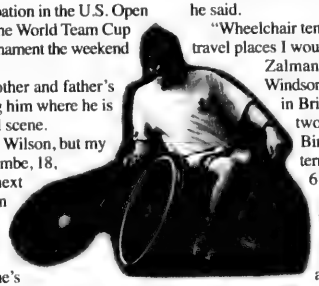
This year's 10-day event begins Sept. 13 on Lake Garda and will bring together the top wheelchair tennis players from eight nations. Competing against Dembe and Zalmanowitz will be athletes from Great Britain, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia, Germany, the United States and the Netherlands.

The game of wheelchair tennis was founded in 1976 by American Brad Parks, with only one rule change to distinguish it from able-bodied tennis: players are allowed two bounces of the ball compared to just one.

With the growth of foreign participation in the U.S. Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships, the World Team Cup was created in 1985 as a warm-up tournament the weekend before the U.S. event.

Dembe acknowledges that his mother and father's support played a major role in getting him where he is today, competing on the international scene.

"I have a partial sponsorship from Wilson, but my parents play the biggest part," said Dembe, 18, who begins his OAC year in school next month and is planning for a career in sports business. "Without them, I wouldn't be anything in wheelchair tennis. They're my main sponsors."



A partial paraplegic, Dembe says he's quite mobile for a wheelchair tennis player, although back limitations prevent him from bending down well when pushing. He was born with teratoma, a benign tumour in the abdomen that migrated to the spine, compressing it and causing nerve damage.

Zalmanowitz, 16, is wheelchair-bound as a result of early onset childhood dystonia, a complex neuromuscular disorder that has a higher occurrence rate in Ashkenazi Jews. But playing wheelchair tennis for the past four years has given him the opportunity to continue playing competitive sports.

"I was always active before I needed to use a wheelchair," he said.

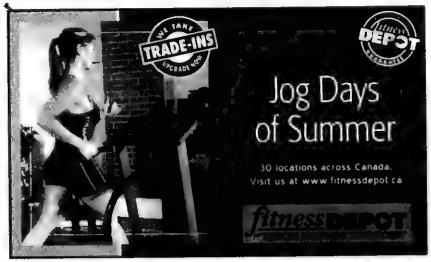
"Wheelchair tennis has really helped me and allowed me to travel places I would've never gone before."

Zalmanowitz, who earlier in the year won the Windsor Indoor Classic and the Alberta Open, is now in British Columbia training and will compete in two ITF events there before joining Dembe in Birmingham, Ala. to participate in the ITF International Junior Camp, which runs from Aug. 6 to Aug. 11.

The country's top two junior wheelchair tennis players will then get back together a month later for the World Team Cup.

"I was surprised as anybody that there's another top junior in Canada that's also Jewish," said Dembe. "I mean, what are the odds?

"When I heard that there was another Jewish tennis player, I was pleased because the Maccabiah Games has a wheelchair tennis division and I'm hoping that one day we'll get our rankings up and win it."



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One of the main reasons why bridge is such a challenging and interesting game is that it is impossible to come up with a set of "rules" that will tell you which is the right card to play in a given situation. There are a few sound maxims (like "8 ever 9 never" and "always cover an honour with an honour"), but the words "always" and "never" are not really appropriate. All experienced bridge players know there are plenty of deals in which even the most popular maxims do not apply.

Bridge with Gitelman

"8 ever 9 never" means that when declarer has an 8-card fit, missing only the Queen, the percentage play is to finesse against the Queen. With a 9-card fit missing only the Queen, declarer should cash the Ace and King in the hope that the Queen will drop singleton or doubleton. What about a 10-card fit? Surely it could never be right to finesse against the Queen on the first round when only three cards are missing. Don't be so sure!

North:
♠ 62
♥ 85
♦ 62
♣ AK87542

South:
♠ AK7
♥ AK9
♦ AK54
♣ J109

The bidding:

North	South
3♣	4NT
5♦	5NT
6♦	7NT

After North opened the bidding with a 3♣ pre-empt, South used the Blackwood convention and learned that North held one Ace and one King. Counting on North to hold a seven-card club suit, South placed the contract in 7NT. It turns out that 7♣ would have been an easier (but less interesting) contract to play. West's opening lead was the ♠Q. How would you play this hand as declarer?

It seems obvious to take the opening lead and to win the next two tricks with dummy's ♣A and ♣K. With any luck the ♣Q will fall and you will have 13 easy tricks (seven club tricks and two tricks in each of the three other suits). The fly in the ointment is that the club suit will be blocked. You would have to win the third round of clubs in your hand and there would be no way back to the dummy!

In fact, the only time that the "obvious" line of play will work is if the ♣Q is singleton. The correct play is to take a strange first round finesse against the ♣Q with West! After winning the opening lead, play a club from your hand. If West plays the ♣Q the rest will be easy (just be careful to win the second club trick in your hand). If instead West follows with a small club, play low from dummy and hope that the ♣Q is on your left.

The recommended play will lose when East was dealt a singleton ♣Q, but this play gains when West was dealt a doubleton or tripleton ♣Q. If East was dealt two or three clubs to the ♣Q, there was is no way to make the contract.

As this hand demonstrates, maxims have their place in bridge, but they should be applied with care. Perhaps "8 ever 9 never" should be augmented to include "10 once"!

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in The CJN. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

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ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

הילדה שאני אוהב: יהודה אטלס

בעקבות המהפכה הצרפתית וחלחשת השפעתה של הכנסייה והדת, נסללו חדרכים לעיצוב דפוסים יותר ליבראלים ויותר ידידותיים בהבנת עולמו של הילד. מעתה ואילך החברה המערבית הייתה יותר פתוחה לקבלת תפיסתו של יאן זיאק רוסו שראה את הטוב והטבעי בילד. מבחינה היסטורית, התפתחות זו ביטאה את התפיסה הלאומית-חברתית החדשה שצמחה בעקבות המהפכה. מושגי מולדת וילדות ביטאו את הרוח החדשה שסחפה את התרבות המערבית.

אוריינטאציה זו מצאה את דרכה גם בספרות העברית לילדים. עבור התנועה הציונית, הלאומית בהתגבשותה המודרנית, מושג הילד-ילדות היה כחומר גלם ביד היוצר. הולדתו המחודשת של עם ישראל הובילה באופן טבעי לזיהוי חקולקטיב הציוני בארץ ישראל עם ילד תמים, טהור, חרוץ, אמיץ וכן מוכן למרוד במוסכמות. זה היה דיוקן חדשני ומהפכני שעוצב במכוון כאנטי-תזה לדמות הסב היהודי, הגלותי.

כבר אצל אברהם מאפו בולט הדימוי האידילי בביטוי הקשר בין ילדות העם העברי ובין ילדי ארץ ישראל. "פה בית קיץ נחמד וכר נרחב ביער לשוח בו, גם נחמד פה, כולו מחמדים להרגין את הלב." המיתולוגיה של ילדות לאומית, ילדי ישראל וחטבע מהדהדת בכתיבתם של טשרניחובסקי, ביאליק וקיפניס. כך מתאר לוין קיפניס את ילדי ארץ ישראל בשנות מלחמת העולם הראשונה: "זוגות, זוגות יצאו ילדינו וילדותינו; ביד כל זוג סלסילת פרחים, פרחי ארצנו המצויינים וקופסת קרן קיימת...". שפתם של ילדי הפרחים היא על טהרת העברית: "עברים אנחנו, עברית נדברה, עברית נלמדה, עברית נזמרתי" (קיפניס) ולהם כל הארץ: "ארצי, כל הארץ, באר שבע ודן" (טשרניחובסקי).

ברור לכל שילדי ארץ ישראל הם ילדי המכבים שנועדו להיות גיבורים. אלא שדבר אחד הוא לדקלם שירים נלהבים המדמים את חילד העברי ליהודה המכבי, ודבר אחר הוא להבין משמעותו של דבר בזירה הממשית הארץ-ישראלית; "יהנה תגדל, תהיה גבור, תצאו לשמירה אז יחדיו" (עמנואל הרוסו). אט, אט חודרת המודעות לנטל הנורא שהחברה מטילה על ילדיה האהובים ועם המודעות באה הסטייה מהקו המדוקלם.

"כי אני בחור שמח, קצת שובב, אך לא נורא" אומר שלונסקי לילדים. "יונתן הקטן" שמטפס על עצים, חור במכנסיו והוא מתנכל לגוזלים הופך ללהיט; מעמדו של הטבע בספרות לילדים שהיה דומיננטי בראשית המאה, נשאר בעינו עד שנות השבעים אך ניטל ממנו מעמדו הערכי ביצירות "הגל החדש". שירי הערש אינם נכתבים ברוח המדינה הצעירה התובעת הקרבה, אלא כמצב טיפוסי מובחק לילד. חרובד הלשוני מאבד כליל את הפראזות המנופחות של העבר ומונמך לשפת הילד.

הראשון שעשה את הצעד הקיצוני ביותר בתחום הרובד הלשוני היה יהודה אטלס. ידועים השיבושים הלשוניים המשעשעים בשיריו. אין כמעט ילד בישראל שאינו מכיר את הלבטים, הכעסים והשמחות של אטלס ב:"יוהילד הזה הוא אני". יהודה אטלס נולד בעין-עירון בשנת 1937. הוא עורך ועיתונאי. שיריו קצרים ומתומצתים ואמור מתמקדים בעולמו של הילד, על פחדיו, הרהוריו והתמודדותו עם עולם המבוגרים.

בספרו **הילדה שאני אוהב** אטלס מבטא ברגישות האופיינית לו את המורכבות שבנושא האהבה בין בנים ובנות. "כשאני רק חושב עליה/שאני מסמיק/כשאני רואה אותה מרחוק/ אני מתבלבל... בכלל לא ידעתי שאני כזה." המבוכה והבלבול מלווים את הילד בכל המצבים המתוארים; "אני מת לגשת אליה/ אני מכרח לגשת/ לבקש שהיא ואני נהיה חברים/ אבל, מה בדיוק אני צריך לעשות/אם היא תסכים"/ והשיר שאני בוחרת: "הילדה שאני אוהב/אוהבת ילד אחר./אולי בגלל זה/אני אהיה משורר."

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2 stalks celery, sliced
1 carrot, sliced
1 green pepper, chopped
3 cloves garlic, peeled
1 tblsp. lemon juice
1 leaf chopped basil
salt & pepper to taste
2 cups water

Peel and chop tomatoes. In large pot sauté onions in small amount of water for a few minutes until soft. Add tomatoes, celery, carrot, pepper, garlic and 2 cups of water. Bring vegetable mixture to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 20-30 minutes until vegetables are soft. Strain soup, saving broth. Puree vegetables in blender. Add back to liquid. Stir in lemon juice, basil, salt and pepper. Serve hot or cold.

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Marin-aides

Research suggests that cooking meats at very high temperatures creates chemicals (heterocyclic amines, or HCAs) that may increase cancer risk. However, scientists believe marinating helps creates a barrier against heat that dramatically lowers the formation of HCAs created when meat, poultry and fish are grilled or broiled at high temperatures.

Marinating also makes food more flavourful. If you're making an acid-based marinade, use a non-reactive container (glass, ceramic, stainless steel or heavy-duty Ziploc bag). Turn the food or shake the bag during marinating so it is evenly coated. Marinate at room temperature for ½ to 1 hour. For longer marinating, cover and refrigerate food overnight. If fish is marinated more than an hour, it will start to "cook."

Drain marinade before grilling. To reserve leftover marinade for basting or as a sauce, bring it to a boil, then simmer for 2 minutes before drizzling it over the cooked food.

Don't grill over direct heat. Place food around the hot coals, not directly over them. Cook meat and poultry thoroughly, but not so much that pieces become charred. Don't eat any charred or blackened parts.

Don't peek! When you open the cover of the barbecue, it loses heat, increasing cooking time. Lift the lid only when you have to turn the food. The lid traps heat and smoke, helping to cook and flavour your food.

Cook foods to a safe temperature. Cook ground beef until a thermometer inserted into several parts of the patty, including the thickest part, reads at least 160 degrees F. Ground poultry should be cooked to 165 F, poultry breast to 170 F and whole poultry with bones to 180 F. Enjoy in good health!

ORANGE HOISIN MARINADE

1 tbsp. minced fresh ginger
2 cloves garlic, minced
¼ cup onion, minced
2 tbsp. soy sauce
3 tbsp. rice or wine vinegar
¼ cup orange juice
¼ cup hoisin sauce
2 tbsp. honey or brown sugar
2 tsp. Oriental sesame oil
¼ tsp. cayenne

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Excellent on meat, poultry or fish. Makes about 1 cup.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeanYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com*

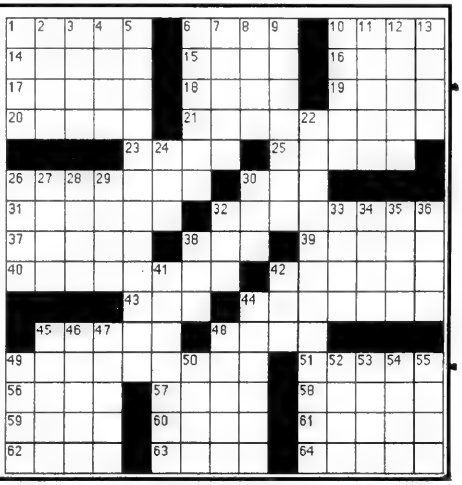
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 32.)

More Musical Mentshen
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. ____ ski
6. Basic koi
10. Leander's love
14. Bloch's Suite Hebraique for _____
15. Author of A Death in the Family
16. Texas Rangers shortstop, for short
17. Admiral Bobby Ray
18. Industrial river basin
19. Dies ___
20. Caught in a police scheme
21. Beverly/Jerome
23. Early computer action film
25. Anne of Green Gables author Montgomery's middle name (pl.)
26. Yehudi
30. Nation of Tor. and Queb.
31. Assented in prayer
32. American Jewish _____ (has a few musicians!)
37. Drupe fruit
38. River islet
39. Thank you, in Tsfat
40. _____ from the straight and narrow
42. Midwest city
43. Texts of original works
44. Jascha
45. Water conduits
48. Bon ____
49. Hollywood composer Elmer _____
51. Inclined planes
56. Norse stories
57. Feminine diminutive ending
58. Unwanted word at Cape Kennedy
59. Aryeh, in English
60. Hwys.
61. Billy (Joel)'s 'Face to Face' touring partner
62. Scale base weight
63. Legendary political cartoonist
64. British university or city

Down
1. Bird, in Latin
2. Quart part
3. Remus' twin bro.
4. Distinctive flair
5. David did it, with his Levite choirs
6. British architect
7. Once more
8. "Oh, get ___"
9. Yitzchak
10. Verse form recently recast in Jewish humour
11. Made a booboo
12. Some crowd sounds
13. Town near Burt Lake, Michigan
22. What David did, in the larger sense
24. Made disappear
26. Charts
27. Truth, in Tiberias
28. Nigh
29. How Huey, Dewey, and Louey address Donald
30. Camp bed
32. One used to hang from Bogart's lip
33. Structural Integration founder
34. Warhol film star Sedgwick
35. S. Carol. river
36. As in drink-slurred speech, "Sho he _____ to me ... "
38. Response to quest.
41. Great violinist, including abbrev. first name
42. Gvarim, in English
44. Abe was
45. Print or electronic
46. Heat
47. Vapid
48. Sound or love
49. "___ one outta here!", bleacher cry
50. Comic character Kett
52. Can-do condition
53. Speck
54. Goad
55. Kenton and Musial (abbrev.)



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"People – kids and adults – do not wash their hands as often or as well as they think they do, risking poor health and the spread of infection," says Dr. Allison McGeer, Director of Infection Control at Mount Sinai Hospital.

"We should wash our hands any time we come in contact with bacteria or viruses such as when we touch our noses or use the bathroom. To wash your hands effectively, use soap, water, and friction for 25 to 30 seconds," adds McGeer.

Passing bacteria and viruses among us is the most common way we get sick with any infectious disease including colds and flu. Hand-to-hand contact is a major culprit; along with touching items such as faucet handles or telephones that are harbouring bacteria and other germs.

"Handwashing is the single most important thing people can do to prevent the spread of germs," McGeer says.

HANDWASHING TIPS

"Please, please, please don't assume that kids know how to wash their hands," McGeer implores. *"You'd never assume that they know how to brush their teeth, would you?"*

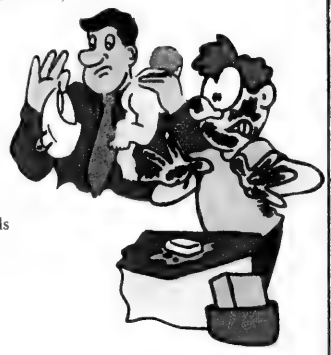
When Should You Wash Your Hands?

Wash your hands before you

- ✔ prepare or eat food
- ✔ treat a cut or a wound or tend to someone who is sick

Wash your hands after you

- ✔ handle uncooked foods, particularly raw meat, poultry or fish
- ✔ change a diaper
- ✔ blow your nose, cough or sneeze
- ✔ play with or touch a pet, particularly reptiles and exotic animals
- ✔ handle garbage
- ✔ tend to someone who is sick or injured
- ✔ use the restroom

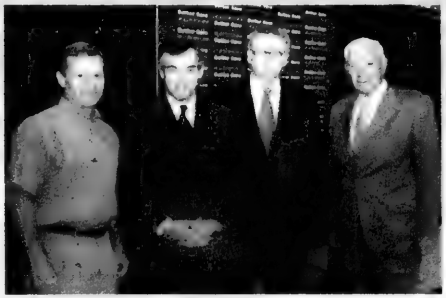


How Should You Wash Your Hands?

- ✔ use soap and warm, running water
- ✔ wash all surfaces thoroughly including wrists, palms, back of hands, fingers, and under the fingernails
- ✔ rub hands together for at least 10 to 15 seconds

Remembering to wash your hands correctly is the first step toward staying healthy.

$1.2 Million in Funding Boosts Mount Sinai's MRI Services



Pictured above: (left to right) Steve Pustil, Vice Chair, Mount Sinai Board of Directors; Tony Clement, Health Minister; Joseph Mapa, President and CEO Mount Sinai; Murray Koffler, MSH Foundation Board of Directors

Hospital President and CEO ***Joseph Mapa*** welcomed Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care ***Tony Clement*** to Mount Sinai Hospital at a recent press conference. The Minister announced $1.2 million in additional funding for Mount Sinai, which will enable us to expand the Kimel Family MRI Centre's services to 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

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This Week

National

Eradicating terrorism is the first step for Israel, MK says. *Page 5*

Upcoming summit may be another anti-Israel forum. *Page 12*

Rudolph Giuliani calls Arafat an 'obstacle' to peace. *Page 25*

Israel & the Jewish World

Jerusalem street bounces back to life. *Page 31*

Arts & Travel

Julie Tepperman loses her head over Stratford career. *Page 33*

Rural Hong Kong: An eco-tourist's dream. *Page 35*

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Bombing shocks MPs' aides

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Parliamentary assistants on Israel mission

Missions to Israel are meant to do a lot of things, not the least of which is to expose visitors to the day-to-day lives of ordinary Israelis.

Recently, a group of parliamentary assistants got more than they bargained for during a week-long visit to the Jewish state.

While enjoying lunch at the Anna Ticho House Restaurant in central Jerusalem, their afternoon briefing was interrupted by an explosion that shook the room and prompted local patrons to check in with their loved ones by cellphone. Only a block away, a suicide bomber had detonated an explosive charge, destroying a falafel stand but killing only himself.

The site of the suicide bombing on July 30 in downtown Jerusalem. *[Israel photo]*

Like the many Israelis sitting nearby, Tanis Gilbert felt the need to grab her phone and call her family – in her case, her husband and mother back in Canada. They had been concerned about her visit to Israel and had asked that she call every day.

Gilbert, executive assistant to Montreal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, knew it was still early in the morning back in Canada and felt she'd wait until later in the day. To her surprise, her husband, who had woken early and heard about the bombing on the morning news, was soon on the phone making sure she was alright.

Continued on page 13

NRP LEADER VISITS CANADA

Efraim Eitam, leader of the National Religious Party (NRP) and minister without portfolio in the Israeli government, was in Toronto last week. *The CJN* spoke with him. *Please see page 5.* *[IGPO photo]*

Israel seeking funds to keep consulate open

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have asked their Finance Ministry to try to find the funds to keep the Israeli Consulate here open, *The CJN* learned Sunday.

Peres' media advisor, Yoram Dori, said in an interview from Jerusalem following a meeting of the Israeli cabinet that Peres will reconsider his decision if the money to keep the consulate open can somehow be found.

Dori stressed, however, that the original decision to shut the consulate had not changed.

"There are no new decisions," Dori said. "The question is only about money."

The news that Peres might re-think his position was expected to buoy the hopes of Montreal Jews who were shocked and outraged when news of the planned closure broke July 22.

Since then, Peres has dealt with interventions made to "the highest levels of the Israeli government," particularly by Charles Bronfman, a source told *The CJN*.

The source said Peres was persuaded to rethink the situation after returning to Israel from a trip to the United States.

Earlier last week, Israeli Consul General Shlomo Avital was named the next Israeli ambassador to Dakar, Senegal, giving rise to the question of who would lead the Montreal mission should it remain open. The consulate runs on a budget of $1.2 million (US) annually.

After the closure announcement, the Jewish community launched a campaign to save it.

Peres has been inundated by impassioned pleas to reconsider, and not only from the Jewish community. A flurry of petitions, phone calls, letters and personal contacts have been sent by community leaders, Jewish organizations, Montreal

Continued on page 26

Greater Toronto Area

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Israel tells U.S. it will respond to attack by Iraq — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Survivor Honoured

OTTAWA — Holocaust survivor Anna Heilman, 73, of Ottawa was awarded the Simon Wiesenthal Center's 2002 Medal of Honour last month in a ceremony in Los Angeles for her involvement in the blowing up of a crematorium in Auschwitz in 1944. Heilman has detailed her part in the operation in the 2001 book *Never Far Away: The Auschwitz Chronicles of Anna Heilman*.

ISRAEL

Citizenship Move

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is backing a controversial move by Interior Minister Eli Yishai to strip two Israeli Arabs of their citizenship for alleged terrorist activity. The State Attorney's Office has called Yishai's move extreme.

Immigrants Arrive

JERUSALEM — More than 600 immigrants arrived in Israel Aug. 5, including 500 from Ukraine, in what the Jewish Agency for Israel described as the largest aliyah day of the year.

Flight Delay

JERUSALEM — The space shuttle mission with Israel's first astronaut, Col. Ilan Ramon, is being delayed until December. The mid-July flight was postponed after cracks were found in the propulsion systems of two sister shuttles.

Vaccine Production

JERUSALEM — Israel has begun producing smallpox vaccine in preparation for a biological attack from Iraq in retaliation for a U.S. strike. A health official said last week there is enough for the entire population, but a decision on when to start immunizations hasn't been made. About 100 emergency workers have already been vaccinated.

WORLD

Citizenship Stripped

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A U.S. Federal Court here has stripped a onetime Gestapo agent of his U.S. citizenship for assisting in Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution during World War II. Michael Gorshkow, 79, served in 1942 and 1943 as an interpreter and interrogator with the German security police in Minsk, Belarus, and participated in killing 3,000 Jewish men, women and children when Nazi-led forces set fire to the nearby Slutsk ghetto. Gorshkow was born in Estonia and became a U.S. citizen in 1963. He recently left the United States and has not responded to the case against him.

Politician Criticized

LOS ANGELES — The Simon Wiesenthal Center has urged Lithuania to act against Saulis Ozelis, a member of the Taurage district council, after he burned an Israeli flag and played Nazi military music while driving through the streets of Taurage. Ozelis said he was responding to the centre's offer of a $10,000 (US) reward for information leading to the conviction of a Nazi war criminal in Lithuania. In April, Ozelis told 50 onlookers that he was not against Jews but against the restitution of their property in Lithuania.

Deportation Order

ST. LOUIS — A U.S. immigration court has ordered a former concentration camp guard deported to his native Romania. Michael Negele, 81, served from November 1943 to June 1944 as an armed SS Death's Head Battalion guard of prisoners at the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp near Berlin. Negele also served for the remainder of the war as a guard at the Theresienstadt ghetto near Prague.

Rally Snag

NEW YORK — A plan to bring thousands to a pro-Israel rally in Jerusalem this past week hit a snag after financial backers pulled out last month, meaning organizers could not offer the three-day trip at a subsidized price of $550 (US) per person. Its full cost was $995. Organizers said the problem meant thousands were forced to drop out, but refused to name the two New Jersey benefactors who backed out. The rally was spearheaded by Rabbi Shmuel Goldin of New Jersey.

Home Library Project

BALTIMORE — The Jewish Literacy Foundation, a Baltimore-based group that reaches out to unaffiliated and marginally affiliated North American Jews, last month launched a program to provide every Jewish home with a Jewish library. It began with the distribution of 1,000 free copies of Shimon Apisdorf's *Israel in a Nutshell* to Jews in North America's 10 largest Jewish centres.

High Court Upholds House Demolitions

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army is not required to give the families of Palestinian terrorists prior notice of house demolitions, Israel's High Court of Justice ruled last week.

The court rejected petitions filed on behalf of some 40 families of Palestinian terrorists who had received demolition orders and demanded 48-hour advance notice in order to appeal.

Israel maintains that the demolitions are an important deterrent in the war on terrorism. The state attorney also said granting advance notice of demolitions could endanger soldiers by giving terrorists ample notice to set up an ambush.

Representatives for the families argued that the measure represents collective punishment and violates international law. Some of the petitioners' homes already have been torn down.

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Jewish students angry at U of T 'Anti-Calendar'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Jewish students at the University of Toronto are angry that an *Anti-Calendar* published by the Arts & Science Students' Union (ASSU) contains a dedication to the memory of murdered "innocents" in Afghanistan and Palestine.

The dedication makes no mention of Israeli victims of terror and such a partisan political statement does not belong in a course guidebook, said Lisa Isen Baumal, director of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at U of T.

"If they want to include politics, there are enough local issues that affect U of T students more directly than Israel," Isen Baumal said. "There is no one voice on international politics."

The *Anti-Calendar* is published by ASSU each summer prior to the resumption of classes. It compiles student evaluations of more than 1,600 courses and instructors in U of T's faculty of arts and science.

This year it was dedicated "to the memory of the Innocents, Afghanistan and Palestine, murdered," as well as to Islamabad murder victim Iqbal Masih, Chinese students and workers in Beijing and women engineering students who were murdered in Montreal.

Jonathan Leef, a psychology and history student at the U of T, said that by sympathizing with Palestinians, the *Anti-Calendar* was inherently critical of Israel.

"My issue is, who lets these people choose who to dedicate it to and why do they express someone's political opinions? They're getting funded by thousands of diverse students... This isn't the place to express personal opinions."

> ***Dedication included to murdered 'innocents' in Afganistan, Palestine***

Leef said a debate over the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the issue.

"I want fundamental change, to look over where the funds go," he said.

Terry Buckland, editor of the *Anti-Calendar*, said the complaint about the dedication originates with a handful of students who are "reading more into it than it actually says."

"The dedication, when it was picked, was in the news at the time – friendly fire" and referred to innocent people in Afghanistan and Palestine who were affected by ongoing warfare.

"I did not say any particular groups. I said any people in that area. I thought that covered everybody," he said.

Buckland, who has edited the *Anti-Calendar* for 17 years, said it usually contains a dedication of some kind. Last year, it was primarily dedicated to a professor of fine arts who was murdered on campus. The year before, it was dedicated to the global effort against child labour.

"We're at a university, at a place of higher learning. The more information that is given out and discussed – it makes perfect sense at a university," he said.

Leef, an Israeli who's attended Jewish day schools in Toronto, said he's taken his complaint to the dean's office but was told the dean is not associated with the *Anti-Calendar*'s contents, but merely penned a message of greetings.

Last year, controversy erupted over a handbook published by the Concordia Student Union in Montreal. The handbook was criticized for promoting violence, theft and for supporting the Palestinian intifadah.

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Children and shechinah

Each year, we dedicate this space to a selection from the winning entries in the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) Creative Writing Contest. Even though we are closer to the new school year than we are to last year's, it is very important that we continue with *The CJN* tradition of publicizing this marvellous effort by our students.

Unfortunately, we can only reproduce a tiny sampling of the winning entries, which were in English and Hebrew. We extend our congratulations to all the winners and convey our deep pride and thanks to everyone who took part in the contest.

From the editor's desk

Our ancient rabbis wrote that after the destruction of the temple, the shechinah went into exile not with the wise men of the Sanhedrin or with the lofty cohanim, but rather, with our young children.

Our children are our blessing. Through them we can better understand and appreciate the mysteries and the purposes of life, which does indeed bring us closer to the shechinah.

More information about all the winners and about the contest can be found at the BJE's Web site at <http://www.bjetoronto.org/link.creativewriting.html>. – ***MBD***

* * *

My Siddur
By Josette Halpert, Grade 2
Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

Once upon a time there was a little girl. Her name was Josette. She was so poor she did not have enough money to buy a siddur. On Shabbat she went to shul and she used the siddur there. It was tattered and torn. Sometimes she found a nice fresh one and sometimes she looked for the one with the lipstick marks that showed the love of reading the siddur. The little girl dreamed of having her own siddur and told her bubby. Her bubby's siddur was white with gold letters on the cover. All the other siddurs were black. Her daddy explained that black hides all the finger marks on the cover and with years of visitors turning the pages they also turn yellow. Her mother said that some day she would get her own siddur in school when she can read enough Hebrew. Bubby said that some day Josette will inherit her white, clean siddur. It had bright white pages because she treated it with respect and care. Josette thought about it and dreamed about it. Next Shabbat she told her bubby: "I thank you for offering me your siddur but I never want to inherit your siddur if it means not having you stand beside me on Shabbat. I love to look over your arm to your siddur and find the right page and get that secret loving smile. I also love to use a different siddur every week and look for the kissy marks, the finger prints, the crumbs and the yellow pages. Those are not marks of age and over use. They are signs of love which make each one special. Each one is *my* own for a few hours each week."

* * *

Letting in the Light
By Jordan Lavi, Grade 7
United Synagogue Day School

Baruch Ata Adoshem
The mother speaks the ancient words
as she lights the candles
on this Sabbath eve
and the gleaming silver candlesticks
reflect the flickering candlelight

Elokainu Melech Haolam
She hears her mother's voice
from so many years ago
whispering this blessing
as she lit this candelabra
with her daughters at her side.

Asher Kidishanu Bemitzvotav
Every Friday night the tradition is honoured
as it has been and always will be
an expression of faith
a sense of belonging, a thirsty desire
for the holiness of Shabbat.

Vtzivanu Lehadlik
As the candlesticks pass
from generation to generation
the past has become the present
and the present will become the future
an eternal symbol of light and life.

Ner Shel Shabbat
As she finishes the blessing
to a chorus of "Amen"
another Shabbat embraces us
with the warmth and comfort from
letting in the light.

* * *

A Treasure in My Home
Rivki Berkovits, Grade Six
Eitz Chaim Day School

There is a treasure in my home,
It glows, unceasing,
Its brightness illuminates my home,
And happiness falls over my family

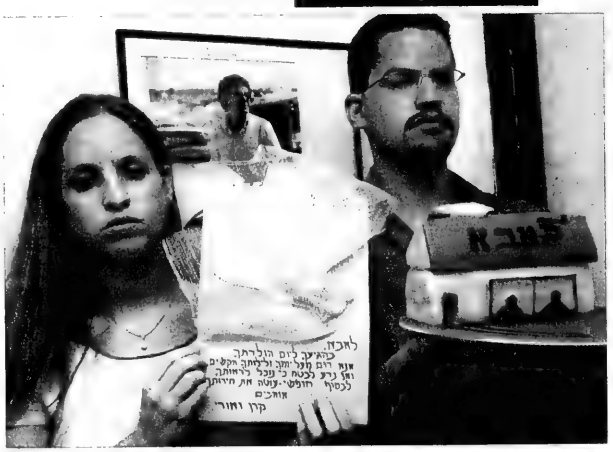
There is a treasure in my home,
It lends warmth to my family,
And gives out smiles,
Bright and happy smiles,
That makes me happy inside

There is a treasure in my home,
Rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds
Are held within the old wooden chest
And they sparkle with a radiant glow
Through a crack in the closet.

There is a treasure in my home,
Wisdom and humour and age,
Are placed within each jewel in my box,
And they shine in their own unique way.

There is a treasure in my home,
A treasure I cherish more than anything
Full of love, caring and warmth,
For after all,
the treasure is my family.

SeeJN



HOPEFUL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Keren and Ori, the children of businessman Elhanan Tenenbaum, who was kidnapped by Hezbollah in October 2000, display a letter and a marzipan house - birthday presents they will send him for his 56th birthday via the Red Cross.

[Israel Sun photo]

Eradicating terrorism first step for Israel: NRP

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The eradication of Palestinian terrorism, rather than the attainment of peace, should be Israel's first and foremost priority, says Efraim (Effi) Eitam, leader of the National Religious Party (NRP).

"Defeating terrorism paves the way for a settlement," he declared in an interview last week in Toronto.

In Eitam's view, Israel can smash Palestinian terrorism. "We can do it. But if we fail, the alternative will be terrible."

The 49-year-old former Israeli army general was invited here by Marvin Igelman and Michael Serruya of The Canadian Friends of the Western Wall Foundation.

Eitam delivered a speech at the Sephardic Kehila Centre. It was not his first visit to Canada, having previously been here as a guest of the Canadian army.

Prior to his appearance in Toronto, he made a swing through the United States, where he met with local Jewish communities. He also conferred with Bush administration officials.

Eitam, who was appointed NRP leader last April, is a minister-without-portfolio in the Israeli government, responsible for security affairs.

A native of Kibbutz Ein Gev, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he served in the Israeli army for 30 years, retiring in 2000 as a brigadier-general.

Eitam wears a kippah, and was, in his words, the army's "first senior religious officer."

He retired after concluding that his status as a religious Jew would retard his chances of being promoted. "I was really a unique phenomenon in the Israeli army," he said. His abrupt retirement was also precipitated by a disagreement with former prime minister Ehud Barak over his government's plan to withdraw unilaterally from southern Lebanon.

Eitam, who commanded Israeli forces in southern Lebanon in 1998 and 1999, opposed the May 2000 pullout. In retrospect, he believes, it inspired the Palestinians to launch the second intifadah, just four months later.

"We gave terrorists a gift of motivation," he said, referring to the current Palestinian leadership. "Terror defeated the best army in the world."

If Israel fails to defeat terrorism decisively, he cautioned, "there won't be one safe place for democracy in the world."

Must commit greater forces to disarm, arrest and kill every Palestinian involved in terrorism: Eitam

Eitam, who makes no secret of his ambition to be Israel's first prime minister from the national religious camp, urged Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to completely squelch terrorism in the Palestinian autonomous areas, occupied by Israel since a wave of suicide bombings and shootings in June.

"Israel has to commit greater forces and disarm, arrest and kill every Palestinian involved in terrorism." In his estimation, there are 3,000 to 4,000 such Palestinian militants.

To win the battle against terrorism, Israel must also close mosques and schools that are centres of anti-Israel incitement.

He praised the Israeli government for its latest military offensive in the West Bank, but said it should have been launched at least a year ago.

Once terrorism has been destroyed, a battle that Eitam estimates may take at least a decade, Israel should help local Palestinians to rebuild their shattered infrastructure under the umbrella of local autonomy.

Eitam, who described the Oslo peace process as "morally and militarily wrong," said Israel should retain permanent control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel, he added, should not deal with the Palestinian Authority or its president, Yasser Arafat.

"I don't see any reason why Arafat and his gang should enjoy legitimacy and protection from the civilized world."

He claimed there are currently no moderate Palestinian leaders for Israel to negotiate with.

Once the Palestinians are weaned off terrorism, Israel should encourage Egypt to offer them a state in parts of the Sinai Peninsula. "Sinai is an empty area, and we can use it to ease the Palestinian problem."

Jordan, he went on to say, should be the site of a second Palestinian state.

Eitam insisted these plans are very realistic. "It's the most rational and realistic idea. The alternative could be war."

Israel should allow the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to choose where they will live: either in the West Bank and Gaza, without voting rights or sovereignty, or in the new Palestinian states in Sinai and Jordan.

In principle and practice, he said, he opposes transferring, or expelling, Palestinians from their present homes in the West Bank and Gaza.

But in a veiled warning, he said the Palestinians may find themselves stranded in Jordan as refugees should another Mideast war break out.

Eitam called on Israel to inform the Palestinians in no uncertain terms that they will never be granted sovereignty in the West Bank or Gaza.

Sooner or later, the Israeli army will have to crack down on terrorism in Gaza, a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism and of Hamas. But right now, the focus should be on ridding the West Bank of terrorism.

Palestinian militants such as Marwan Barghouti, currently under arrest by Israel, should be assassinated, Eitam said.

He dismissed the concept of unilateral separation as "rubbish," saying it was promoted by Israelis "who brought us Oslo" and would endanger Israelis living in the West Bank and Gaza.

Describing the current regime in Iraq as a threat to Israel, Eitam said that Iraq's non-conventional weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated.

Israel should encourage the United States to unseat Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. But if the Bush administration does not do so, Israel should act. "If we don't, we'll be in great trouble. In two to three years, Iraq will have operational nuclear capabilities."

Eitam, who lives on the Golan Heights with his wife and eight children, speculated that Syria would probably rein in Hezbollah,

Continued on page 14

HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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David Diego Ladowski, 29, *Jerusalem, Israel*
Levina Shapira, 53, *Jerusalem, Israel*

"The Memory of the Righteous is a Blessing" Proverbs 10, 7

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Israel gets economic boost from virtual tourism

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Rabbi John Moscowitz, senior rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple, participated in a recent study tour to Israel, he was accompanied by many more than the 22 people who actually went with him.

He also travelled with a number of "virtual tourists" who accompanied the members of Holy Blossom and Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

The "tourists," who could not take part in the recent visit to The Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, sent money for the travellers to spend for them in Israel.

Rabbi Moscowitz said he appealed to members of his congregation to become virtual tourists after reading an Internet letter from Dvora Levin, a woman who had lived in Israel for 13 years, and now lives in Victoria, B.C.

Levin, who belongs to Congregation Emanu-el, said that before she went on a recent trip to Israel, Rabbi Harry Bremmer, spiritual leader of the congregation, asked members of the community to travel with her virtually.

"Most of the members of my congregation were heartfelt in their support for Israelis, [but] the realities of lives prevented them from coming personally...

"So they sent me $1,700 for me to spend on virtual drinks, meals, services and gifts. They particularly asked me to support small businesses suffering from serious economic losses due to direct and threatened terrorist attacks and lack of tourism," Levin said.

Each time she paid for a meal or made a purchase, she said, she used her own money in addition to the money given to her by the others, thereby strengthening the bond between the Israeli shop owners and her own Victoria community.

Rabbi Moscowitz said that on his trip, "If three of us went to a restaurant, we paid for four or five people, and when we gave money to street musicians, we gave more than we normally would."

The rabbi told his own congregants in his Shabbat sermon and by letter that "we want to do more than study [on this trip]. We also want to be in solidarity with Israelis at this difficult time. We see ourselves as being there, not for ourselves alone, but representing every Jew who would like to be there now, but cannot for any number of reasons."

People responded spontaneously, he said, and they collected about $30,000 in tourist money without effort.

Rabbi Moscowitz said from that money, he also used $4,000 to send Ethiopian children to day camp, and $1,000 for an Ethiopian child to received dental work.

"We tried to give the money in a way that was not patronizing; we tried to be respectful at all times. The idea was not to show pity, but to show that we were standing in solidarity with all Israelis," he said.

Gavin Herman, who belongs to Solel Congregation in Mississauga, also received Levin's letter, and said that when he and his wife Shirley travel to Israel at the end of the summer, they plan on bringing along virtual money.

"I shared the letter with everyone I knew," he said. "It is a wonderful idea."

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'Israel Mall' to showcase Israeli businesses

Tourism is not the only sector of the Israeli economy that has been affected by Palestinian terrorism. Many other businesses are failing or on the verge of being wiped out.

But in a country that went from being mainly desert and swamp to a major economy in only 53 years, the Israeli business community is determined to find a solution.

And Canada's Jewish community is joining the effort.

Beginning Sunday, Aug. 18 and running until the following Sunday, Aug. 25, more than 20 Israeli vendors, supplemented by local distributors and suppliers of Israeli goods, will sell their wares in a 7,000-square-foot facility recently vacated by Seneca College on Finch Avenue mid-way between Dufferin and Keele streets.

The "Israel Mall" is the brainchild of Toronto businessman Israel Kaplan, owner of Israel's The Judaica Centre, who, on a recent visit to Israel, saw the need to support and promote the country's business sector.

A vice-president of the Toronto Zionist Council, Kaplan recruited that organization and, along with Eli Poch, whose Poch Parties and Events has produced many events in the Jewish community, put together a committee of community activists to bring the "Israel Mall" to life.

On display will be gold, silver and other jewelry, pewter, fashions, foods, skincare products, printed material, wood products, Ethiopian embroidery, casual wear, Judaica and entertainment products.

There will be no charge to Israeli vendors for space and facilities, as local organizations are picking up the tab. Local companies are being offered food and merchandise concessions for a fee and the community is being asked to help provide accommodation for visiting merchants.

The "mall," at 1126 Finch Ave. W., Units 16 and 17, will be open from noon to 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays. It will be closed Friday and Saturday for Shabbat.

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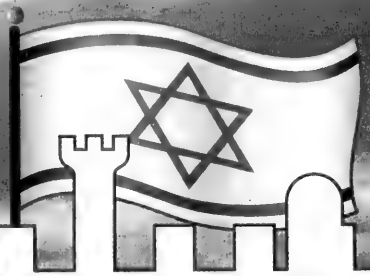

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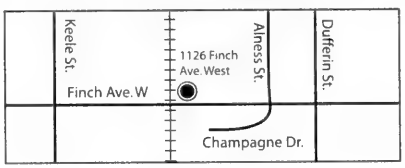

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Beyond bad taste... quite obscene

The scribe for *La Presse* was in earnest last week as he sat attentively in the Ramallah office of Yasser Arafat, the ra'is (president) of the Palestinian Authority, taking notes, noticing expressions, capturing nuances, recording the moment and generally being a willing conduit for the prevarications and further lies of the proven corrupt, deceitful, malevolent leader of the Palestinian people.

"I am personally asking," Arafat grinned, "on behalf of myself and my people, for Canada and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to act quickly to save the peace accord that I signed with my partner Yitzhak Rabin."

Were Arafat's cynical abuse of language and truth and trust not so damnable, it would be laughable. But the blood of nearly 600 Israelis, not to mention that of some 1,500 Palestinians, stains the margins of the reporter's notebook, an ineradicable matting of blood and destruction, framing every word and story that emanate from the pleasant, always hospitable ra'is.

There is no longer a peace accord to be saved.

Ra'is Arafat has murdered the accord as surely as he has all the victims of the past 22 months of Palestinian-initiated terror and intifadah.

"The PLO commits itself... to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations... The PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence..."

These promises, solemnly enshrined and committed to paper officially on Sept. 9, 1993, were but the first of many such promises abjuring violence that Yasser Arafat made to his "partner" Yitzhak Rabin. He made many more promises, equally unambiguous, regarding his commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes and the prevention of terrorism, to other Israeli prime ministers, to the president of the United States and even to the parliament of Norway. But as events were to prove, all his promises were false, his commitments nothing more than a ra'is' ruse.

That the government of Canada did not immediately rebuke Arafat for trying to conscript it in his transparent con game was disheartening, though, alas, not surprising. For Canada's policies and pronouncements in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians have become, shamefully, expedient, rather than moral. Arafat's advisors undoubtedly pointed this out to him. Indeed, Arafat probably felt Canada would be an understanding and even co-operative intermediary for him in light of its recent decision to omit his close collegium of terrorists – Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the PFLP and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade – from the solicitor general's list of "entities knowingly engaged in terrorist activity."

Arafat's ploy surpassed bad taste. It was obscene. But Canada's failure to upbraid him was beyond disappointing. It was unacceptable.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones
SADDAM WANTS TO GIVE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS TO THE PALESTINIANS
IT'S AN ECONOMIC THING.
?
THEY ARE SPENDING TOO MUCH MONEY ON BULLETS AND EXPLOSIVES.

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Expressing fears of younger generation

Even if David Rosenzweig's murder is legally deemed not to have been a hate crime, it is difficult to believe that his Jewish identity was not somehow part of the reason for it, despite the fact that we live in one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

Rosenzweig's death, as well as other violent attacks and implicit sentiments within this country recently, have made it clearer to me that real anti-Semitic threats exist not only in the pages of history, or in other parts of the world, but also right here, in Canada, in the 21st century.

Having just finished undergraduate school, I feel my generation has been virtually untouched by anti-Semitism. I have not known of quotas at universities, conspiracy theories or boycotts that have existed here in the past. I have grown up with limitless options, experiencing my Jewish identity as a source of empowerment and inspiration. Now, for the first time in my life, I am ashamed to say, I feel afraid to be Jewish.

We cannot, however, let the events of the recent past prevent us from fully participating in Jewish life and culture in whatever way we choose. If anything, these attacks give us more reason to be Jewish. Furthermore, we must continue to raise awareness, educate our neighbours and stop hatred, both here and around the world. Our commitment to Canada is also important, for although anti-Semitism exists in this country, it is not tolerated.

Less than 48 hours after the unforgivable murder of Rosenzweig, King David Pizzeria was open for business. We must also continue on, business as usual, remembering who we are as Canadian Jews. Lest we forget, David remained strong as he faced the horrible Goliath.

Lara Rabinovitch
Toronto

* * *

The world doesn't understand

The differences are astounding, but the world community still doesn't get it. It would seem that they want to believe the worst of Jews and Israelis no matter what the facts are.

A Palestinian terrorist wantonly murders students and there is dancing in the streets in Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli forces kill a known terrorist leader and when they find that they made a horrible mistake and also killed 15 civilians in the process (some of them children), they express remorse. Palestinian terrorists murder Jews, tourists and foreign workers and state that it is only the beginning, as if that is something to be proud of. The Israel Defence Forces destroy a terrorist missile and bomb factory and four people are slightly injured. And yet it is Israel that is constantly condemned in the United Nations. It is Israel that the newspapers portray as an oppressive regime.

You know, I think I saw a *Twilight Zone* episode like this. Maybe it is true. Maybe anti-Semitism is growing at an alarming rate. I would like very much to believe that that isn't the case. However, you can't help but notice that no matter how many times you point out the facts to seemingly intelligent people, they always come back with something like, "Well, yeah, but if the Israelis would just..."

It really does feel like we are alone sometimes.

Moshe Yehudaioff
Toronto

* * *

Offended by letter, surprised at *CJN*

I write regarding the letter to the editor by Paula and Lara Braitstein ("Alarmed by Israel's approach," *CJN*, Aug. 8). In their letter, the women express concern about Israel's "violent approach to resolving the conflict." They say they owe their existence to Righteous Gentiles who fought "against the dominant and repressive policies of the Nazi regime," and they feel it is time to fight the same fight for the Palestinians.

This letter deeply offended me.

It equates – unbelievably – the state-sponsored genocidal activites of the Nazis with Israel's acts of self-defence. Moreover, it compares the slaughter of innocent Jews who were killed simply becuase they were Jewish with moves taken to pre-empt Palestinian terrorists who seek to kill and maim as many Jews as possible, with the greater goal of destroying the State of Israel.

As a grandson of Holocaust survivors who bears the names of those who did not survive, I vehemently disagree with the claims that these women make. While it is true that we would rather attain security through "our skill as negotiators, and through our patience, generosity and compassion," the Palestinians have forced our hand. We tried to talk, we made attempts at reconciliation, and all for naught. To blame the Israeli government for the situation and to decry its methods of fighting terrorism is akin to blaming the rape victim for the fact that she was attacked. Now is the time for action, and act we will. We must.

I am troubled when I read apologetic material by Jews who are ashamed at their own strength. My sadness is compounded when these same Jews confuse the issues, rewrite history and make Israel out to be the aggressor. While I recognize *The CJN*'s duty to publish the views of the left as well as the right, I am surprised that *The CJN* printed the Braisteins' letter without considering its offensive nature and the implications of their statements.

David Peto
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Arab world must reform

I want for Arab and Muslim countries to have what we have in Canada and Israel: societies, although imperfect, that are built on tolerance and that reject absolutism.

Ultimately, the Hebrew University massacre was an act so heinous that it demonstrates the necessity for democratic revolutions throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds.

The Iron Curtain of the contemporary Islamic realm must fall so they can get past their single-issue sermonizing. For Zionism, through all of its stumbles, is far from the enemy they declare. Instead, it should be the catalyst that galvanizes the Arab and Muslim worlds – after all their gassings, autocracy, nuclear posturing and utter medievalism – to finally join the rest of us in the modern world.

Jonathan Wexler
Montreal

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Remembering the Romanian chalutzim

By JUDITH ARONSON-SHAHAR

This year marks 120 years since the first chalutzim from Romania immigrated to the Holy Land. They founded the first agrarian colonies, Rosh Pina and Zichron Ya'akov, and faced extremely harsh conditions, but they set a shining path for future pioneers that settled in Eretz Yisrael.

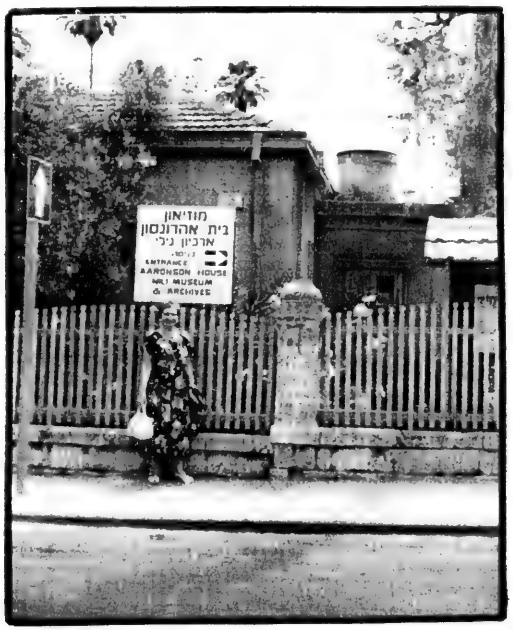
On Aug. 15, 1882, these Romanian emigrants embarked on the ship Thetis from the port of Constanta in Romania. Their destination was Eretz Yisrael. Emotional farewells took place, as a shofar blew a long sound of departure. These brave souls carried with them the dreams of so many. It was a great day in the history of Diaspora Jews and their struggle to return to their biblical homeland.

On the ship were 30 families from the shtetl of Moinesti, Romania, led by Moshe David Shub and 20 families from other towns in the province of Moldova – a total of 228 people. The immigrants weren't poor: some were businessmen, some were religious Jews, and some were well-educated. Young, healthy people were selected, not older than 40 years.

As they arrived on the shores of Palestine, they had difficulties with the Ottoman Authorities, and it took weeks before they found ways to disembark. The group from Moinesti disembarked in Beirut. They traveled on donkeys until they arrived at the town of Safed at the end of September 1882. They rented houses there, and worked in Gai Oni until they settled and built their own houses. The settlement of Gai Oni was later renamed Rosh Pina by David Shub, a biblical reference found in Psalms (118:22). The rest of the group settled in Zammarin, 25 kilometres from Haifa. Zammarin was later renamed Zichron Ya'akov, after Baron Edmond de Rothschild's father Jacob.

The Romanian settlers brought with them tools for agriculture and some construction materials. But they suffered through periods of drought. The soil was parched and the roughness of the terrain hampered their farming. The spread of malaria was a constant danger. The land had to be cultivated from scratch, and finding sufficient irrigation was a constant problem. But they were determined to face all obstacles, no matter how difficult. Later, they were helped financially by Rothschild.

Among the group that went to Zichron Ya'akov was Fishel Aronson, an uncle of my father, Zvi Aronson. In 1890, Sarah Aronson was born. The daughter of Fishel Aronson, Sarah grew to be an educated woman who spoke several languages: Hebrew, Arabic, French and German. She became disgusted by the brutal regime of the Turkish Authority that was then ruling Palestine. Her brother Aaron Aronson, a well-known agronomist, founded a secret intelligence organization called NILI, which was an acronym for *Nezach Yisrael lo yeshakker* (1 Samuel 15:29), meaning "The strength of Israel will not lie." The group passed information to the British in Egypt about the activities of the Turks during World War I.



The author standing in front of the Aronson Museum and NILI Archives.

Sarah was responsible for passing information to the British. But the Turkish Authority succeeded in intercepting a carrier pigeon with a message sent by her brother Aaron from Egypt. The Turks uncovered the espionage network and the Turkish Authority arrested Sarah. She was brutally tortured, but she did not reveal the secrets of the NILI network. After a few days of torture, the Turks wanted to take her to their headquarter in Nazareth and permitted her to change her bloodied clothes. She had a revolver hidden in her bedroom and killed herself. Sarah died in September 1917 at the age of 27. A movie and several books chronicle her life as a martyr and heroine of Israel. Aaron Aronson was killed in a plane crash in 1919.

Rothschild helped finance Rosh Pina's agricultural needs and founded a silk-production factory there. In 1882, he established vineyards and wine industries in Zichron Ya'akov and in Rishon Lezion, a settlement that was established in 1882 by pioneers from Russia. The baron built the water tower in Zichron Ya'akov, and the Ohel Ya'akov synagogue that still exists, in memory of his father Jacob.

Today, memories of the first settlements built by the Romanian chalutzim linger everywhere in those villages. Rosh Pina the mother of the Galilee settlements at the slopes of mount Canaan, overlooking the Golan Heights and Hula valley, has an astonishing view of the surrounding countryside.

Zichron Ya'akov, with its hills, clear air and view of the Mediterranean Sea, offers a wonderful panoramic vista. The museum of Sarah Aronson, its archives, and the story of that remarkable family, is a major attraction for visitors. The Ramat Hanadiv Memorial Gardens, with rosebeds, waterfalls and fragrant scents, are another attraction in the area.

The author, far right, with her group of Hashomer Hatzair pioneers-in-training in Ploesti, Romania.

At the turn of the 20th century, many Romanian Jews left the country by foot, wandering through Europe until they received permission to emigrate to the United States, South America and Canada. They wanted to escape the persecution, anti-Semitism and pogroms that were sweeping Romania.

Before World War II, there were 700,000 Jews in Romania. When Romania became allied with Germany during the war, the Jews from Transylvania were deported to Auschwitz; those from Bessarabia and Bukovina were deported to the Transnistria camp in Ukraine. But Jews from the smaller towns in central Romania were evacuated to large cities. From Moinesti, they were evacuated to Bacau, losing their homes and belongings. After the war, less than 350,000 Jews remained in Romania. Most of them emigrated to Israel. Today, about 14,000 Jews live in Romania.

There is a saying in Romania: "Through Moinesti to Eretz Yisrael." These words still resound in my ears. I heard them when I was a little girl in the shtetl of Moinesti, where I was born. The first chalutzim that immigrated to the Holy Land and founded the first colony Rosh Pina were from my home town.

I am proud of the brave chalutzim that laid the foundation of our future land. Their heroism should not be forgotten, but should live in our hearts and minds. They were visionaries who toiled and submitted to great hardships and brought to fruition the dream of every Jew.

I followed their example and immigrated to Israel during the great exodus from Romania after World War II. I left my parents, sister and brother and I followed in the footsteps of these great pioneers. My land embraced her children with open arms after the Holocaust. "Am Yisrael chai." My people will live forever.

Judith Aronson-Shahar lives in Montreal.

Opinions

How reliable is the news?

Recently, a number of items caught my attention. One dealt with a report that Holland had prohibited shchitah (Jewish ritual slaughter). I was appalled at the news, but a few moments later, I learned from another source on the Internet that the Dutch report was a hoax. I cannot guarantee either the accuracy of the reported prohibition, or that of its absence.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

When faced with extraordinary reports that contradict long tradition and practice, I have made it a habit to wait a few days, or even a week, in order to give any contrary report time to make its appearance. Often enough, the waiting pays off, and I find out that what I previously read was in fact a hoax or an honest mistake.

The fact of the matter is, of course, that we rarely know precisely whether what we read and hear represents the facts. We have to trust the source that transmits the news to us, but even that is not always accurate. I myself have made some egregious errors in that respect, by having written about a subject that was reported in the press and that I criticized vigorously – only to find out some time later that I had been misled and that the object of my criticism was simply non-existent and my article, therefore, had no value whatsoever.

To make reasonably sure that what one writes about can be relied upon by the reader is difficult, because the actual events are not always reliably accessible. That means of course that, from time to time, there will be errors and a writer like me will look foolish for having based an opinion on a hoax or a mistake.

But life in general is like that. We can never be quite sure which way it is moving, or whether what we hear about some events may be relied upon. Absolute certainty simply does not exist. We have to rely on the sources that bring us the news, and if we are satisfied that most of the time what we read or hear is accurate, we rely on those sources. Yet errors will occur, and I can only hope that in my columns you will find but a few. No columnist can guarantee that the source on which he or she relies is itself reliable. The writer is often not in possession of all the facts.

So, dear reader, take everything I write about with a grain of salt, and you will be reasonably safe. I'd like to think that most of the time my communication with you is based on reality and not imagination, and it is in this vein that I thank you for putting up with me and my opinions.

The law of exemption

From now on, the heated Israeli debate over the historic exemption from military service granted to haredi yeshiva students will unfold in a dramatically different context. The recent passage in the Knesset of the "Tal Law" – which entrenched the controversial measure – demonstrates once again the intricate interplay between politics and substance. As usual, the pressures of politics prevailed over principle. The fact that the law was passed while the socio-economic burden of reserve duty is acutely felt by those who do serve highlights, yet again, the current government's preoccupation with its hold on power. Two years ago, then Opposition leader Ariel Sharon vehemently opposed the bill in first reading. Three weeks ago, he lamely explained his change of heart while voting for it in final reading.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

But the genesis of the bill shows that former prime minister Ehud Barak was no less expedient than his successor. He, too, zigzagged between an unequivocal position against the exemption during the 1999 campaign, and a retraction after bringing the ultra-Orthodox party Shas into his government. Once forced by a legal challenge and Supreme Court ruling to legislate on a matter that had been a ministerial directive, Barak appointed the Tal Commission (named for its chair, former Supreme Court Justice Zvi Tal) to solve his political conundrum.

For the first time in Israel's history, the commission attempted to deal with the complexity of this vexing issue. In order to preserve the ability to engage in Torah study, which the rabbis have viewed as equal in importance to military service, the terms of the exemption preclude the students from any gainful employment. As a result, over the last 50 years, some 30,000 men have neither served in the army nor been employed in their twenties, when many of them produce large families. The economic drain on the state's social security system has become untenable. On the other hand, the resentment of the (religious and secular) Israeli public that does serve in the army has deepened to the point of rage.

The commission felt that while the exemption was largely unjustified, revoking it could cause enormous social and political upheaval. Instead, the commission entrenched the exemption in law, while creating an "escape hatch" to deal with its economic aspect and potentially break the cycle of dependence and poverty in many ultra-Orthodox households. From now on, at age 22, yeshiva students are entitled to a "year of decision" during which they can leave the yeshiva without being subjected to the draft. If they return to study, the exemption will hold. If not, they can serve a shortened term in the military or do one year of community service, following which they can pursue any other options without penalty.

The flexible year, during which the men can either work or do nothing, is the one measure that may be the key to a slow but eventually dramatic social change. The hope is that the numbers of haredim who enter the workforce will grow, thereby reducing the burden on the state. In this sense, the Tal Law may accelerate an already discernible process. While the primacy of the diligent Talmudic scholar remains intact, more and more young men and families in that community are clamouring for the opportunities that education and employment can offer. By granting the rabbis the exemption that allows them to preserve their own power base, the law may actually release countervailing forces within the haredi constituency.

None of this will be apparent in the short term. Perhaps as a result, Israelis who are already cynical about the power of the ultra-Orthodox parties have greeted the law with a mixture of apathy and anger. In a symbolic and powerful protest against the unfair burden now formalized in legislation, several hundred reserve soldiers recently returned their military ID cards.

Like most governments, domestic, economic issues rather than the violent conflict against Palestinian terrorism will likely determine the Sharon government's fate. Sharon wants both Shas and Labour in his government. Quite apart from the legal imperative to deal with the issue, the Tal Law was a carrot aimed at keeping Shas in the government as long as possible. Sharon's next political hurdle will be the Knesset debate over the draconian 2003 budget.

Canada in Jerusalem

At the best of times, a visit to Israel, and especially to Jerusalem, has something surreal about it. And the early days of this past July were far from the best of times.

There we were, a small band of Israeli and non-Israeli (mainly Canadian) academics attending a Canadian studies conference at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This was the ninth such conference in Jerusalem, held every two years, and sponsored by the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies. It was the first Canadian studies conference since the outbreak of the second intifadah.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

It was a miracle the conference was held at all. Other professional conferences in Israel had been postponed after the terror attacks began. People were not prepared to come.

So there we sat, Israelis and (this year mainly Jewish) non-Israelis, and listened and debated, often with great passion. Sessions were held on the Toronto school of communication (Marshall McLuhan and Harold Innis), on the future of Canadian cities, on the impact of Canadian law on Israeli law and on Canadian artists and writers from Emily Carr to Margaret Atwood, from Dionne Brand to Eli Mandel.

One sensed that for many of the Israelis, this was a kind of psychic escape into Canada. Always lurking in the background were the threat of terror and the heightened security precautions. Everyone had a story of a tragic loss or a near miss.

Why Canadian studies in Jerusalem, and why the interest by Israeli academics? At first glance, the differences between Canada and Israel seem enormous. Canada is a resource-rich, large country, at peace with its neighbours, with a western European political culture. Israel is none of those. But probe deeper and similarities appear.

Both are relatively new societies, built on continuing waves of immigration. Both integrate newcomers into a changing host society, while clashing with the pre-existing inhabitants. To be sure, the Zionist pioneers in Palestine had a far stronger historical, cultural and ongoing demographic tie to the Holy Land than did the French and English colonists in New France and British North America. But both Canada and Israel have yet to forge an equitable accommodation with the First Nations and Palestinians who were there when the new settlers arrived.

Both, too, in their own way wrestle with survival. For Canada, survival, as described effectively by Atwood, refers to the challenge first of geography and climate, a desolate, hostile terrain and a biting cold. For the early Zionists, there was a comparable struggle against the elements, unfertile land and desert heat.

There were, of course, other dimensions of survival. For Canada, survival also meant resisting the bullying or seductive force of American power, to forge and maintain political and cultural autonomy. For Israel – and for Jews in general – survival has had both cultural and physical dimensions. Resisting assimilation into the non-Jewish world and creating a distinctive Israeli cultural identity remain key priorities. But as important has been the fight for existential survival against the threats of both worldwide anti-Semitism and the fierce hatred of Israel by Palestinians and large chunks of the Arab/Muslim world. This hatred Canada is spared.

When peace comes to the Middle East – not if but when – and Israel alongside a new state of Palestine begins the slow process of integration into the region, a new parallel between Canada and Israel might emerge. A changed Middle East that welcomed Israel, that sought trade, joint economic enterprise, travel and cultural co-operation with Israel, might ironically pose a different sort of survival threat. The Arab proportion within Israel itself would likewise continue to grow. Osmosis, even bi-directional osmosis, might lead to a multi-dimensional convergence over time. With carrots rather than sticks, Israel's present European and Jewish character might be challenged.

This would be a welcome if still distant change for Israelis, compared to the present death and destruction. In this case, the Canadian-American analogy might be of renewed interest, though the cultural diffusion is one-way – the impact of Canada on American life is as yet minimal. Canadians have much experience in resisting Americanization. A new round of studies and conferences linking Canada and Israel would be ever more timely.

The Kirshner File

Ana Pauker: a portrait of a true believer

In 1948, when the Cold War was simmering to a boil, *Time* magazine carried the portrait of a stolid middle-aged woman on one of its covers. Ana Pauker, *Time* claimed, was "the most powerful woman alive."

Pauker probably deserved the tribute. Apart from being a key player in Romania's Communist party, she was the Romanian foreign minister from 1947 to 1952.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Supposedly the first female in modern times to hold that position, Pauker was also the first Jew in Romanian history to reach such giddy heights. In a nation deeply stained by anti-Semitism and disdainful of gender equality, Pauker's achievement is noteworthy.

A lifelong Stalinist apparatchik, she was paradigmatic of an era when Jews were drawn to Bolshevism in disproportionate numbers and, for a while, played a leadership role in Soviet and European Communist regimes.

Although she was considered a formidable world figure in her day, Pauker is barely known outside Romania today and has sunk into historical obscurity, perhaps because she neglected to write her memoirs.

Throughout her career, she was known as a dedicated, even fanatical, Communist whose subservience to Moscow was legendary. But according to Robert Levy, an American scholar who scrupulously examines her life in *Ana Pauker: The Rise and Fall of a Jewish Communist* (University of California Press), much of the conventional wisdom about her turns out to be largely mythical.

As he puts it: "The evidence reveals a person characterized more by contradictions than by dogmatism: a Communist leader fanatically loyal to Stalin and the Soviet Union but actively opposing the Stalinist line and deliberately defying Soviet directives on a number of important fronts – uniquely, during the perilous years of Stalin's final years."

Levy also believes that, unlike some Communist leaders, Pauker was untainted by self-hatred. Though disconnected from Jews and Judaism, she promoted an independent line on Jewish issues, notably emigration. Thanks in no small part to Pauker's powers of persuasion, Romania permitted tens of thousands of Jews to immigrate to Israel after the Soviet Union adopted a hostile stance toward the Jewish state.

She was born in 1893, in the predominantly Moldavian Jewish village of Codaesti, and Rabinshohn was her original maiden name. Hersh, her father, was successively a Hebrew teacher, cantor and ritual butcher. Sarah, her mother, was apparently the pillar of the family.

Blessed with an exceptional intelligence, Pauker graduated from a Jewish school in Bucharest at the top of her class. To further her education, she worked as a seamstress. In 1910 or 1911, she began teaching Hebrew and Judaism at her alma mater.

To be a Jew in early 20th century Romania, an impoverished nation, was to be an outcast. From the 1860s onwards, the Romanian parliament passed a series of draconian edicts drastically limiting Jewish participation in the economy and rendering many Jews stateless.

Disgusted by the rampant anti-Semitism and the widespread poverty, Pauker flocked to the banner of radicalism in 1915, joining the Romanian Workers' Social Democratic party. Most Jews, in response to their marginalization in Romanian society, joined the Zionist movement.

Contrary to the claims of some anti-Semitic Romanian nationalists, Jews never dominated the Communist party in any numerical sense. But in the aftermath of World War II, Jews proved vital in consolidating Romania's new Communist regime, even though they made up only about seven percent of the party's membership.

In 1918, she married Marcel Pauker, an assimilated Romanian Jew and fellow Communist who is thought to have died in a Siberian gulag in the late 1930s, when Stalin's purges reached an apogee.

During her formative years in the party, Pauker recruited new members, worked in the trade union of a tobacco factory and led a strike in another plant. In 1923, she was arrested and spent four months in prison.

Pauker's organizational talents were subsequently put to use by Communist parties in Germany, France and Austria. After completing an eight-month course at a Moscow "finishing school" for Communist cadres, she was dispatched to France as a Communist International (Comintern) organizer. Then she was sent back to Moscow.

Returning to Romania in 1934, Pauker was entrusted with the task of organizing the party's anti-fascist Popular Front campaign. She was arrested a year later, and put on trial in 1936. She remained in jail until 1940, when she was released into the custody of the Soviet Union. Stalin had a high opinion of Pauker, regarding her as Romania's leading Communist.

From her base in the Soviet Union, Pauker directed the Free Romania radio station and helped draw up a platform for a National Democratic Front in Romania. She flew back to Bucharest in 1944, working behind the scenes to ensure Communist party dominance in the post-war period. When she was appointed foreign minister, Pauker became the first Jew in Romanian history to attain a ministerial post.

Ana Pauker

Through 1947, in compliance with Soviet policy, the Romanian government tolerated legal and illegal Jewish emigration. But in 1948, Romania shut its gate to all but a trickle of Jewish emigrants. Then, in a dramatic reversal in 1950 and 1951, Romania permitted roughly 100,000 Jews to leave. The majority went to Israel.

The mass exodus was touched off by several factors: an economic slowdown, currency reforms and a rising tide of anti-Semitism, caused in part by the conspicuous presence of Jews in the Communist party hierarchy.

Certain elements in the party, led by its secretary-general, Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, supported the departure of Jews so as to open up new jobs for ethnic Romanians and to rid the country of unassimilated Jews.

As for Pauker, she wholeheartedly backed the right of Jews to leave, and opposed plans to dissolve Zionist groups. "We can't hold on to people by force," she is said to have declared. Over her objections, the government halted Jewish emigration altogether in 1952.

Pauker's enthusiasm for emigration, Levy suggests, was a function of her commitment to Israel's existence, her aversion to anti-Semitism and her emotional attachment to her Jewish background. In comparison with other Jewish Communists, Pauker never rejected her Jewish origins, he quotes her son-in-law as saying.

Pauker, who had facilitated her father's immigration to Palestine in 1947, was arrested in 1953, charged with fostering a "nationalist attitude" toward emigration to Israel and serving as "an agent for international Zionism." She was also accused of having "deviationist" views on agrarian reform. Suffering from cancer, she lacked both the physical and the psychological strength to fight back.

Pauker's downfall, spearheaded by Gheorghiu-Dej, coincided with a wave of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and its East European satellites.

Although another Jew, Simion Bughici, replaced her in the foreign ministry, Levy points out that Jews from all walks of life were purged from the government and state institutions.

Pauker's arrest, he adds, signalled an intensification of the "anti-cosmopolitan" campaign launched by Moscow against Jewish intellectuals.

With Stalin's death, Pauker's long-awaited show trial was cancelled. Levy believes that her release from prison was arranged by none other than Vyacheslav Molotov, a senior member of the Soviet government.

Her house arrest rescinded in 1954, she was allowed to live with her children, and was given a minor job as an editor in a publishing house. Yet Pauker's past as a Stalinist continued to haunt her. In 1956, following Moscow's denunciation of Stalinism, the Romanian Communist party blamed Pauker and her allies for the Stalinist manifestations that had infected Romania. And so she remained a pariah until her death.

Pauker died on June 3, 1960, but the Romanian press ignored her death completely. Aside from Pauker's family, only four friends appeared at her cremation. When the director of the crematorium asked whether they wanted *The Internationale* played, as was customary for party officials, the family had him play Beethoven's Third Symphony instead.

This incident notwithstanding, Pauker was an unrepentant Communist to her last breath, being absolutely convinced that "the ideology (would) triumph."

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Upcoming summit may be another anti-Israel forum

By KEITH LANDY

Guest Voice

For years, Palestinian leaders have campaigned to internationalize their conflict with Israel, to avoid compliance with agreements mandating direct bilateral negotiations toward peace. They have sought to widen the circle to gain worldwide support for their "struggle"; to shift accountability for the plight of the Palestinian people from their own corrupt, inept and violent leadership onto Israel's shoulders; and to try to force Israel into concessions it would otherwise not make in the context of a bilateral peace process.

Palestinian delegations have become particularly adept at manipulating international forums and conferences and highjacking the agendas of these gatherings for their own narrow political purposes. Their target of choice has long been the United Nations where a bloc of Arab, Muslim and non-aligned member countries routinely helps pass strident and inflammatory anti-Israel resolutions and prevents Israel from fully participating in UN activities. We see this regularly in New York (General Assembly and Security Council) and Geneva (Commission on Human Rights) and we also saw it, of course, at last year's UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa, which, in addition to the anti-Israel elements, was also notorious for its vicious anti-Semitism.

With this background, one can more readily understand the concern of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) that this year's UN international conference, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), might provide yet another stage for the vilification of Israel and the Jewish people. The summit, scheduled for Aug. 26- Sept. 4, in Johannesburg, South Africa, comes a decade after the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and is designed to develop recommendations to implement the unfinished agenda from 10 years ago and to plot a course for the future of sustainable development. Heads of state or government and other senior political leaders will lead delegations from around the world to the main summit while a parallel forum of non-governmental organizations is scheduled to take place off-site. Environment Minister David Anderson and Minister for International Co-operation Susan Whelan will lead Canada's delegation and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is considering attending as well.

Anti-Israel protesters march in Durban, South Africa last year. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Given the disaster of Durban, considerable time and energy has been invested to make sure that Johannesburg is a success. Thankfully, the draft plans that have emerged from the preparatory commissions to the WSSD, unlike those that set the agenda for Durban, are free of inflammatory anti-Israel language. There is a general statement about "foreign occupation" as an impediment to sustainable development, but no specific Middle East references.

The prevalent sense to date is that Durban-style rhetoric is unwelcome in Johannesburg and that every effort will be made to keep the summit's focus on the priority issues at hand, which include sustainability, pollution, poverty, food, depletion of resources and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Still, the opportunity for politicization remains because the summit will also be examining the more vague social and human implications of such matters as well as issues dealing with "good governance." There will also likely be ongoing demonstrations in the streets of Johannesburg that might be problematic.

The Canadian delegation in Durban did excellent work in toning down the language of the final WCAR documents and they swiftly dissociated Canada from the remaining objectionable sections dealing with the Middle East. CJC has flagged our concerns about the WSSD to the Canadian government and asked Canada to play the same role in Johannesburg as necessary. We have received assurances that Canadian officials (Environment Canada, CIDA and Foreign Affairs are the lead departments, together with select parliamentarians and NGOs) will vigorously oppose efforts by Palestinians or other Arabs to politicize the WSSD with anti-Israel resolutions or language.

It is hoped that the WSSD will be allowed to complete its important work free of efforts to impose narrow political agendas. Palestinian leaders should focus on controlling terrorism to set the stage for renewed peace talks with Israel instead of derailing international conferences that have nothing to do with Middle East politics.

Keith Landy is national president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

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Falafel stand bombing shocks MPs' assistants

Continued from page 1

Welcome to life in Israel in the year 2002.

Back in Canada, Gilbert said the suicide attack was "a little nerve-racking."

"In a way, I think it was helpful to us all when there was an incident, because it helped us understand better what the Israelis go through on a daily basis."

Despite the attack, Gilbert was effusive when recalling her week in Israel. The beauty of the country, its sandy beaches, its holy places, its ancient architecture, all left an indelible mark on her. Especially memorable, she said, was an impromptu "baptism" in the Jordan River – not by a Christian cleric, but by a Jewish man accompanying the trip.

"I figured Jesus was baptized by a Jew; why can't I be?" she said.

Gilbert was one of seven parliamentary assistants who took part in the mission, which was organized by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Jewish community's political lobbying arm on Israel.

Roy Rempel was also fascinated by what he saw. A defence and foreign affairs analyst for Opposition Leader Stephen Harper, he was quite familiar with the issues facing Israel. Yet he was surprised by how small the country is and by the unmilitarized atmosphere in its major cities.

"I had certain preconceptions of what security would be like – streets cordoned off, metal detectors at shopping centres. That wasn't the case, and I was surprised."

Rempel was also taken aback at "the extent to which Israelis continue to go to restaurants and to get on with their lives."

Rempel admitted he felt somewhat ill at ease during portions of the trip. On their first night in Israel, the group stopped at an outdoor falafel restaurant and he felt somewhat nervous.

Beyond experiencing the uncertainty felt by ordinary Israelis, Rempel found the trip illuminating in a broader, strategic sense. During a visit to Israel's northern frontier, a trip that only took a few hours, he witnessed for himself the pre-1967 borders and "the security dilemma Israel faces up there."

Attack 'a little nerve-racking'

Hills in Lebanon overlook the northern town of Metulla and "you get a sense of how vulnerable those communities are. Hezbollah positions look down on a child's wading pool at [Metulla's] Canada Centre," he noted.

Gilbert, who was quite familiar with the Israeli scene because of her work in Cotler's office, said she was scared during the visit to northern Israel, when the group toured an Israeli military outpost and came "face-to-face with Hezbollah."

The Shiite terrorist group has erected a billboard facing Israel on which it placed enlarged photos showing mutilated Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon.

"Hezbollah taunts the soldiers on a daily basis," she said. "The fact they [Israeli soldiers] see this every day and managed to stay restrained was amazing to me," Gilbert said.

"The resilience of the Israeli people was amazing to me, that they go with normal lives even though things are blowing up around them. They have amazing resilience," she said.

A visit to the Shaare Zedek Hospital was a highlight for Laurie Scott, parliamentary assistant to Sen. Consiglio Di Nino, a Progressive Conservative.

Because of its location in Jerusalem, the hospital treats many bombing victims. A nurse by training, Scott was impressed by the hospital's efficiency in dealing with trauma, its triage system and its contingency plans in case of a chemical weapons attack.

Gilbert was moved by the personal story of a young X-ray technician who was badly burned and suffered shrapnel wounds while trying to help bombing victims on Ben Yehuda Street.

The woman now visits terror victims soon after they are brought to hospital and shows them a photograph of herself, with her face badly burned, taken immediately after she was hurt. Thanks to reconstructive surgery, she remains an attractive woman and she tells other victims they too will survive and be okay, Gilbert said.

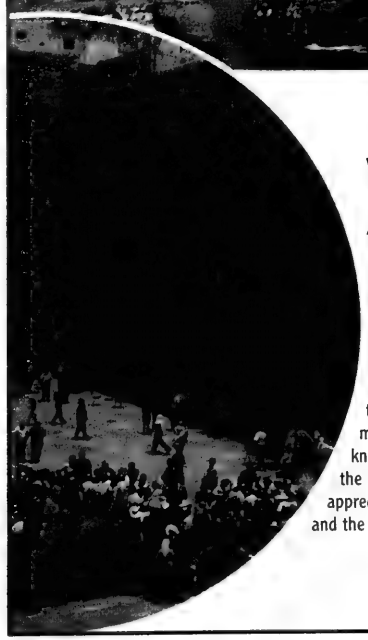
The group also met with three Israeli parliamentarians as well as spokespeople for the Palestinian Authority. Rempel would have liked to have met more Palestinians, but he said he got a sense of how grim things are for the Palestinians and their economy. "Because of the actions of the extremists, Israel has to take security measures... It just looks like a grim and wretched situation, something created by the extremists."

Scott said: "I kind of felt sad. There was so much anger and animosity between the two sides. That was kind of discouraging. I felt both sides were so exhausted and angry and there wouldn't be any negotiations... I'm so Canadian: 'Why can't you get along?'"

David Cooper, CIC assistant director of government relations, said previous CIC missions to Israel involved MPs and senators. It was thought that showcasing Israel to parliamentary assistants would help expose an important group to the realities of the situation. "They're the ones often helping their bosses doing the research, so we felt it would be good to reach out to this level of the Ottawa political establishment."

The visit to Israel "puts faces on the human situation," Cooper said. "They come away with a very positive feeling about Israeli society."

Others who took part in the trip included Mark Buzan, who works with Canadian Alliance MP Jason Kenney; Rob Moore, assistant to Stephen Harper; Patrick St. Jacques, assistant to Bloc Quebecois MP Richard Marceau; and Adam Dubroy, assistant to Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett.



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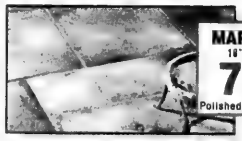
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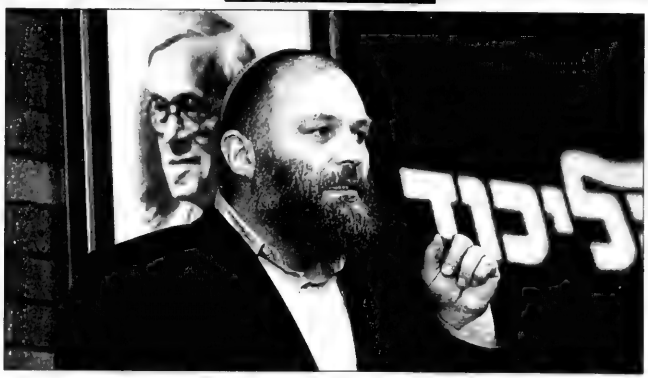

Efraim (Effi) Eitam, leader of the National Religious Party (NRP).

Eitam slams Israel's Arab community leaders

Continued from page 5

and Lebanon might sign a peace treaty with Israel, should the United States depose Saddam Hussein and bring a regime change to Iraq.

Turning to domestic issues, Eitam charged that Israel's Arab community is led by an "immature and irresponsible leadership."

He suggested that Israeli Arab parliamentarians such as Ahmed Tibi and Azmi Bishara support the current Palestinian uprising and want to transform Israel into a secular state. "They want to destroy Israel as a Jewish state."

However, he noted, most Israeli Arabs are good citizens and deserve equal rights. In a vague warning, he said "it will be tragic if they don't change their leadership."

Eitam said that a bill submitted recently by NRP Knesset member Rabbi Haim Druckman to bar Israeli Arabs from buying homes in Jewish communities on state-owned land was widely misunderstood as being racist.

The intent of the legislation, which has since been shelved, was to reduce tensions between Jews and Arabs, Eitam claimed.

Eitam, who became a ba'al tshuvah after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, said his main objective as a politician is to make Israel into a genuinely Jewish state, grounded in Jewish moral and ethical values.

Israel, he observed, faces a crisis of identity. Israelis have not paid enough attention to who they are. Israel should not be "a pale imitation of the secular West... Israel deserves to exist only if it's a Jewish state."

Lest he be misunderstood, Eitam said he is not working to turn Israel into a theocracy. He wants it to be a modern state based on strict Jewish values.

Looking ahead, he said he hopes to be Israel's first religious prime minister. "It's time we had a prime minister who wears a kippah. Israel is much more ripe and ready today to accept such a leader. I want to be the prime minister who brings Israel out of its present crisis."

Israel, he said, is in dire need of politicians steeped in Jewishness.

Eitam believes that the NRP, with five Knesset seats, can win as many as 10 or 11 in the next general election.

He thinks the party has a "natural constituency" of up to 15 or 16 seats.

His strategy is to form an alliance with right-wing parties such as Likud and Shas.

If his tactics pay off, the NRP could well end up holding the balance of power in Israeli politics.

"I want the NRP to re-energize and revitalize the national Jewish camp and unite Israelis who believe that Israel should be a Jewish state for Jewish people in Eretz Yisrael."

In closing, he said, "We have to make sure that Israel enjoys a vast Jewish majority." In this spirit, he called on Jews from Canada and the United States to make aliyah.

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Sam (Shlomo) Laufer ז"ל
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Francesca David, Executive Director *Toby Feldberg, Chair*

Greater Toronto Area

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

סטאַלינס פאַרברעכנס, 50 יאָר שפּעטער

פון אַלעק סילווער

לעצטן מאָנטיק, דעם 12טן אויגוסט, איז געוואָרן 50 יאָר זינט עס זיינען אומגעקומען די וויכטיקסטע יידישע שרייבער און קולטור־פירער אין געוועזענעם סאָוועטך פאַרבאַנד. „אומגעקומען" איז נאָר מילד געזאָגט. אין דער אמתן זיינען זיי געווען הרוגי־מלכות. אין דער אמתן זיינען זיי אַלע דערמאָרדעט געוואָרן אין די לעצטע פינצטערע יאָרן פון גרויזאַמען סטאַליך־רעזשים, נאָך דעם ווי זיי זיינען דורכגעגאַנגען די שוידערלעכסטע פּייניקונגען. זיי זיינען זינד איז געווען דאָס, וואָס זיי זיינען געווען *יידישע* שרייבער; ווייל זיי האָבן אַרויסגעברענגט צום בולטסטן די *יידישקייט*, פון זייער שאַפונג אין דער קאָמוניסטישער מדינה. דורך זייער טויט זיינען זיי געהייליקט געוואָרן. מעגן מיר דעריבער עפנטלעך זאָגן, אַז דעם 12טן אויגוסט 1952 זיינען פאַרשניטן געוואָרן די יידיש־סאָוועטישע שרייבער קדושים. בכדי צו באַגרייפן דעם פולן באַטייט פון סטאַלינס פּאָגראָם אויף דער סאָוועטיש־יידישער קולטור איז נויטיק צו באַטראַכטן די דאָזיקע געשעעניש אין אַ ברייטערער ראַם.

אין רעטראָספּעקט קען מען זען, אַז דאָס איז נאָר געווען איינע פון די דראַמאַטישסטע מאָמענטן צווישן די פאַרפאָלגונגען, וואָס האָבן זיך דעמאָלט אויסגעשפּרייט איבער דעם דריי און אַ האַלב מיליאָניקן רוסיש־יידישן ישוב אין די יאָרן 1948־1952. סטאַלינס וואַקסנדיקער אַנטיסעמיטיזם האָט אים דערפירט צום גרויזאַמען באַשלוס צו ליקווידירן יעדן סימן פון אייגנאַרטיקן יידיש געזעלשאַפטלעך און קולטורעל לעבן. מיט אומבאַגרענעצטער שנאה האָט ער צעשמעטערט און פאַרניכטעט די יידישע אינסטיטוציעס, אָנגעוואָרפן אַ שרעק אויף דער יידישער באַפעלקערונג און אַרעסטירט די הויפּט קולטור־שעפערישע און געזעלשאַפטלעכע כוחות.

נאָכן פאַבריצירן דעם טרויעריק־באַקאַנטן בילבול אויף אַ גרופּע יידישע דאָקטוירים, אַז זיי פּלאַנירן צו פאַרסמען די קאָמוניסטישע פירערס, האָבן סטאַלינס אַגענטן, אין יאַנואַר 1948, ברוטאַל דערמאָרדעט דעם גרויסן יידישן בינע קינסטלער און אָנגעזעענסטן פאַרשטייער פון סאָוועטישן יידנטום — שלמה מיכאָעלס. דאָס איז געווען ווי אַ סיגנאַל אָנצוהייבן דעם פּאָגראָם.

מען האָט געשלאָסן דאָס יידישע מלוכה־טעאַטער אין מאָסקווע. דער בינע־מייסטער בנימין זוסקין איז אַ שווער קראַנקער אַרעסטירט געוואָרן. מען האָט פאַרזיגלט דעם „יידישן אַנטי־פאַשיסטישן קאָמיטעט" און זיין צייטשריפט „איינקייט" איז אָפּגעשטעלט געוואָרן. די מיטגלידער פון קאָמיטעט זיינען איינציקווייז פאַרשווונדן געוואָרן אין מיטן דער נאַכט. דער יידישער ביכער פאַרלאַג איז פאַרמאַכט געוואָרן און אַ גאָר גרויסע צאָל יידישע ביכער זיינען פאַרברענט געוואָרן. מען האָט אַפילו צעשמאָלצן די מעטאַלענע יידישע דרוק־אותיות.

סוף 1948 און אָנהייב 1949 האָט די מערדערישע געהיים־פּאָליציי אַרעסטירט די וויכטיקסטע יידישע שרייבערס אין סאָוועטך־פאַרבאַנד. צווישן זיי האָבן זיך געפונען: דוד בערגעלסאָן, זרח גרינבערג, דוד האָפשטיין, יחזקאל דאָברושין, נחום לעווין, פּרץ מאַרקיש, יצחק נוסינאָוו, דער נסתר, אנא סטעלמאַך, דוד בער סלוצקי, אליהו ספּיוואַק, משה פּינטשעווסקי, איציק פעפער, לייב קוויטקאָ, הערץ ריווקין און אַ צאָל אַנדערע. במשך פון יאָרן זיינען זיי שטאַרק געפּייניקט געוואָרן און לסוף זיינען זיי דערשאָסן געוואָרן אין די גיהנום קעלערן פון דער לוביאָנקע־תפיסה אין מאָסקווע דעם 12טן אויגוסט 1952. בלויז געציילטע האָבן איבערגעלעבט סטאַלינען און זיינען צוריקגעקומען לעבעדיקע אָבער שטאַרק קראַנקע.

צו דער פופציקסטער יאָרצייט גיבן מיר אָפּ דעם פאַרדינטן כבוד צו די מאַרטירערס פון גרויליקן סטאַליך־רעזשים. מיר רופן דאָס יידישע פאָלק, דאָס **גאַנצע** יידישע פאָלק צו זאָגן אַ קאָלעקטיוון קדיש נאָך די דאָזיקע קרבנות, וועלכע וועלן אויף אייביק פאַרבלייבן אין זכרון פון יידישן פאָלק.

GENERATIONS MEET:
Bialik Hebrew Day School grade 8 students, along with seniors from the Bernard Betel Centre, enjoyed an intergenerational dance at the closing program of this year's activities in June. Students and seniors met several times during the year to share stories, participate in craft activities and develop an appreciation of each others' life experiences.

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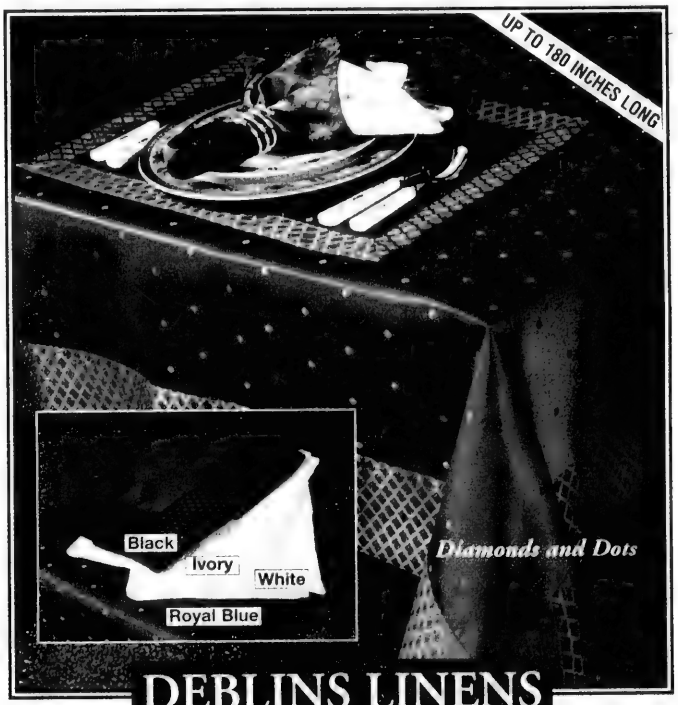

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Jewish Life

Behaving as if...

By RABBI MATTHEW KAUFMAN

With the advent of the month of Elul, we enter the season of tshuvah, of repentance. It is a time for solemn reflection and a time for re-evaluating ourselves on a personal level and on a communal level. It is also a time for us to focus on our relationship with God. These grand themes can be overwhelming, but we have helpful tools built into our liturgy which guide us through this season.

Rabbinic Reflections

One of these tools is the blowing of the shofar throughout the month of Elul. The Rambam tells us that the shofar is a spiritual alarm clock, telling us to awaken our spiritual selves and do the hard work of tshuvah, of repentance. The shofar jars us awake to do the things we should be doing year round – to make amends with others and to change our behaviour for the better.

Another custom associated with the month of Elul is the recitation of Slichot, or penitential prayers. The Sephardi community begins reciting them much earlier than the Ashkenazi community, but despite the difference in timing, the intent is the same. The primary liturgical focus of the Slichot service is the recitation of the 13 Attributes. These 13 Attributes are, as the late chief rabbi of Great Britain, J.H. Hertz, put it, a kind of "definition" of God in ethical terms, and they are derived from verses in Exodus (34: 6-7). They read, 1) the Lord, 2) the Lord, 3) God, 4) compassionate, 5) gracious, 6) slow to anger, 7) abundant in goodness, 8) and in truth, 9) merciful, 10) forgiving iniquity, 11) forgiving transgression, 12) forgiving sin, 13) and who cleanses. This listing of divine attributes suggests that what is of overwhelming importance to Jews is describing holy behaviours.

This emphasis on holy behaviours is especially important to bear in mind as we reflect upon the image of God as *Melech*, Divine Sovereign, that is so integral to our High Holy Day liturgy. One thousand years ago, Rav Saadia Gaon wrote a list of the Top 10 reasons why we blow shofar on Rosh Hashanah. The first of these highlights the traditional conception of God as sovereign. On Rosh Hashanah, we symbolically acknowledge God as the sovereign of the universe. As is customary at the beginning of a reign, we sound a trumpet (the shofar) before the newly crowned king. This public recognition shows that we accept the Creator's sovereignty upon ourselves.

But conceiving of God as a king is problematic because it makes God out to be almost human. Yet, problematic as it is, this imagery is universally retained in virtually every Jewish community. Is this because Judaism teaches us that we must believe in God as a male sovereign? No. This traditional imagery is in place to cause a certain reaction within us. It has the potential to elicit from within us a certain mindset and a corresponding desire to behave in such a way that the overall goal of the High Holy Days – tshuvah – is achieved.

If we can stretch ourselves a bit, to imagine God as a sovereign seated in judgment in heaven, then we can open ourselves to the positive, meaningful action that Judaism asks of us. We are prompted to remind ourselves of our own humble nature and of the importance of examining our own deeds, feeling that we are open and exposed before a power greater than ourselves.

What is required is not a specific doctrinal set of beliefs, but rather positive action and holy behaviours. We must act as if we had to report our own behaviour before a king. May this penitential season effect within us the desire to change ourselves and our world for the better.

Rabbi Kaufman is spiritual leader of the Lodzer Centre Congregation in Toronto.

Executing killers is never immoral

MYTH:

Israel's policy of assassinating Palestinian terrorists is immoral and counterproductive.

FACT:

Israel is faced with a nearly impossible situation in attempting to protect its civilian population from Palestinians who are prepared to blow themselves up to murder innocent Jews. One strategy for dealing with the problem has been the peace process. Since 1993, Israel believed that negotiating was the way to reach peace with the Palestinians, but after Israel gave back much of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and offered virtually all of the remainder, the Palestinians rejected their concessions and chose to use violence to try to force Israel to capitulate to all their demands.

A second strategy Israel has used is the "exercising of restraint," that is, not responding to Palestinian violence. The international community lauds Israel when it simply turns the other cheek after heinous attacks. While this restraint might win praise from world leaders, it does nothing to assuage the pain of the victims or to prevent further attacks. Moreover, the same nations that urge restraint to Israel have often reacted forcefully when put in similar situations. For example, the British assassinated Nazis after World War II and targeted IRA terrorists in Northern Ireland.

In April 1986, after the United States determined that Libya had directed the terrorist bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that killed one American and injured 200 others, it launched a raid on a series of Libyan targets, including President Muammar Qaddafi's home. This was widely viewed as an assassination attempt. Former U.S. president Ronald Reagan denied it, but later admitted "it was possible, perhaps probable, that he might be at or near the intelligence centre when our planes struck." Qaddafi escaped, but his infant daughter was killed and two of his other children were wounded. In addition, a missile went off track and caused fatalities in a civilian neighbourhood. Reagan justified the action as self-defence against Libya's state-sponsored terrorism.

"As a matter of self-defence, any nation victimized by terrorism has an inherent right to respond with force to deter new acts of terror. I felt we must show Qaddafi that there was a price he would have to pay for that kind of behaviour and that we wouldn't let him get away with it."

Israel has chosen a third option – eliminating the masterminds of terror attacks. It is a policy that has caused great debate in Israel, but is supported by a vast majority of the public (70 per cent in an August 2001 *Ha'aretz* poll). The policy is also supported by the American public according to an August 2001 poll by the America Middle East Information Network. The survey found that 73 per cent of respondents felt Israel was justified in killing terrorists if it had proof they were planning bombings or other attacks that could kill Israelis.

The issue became even clearer for the United States after the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "I think when you are attacked by a terrorist and you know who the terrorist is and you can fingerprint back to the cause of the terror, you should respond."

Targeting terrorists has a number of benefits. First, it places a price on terror: Israelis can't be attacked with impunity anymore, for terrorists know that if they target others, they will become targets themselves. Second, it is a method of self-defence: pre-emptive strikes eliminate the people who would otherwise murder Jews. While it is true that there are others to take their place, they can do so only with the knowledge they too will become targets. Third, it throws the terrorists off-balance. Extremists can no longer nonchalantly plan an operation; rather, they must stay on the move, look over their shoulders at all times and work much harder to carry out their goals. Fourth, eliminating terrorists can prevent attacks.

Of course, the policy also has costs. Besides international condemnation, Israel risks revealing informers who often provide the information needed to find the terrorists. Soldiers also must engage in sometimes high-risk operations that occasionally cause tragic collateral damage to property and persons.

The most common criticism of "targeted killings" is that they do no good because they perpetuate a cycle of violence whereby the terrorists seek revenge. This is probably the least compelling argument against the policy, because the people who blow themselves up to become martyrs could always find a justification for their actions. They are determined to bomb the Jews out of the Middle East and will not stop until their goal is achieved.

Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.*

Jewish Life

The heretic and the sage

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

In this week's portion, we read one of the few commandments that tell us of the positive consequences attached to fulfilling this commandment. The Torah states that if you come upon a bird nesting on her eggs, you must not reach under her to take the eggs. You must chase away the bird and then take the eggs. If you do this, the text comments that things will go well with you and you will have a long life.

The only other commandment that promises a long life if you fulfill it is the commandment to honour your parents. Interestingly, both commandments involve respecting the parent-child relationship, even though it inconveniences you.

These two commandments gain notoriety in the life of Elisha ben Abuya, a rabbinic sage who lived approximately 2,000 years ago. Elisha has entered Jewish text as "Aher" or "the Other" since he chose to reject all his learning and become a heretic.

According to the midrash, Elisha was once observing a father and son as they were in the field. The father asked the son to climb a tree and gather some eggs out of a visible nest. The son, respecting his father, climbed the tree and began to chase the mother bird away so he could gather the eggs. In performing this act, the son was fulfilling both commandments that explicitly promise long life as their outcome. However, while chasing the bird, the son fell from the tree and died. Ironically, the deeds that should have produced long life instead led to the boy's death.

Elisha lost his faith at that moment and denounced all his learning in favour of the foreign philosophies and scientific studies of his time. From that moment onward Elisha becomes "the Other."

One would think that the story ended there and that Jewish text would dismiss any further mention of Elisha. Interestingly, we have other accounts of continued contact and interaction. The Talmud relates an event in which Elisha meets with Rabbi Meir, his former student, on the Sabbath. Rabbi Meir has come to learn Torah from his heretical master Elisha, who is riding a horse, an act forbidden on Shabbat. Rabbi Meir is walking next to him as the two are involved in a textual dialogue.

As they continue on their way, Elisha turns to Rabbi Meir and instructs him to stop his journey since he has reached the limit of the eruv, the Sabbath barrier. Rabbi Meir implores Elisha to return with him, implying a spiritual return. Elisha tells him it is too late for such considerations.

In this midrash, we have the spectrum of our Jewish nation: Elisha, the devoted Jew who pinned his entire faith on proving the words of the Torah by empirical observation, and Meir, the learned sage, who seeks knowledge and words of Torah wherever they are found.

What stands out as unique is the image of the heretic on the horse and the sage accompanying him. Elisha learns Torah with Meir because even if it has lost its meaning for him, he respects that it still contains truth for Meir. Meir learns Torah from Elisha because even if Elisha has rejected it, there is wisdom to be found in his learning.

The heretic and the sage, side by side, learning and caring for each other. The image should be etched in the mind of every modern Jew.

More back to school resources

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today I continue my guide to the best resources on the Internet for Jewish educators. (Even though it's summer, their students should enjoy the games and quizzes I'll mention today.)

One Web site that really impressed me was e-Chinuch.org, "the world's largest database of materials created by Torah educators." This remarkable resource allows you to download lesson plans, worksheets, illustrations and maps, which can be copied and distributed to classrooms. The Web site also allows you to download a Hebrew font and Jewish screensavers – all for free! Anyone can browse the site but you will have to register in order to download material. The site strongly encourages members to contribute copyright-free materials to the database. **[http://www.echinuch.org/]**

DataJEM, the database of Jewish educational materials allows you to search for resources by topic, educational level and language. For example, I did a search for Holocaust-related material appropriate for 16 to 18 year-olds in English. The site returned 170 resources, including information about relevant books, plays, films, television documentaries and museums. Very impressive. **[http://www.jewishagency-ed.org/DataJEMASP/]**

One of the incredible opportunities presented by the Internet is the ability to join a community of Jewish educators from around the world. For example, members of the Jewish Teaching Forum believe that "our Jewish children can study kodesh and secular subjects – such as English, math, arithmetic, social studies, biology… and even gym – according to Jewish principles and concepts." You can join in the discussion at their Web site. **[http://www.geocities.com/athens/stage/4942/1JTeaching.html]** You can also participate in the Jewish Teaching group **[http://www.topica.com/lists/JewishTeaching/?cid=2231]**, Mifgashim **[http://listserv.biu.ac.il/archives/mifgashim.html]** and a group geared toward the joys and challenges of Jewish homeschoolers. **[http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/7633/JewishHomeSchoolers.html]**

Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner and that means teachers will be hunting for pictures of shofars or apples with honey to decorate their classrooms. There are many good sites that provide free clip art that you can print and colour. Try Uncle Debi's Jewish Clipart **[http://home.wnm.net/~debi/jart.htm]**, Jewish Graphics Links **[http://www.bitsela.com/links.htm]** and Chanukah/Jewish Graphics & Clip Art. **[http://www.caryn.com/holiday/holiday-Hclipart.html]**

If you are looking for photographs of Israel to liven up your walls, you can't do better than the Israel government's National Photo Collection. A search for David Ben-Gurion returned over 150 photos, some in colour. **[http://147.237.72.31/topsrch/defaulte.htm]** Akhlah: The Jewish Children's Learning Network provides over 300 colourful quiz cards which you can print out and mount onto 3 x 5 cards. **[http://www.akhlah.com/quiz_cards/Quiz_cards.asp]**

Music teachers will have a field day with the Lashir Ivrit Webpage. There are links to over 30 sites including Israeli Music Online and Hebrew Children's Songs for Holidays. The Song Archive provides Hebrew lyrics (along with English transliteration) for popular songs like *Al Kol Eilah*, *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* and even *Adon Olam* **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/festivls/ZKATZ/ATZ/music.html]**

There are plenty of sites that attempt to make learning fun. One of the best is Jewish Funland created by Dr. Nurit Reshef of Edmonton's Talmud Torah School. Your students can soak up Jewish knowledge while playing over a dozen games and quizzes. And who couldn't resist the free Multilingual Word Match Game, which guarantees that you will "become a polyglot in minutes or your money back!" **[http://www.ualberta.ca/~yreshef/nurit.htm]**

Once you're a polyglot, you can try your skills at ZigZagWorld's Hebrew quizzes. **[http://www.zigzagworld.com/]** ZigZag was founded in 1996 by Drs. Ted and Marsha Hopp, a husband-and-wife team of computer professionals in Gaithersburg, Md. Their Web site is a delight – full of online games such as Dress the Torah, Why Don't Zebras Play Chess? and the frustrating Alef-BetGo! **[http://www.echinuch.org/]** You'll find even more links at Jewish-On-Line Games. **[http://www.jr.co.il/hotsites/j-games.htm]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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History book's success surprises author

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

For supposedly just another history book, *Six Days of War*, published by Oxford University Press in June to coincide with the 35th anniversary of the Six Day War, has done extraordinarily well.

So well, in fact, that its author, Michael Oren, is flabbergasted.

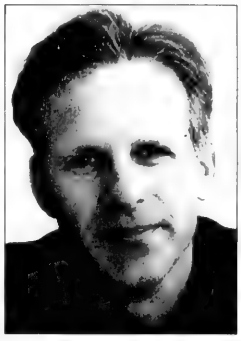
"We thought 20,000 copies would be bought," he said in a telephone interview from his home in southern Jerusalem.

Instead, the sales figures have been phenomenal – 80,000 sold and a further 20,000 to be printed in a new edition.

Oren, whose book has been widely praised by critics as the finest treatment of the subject and has been on the *New York Times'* best-selling list for the past few weeks, believes two factors account for its popularity.

"There is great interest in the Middle East after 9/11 and due to the current violence in Israel," he said.

He was referring to the Sept. 11 Arab terrorist acts that resulted in the destruction of the World Trade Center in Manhattan and in the partial destruction of the Pentagon, and to the second Palestinian uprising that has spilled into Israel with horrific consequences.



Michael Oren

Oren, an American who has lived in Israel for the past 25 years, acknowledged there is no shortage of books, some quite good, about the 1967 Six Day War.

Whether they were written for a scholarly audience or the general public, they were all based on the same sources: previously published books, articles, newspapers and interviews.

None before his, he claimed, drew on Hebrew, Arabic and Russian sources, or examined the war from the standpoint of its political and military aspects.

What was missing, he concluded, was a book that incorporated these dimensions and made use of newly declassified documents.

A graduate of Columbia and Princeton who holds a PhD in Middle East history and who has served in the Israeli army as an officer, Oren consulted numerous archives in Israel, the United States, Canada, Britain and Russia.

The tens of thousands of documents he read enabled him to better understand the war's political and military dynamics.

Oren, however, was denied access to a myriad of documents that remain off-limits to scholars to this day.

"We still don't know the mission of the U.S.S. *Liberty*," he said by way of example.

The *Liberty*, an American naval intelligence vessel, was bombed and strafed by Israel during the Six Day War, generating a passionate debate that has yet to subside.

In addition to poring over documents, Oren conducted interviews in Cairo and Amman with Egyptian and Jordanian army officers who took part in the war.

"They were very co-operative and helpful in almost all cases," he noted."My guess is they knew I was an Israeli. I didn't volunteer that information."

A senior fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, Oren used a researcher he cannot identify to interview Syrian army officers in Damascus.

He left out Iraqi army officers altogether because Iraq played a minor role in the fighting.

To prepare himself for writing *Six Days of War*, he read prodigiously, immersing himself in an ocean of books ranging from Richard Parker's *The Politics of Miscalculation in the Middle East* to Robert Stephens' *Nasser: A Political Biography*.

His objective was to produce a balanced and comprehensive volume that could be appreciated by specialists and laypersons alike.

As he wrote in the foreword: "My purpose is not to prove the justness of one party or another in the war, or to assign culpability for starting it. I want, simply, to understand how an event as immensely influential as this war came about – to show the context from which it sprang and the catalysts that precipitated it."

Oren, a former advisor to Israel's United Nations delegation, does not think that Israel viewed the war as a war of expansion.

Israel, he observed, had no master plan to conquer the territories – the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and east Jerusalem.

"The Six Day War was a war that few wanted and no one anticipated."

He cited an example.

In November 1966, Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement planted a mine on Israel's border with Jordan, killing three Israeli soldiers. King Hussein wrote a letter of apology and gave it to the American ambassador in Jordan to pass on to prime minister Levi Eshkol via the U.S. ambassador in Israel, Walworth Barbour.

Barbour decided to wait until after the weekend to deliver the letter to Eshkol. But before he could do so, Eshkol ordered a reprisal raid against Jordan. This attack, Oren said, triggered a series of escalations that prompted president Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt to remilitarize the Sinai and bring the prospect of war one step closer to reality.

By Oren's reckoning, the war could have been avoided had the United States intervened forcefully. "Washington could have told Egypt to reopen the Straits of Tiran," he said. But being preoccupied by the Vietnam war, the United States lay low.

Although Nasser knew that Israel would launch a pre-emptive strike to counter the moves he had already made, he bided his time because he was sure Egypt could absorb the first blow and win.

If Egypt had struck first, the outcome of the war would have been far different, Oren speculated.

To Oren, a product of a Jewish day school in New Jersey and the son of a U.S. army career officer, the defining moment of the war was when Israeli paratroopers reached the Western Wall in eastern Jerusalem.

The ripple effects of the war, though localized, were significant.

The conquest of the West Bank and Gaza galvanized the Palestinians and emboldened Islamic fundamentalists.

Furthermore, Israel's lightning victory eventually led to the formation of a strategic alliance with the United States.

The implicit message in *Six Days of War*, Oren said, is that politics in the Middle East are highly unpredictable, and that a small spark can ignite the region in a conflagration.

"What was true in 1967 is also true today," he mused, noting that the intifadah could well touch off a regional war.

Currently resting from an exhaustive press tour of North America to publicize his acclaimed book, Oren plans to write two additional books about the Middle East.

The first will be an analysis of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, and the second will chart the United States' historic involvement in the Middle East.

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Greater Toronto Area

Former teacher helps troubled kids to overcome challenges

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Gerry Goldberg has a mission – to empower troubled children and young adults by giving them skills to overcome life's challenges.

In 1995, the former high school teacher founded an educational program called Project Lighthouse to teach youth how to raise their self-esteem and recognize opportunities for personal growth. The curriculum currently being prepared for the project is geared toward primary and secondary students at home or in special-needs classes in school.

Goldberg calls the program his "life's passion."

His interest in helping young people cope with life's stresses goes back to the late 1960s when he taught English and history at Kipling Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke. He taught special education classes from grades 9 to 12, marginalized students who were disadvantaged or had behavioral problems. His class was located in a room with no windows.

"They were kids that no one wanted and no one expected any results from them," he says.

"I looked for answers to the question, 'How do you protect our children from falling through the cracks?' The answer led me to Project Lighthouse."

As he taught his classes using poems and stories on the curriculum, he realized his class was bored and was gaining little from the material.

"These students didn't want to fail," he says. "They needed materials that would stimulate their interest. I focused on developing their self-esteem, personal fulfilment, and emphasized doing their very best."

To accomplish this, he began collecting comic books (he has more than 1,500) and poetry that his class would enjoy and he encouraged them to write on topics of interest to them. He taught them about modern and classic heroes, examples of people who overcame adversity and rose above pettiness.

In 1971, he published a poetry anthology titled *I Am a Sensation*, which was created by his students. Since then, the award-winning teacher – in 1969, the *Toronto Telegram* selected Goldberg as one of the Teachers of the Year – has compiled five books and more than 500 articles.

Also in 1969, the CBC presented a documentary on Goldberg and how to teach using comics.

In 1977, Goldberg left teaching to care for his ailing father and the family business. His parents, he says, "set an example for me of helping others and they taught me a love of Yiddishkeit. I believe that I had something to give to others and that is how Project Lighthouse was born."

With the death of his parents and some tough knocks in business, he says, "My project of redemption offered me meaning in the face of the darkness."

Today, Goldberg believes many young people are searching for help and meaning and the time is ripe to launch his unconventional educational program. He notes that kids lack certain emotional tools needed to survive.

"Project Lighthouse is an answer to crime and to lack of respect and accountability in children," he says. "In this time of 'me-ism,' it will be a challenge to change the 'me-ism' to 'we-ism.'"

He says his program's main focus is on parents and teachers, illustrating to them the meaning of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and menschlichkeit, and educating their minds and hearts.

"It shows them how to tell right from wrong," he says.

Over the years, Goldberg has received many accolades from former students. Judy Barnett wrote, "You made me believe that if I believe in myself and worked hard enough, that all my dreams would come true, and they did."

Sandy Hessel recently wrote, "He taught me to listen to what people are not saying, to read between the lines, and to be aware of the beauty in the world around us. Amazing lessons were learned in that classroom."

Goldberg's studio is filled with an overwhelming number of collages – pictures of heroes, quotations, anecdotes, drawings and other materials taken from newspapers and magazines – as well as toys hanging from the ceiling, plastered on the walls and floor and stacked on shelves. Such collages also appear on the Web site, at www.projectlighthouse.com.

Gerry Goldberg

Goldberg, who has prepared more than 500 lesson plans for teachers, says he hopes the goals of Project Lighthouse will be understood and that he will be assisted in launching it in the schools.

For more information about Project Lighthouse, e-mail Goldberg at info@projectlighthouse.com.

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 19, is deadline for Aug. 29 issue and Monday, Aug. 26 is deadline for Sept. 5. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Aug. 18

JEWISH CUSTOMS

Entertainment and Cultural Committee and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present Jewish Customs from Around the World with **David Soper**, Basrah Iraq, director of Mesopotanian Studies Society; **Ruby Ezekiel** and **Diana Mingail**, Calcutta, India; **Sarita Frasco**, Turkey; **Liliana Leitman**, Libya; **Michele Worth**, Tunisia. Moderator is **Mihal Tylman.** Special tables for singles 29-49 and couples. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim. **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove** co-ordinators.

COUSCOUS TO CAVIAR

At Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, **Seymour Epstein,** director, UJA Federation Board of Education speaks on From Couscous to Caviar (The Kosher Variety): My Experiences in North Africa and Siberia. Minchah 8 p.m., lecture following. 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. Call 905-886-3810.

CHARITY BAZAAR

Something for everyone at the charity bazaar running 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Maon Noam Synagogue, 15 Torresdale Ave. outside. Proceeds go to the synagogue programing. For donations to the bazaar, call 905-660-3054.

Thursday, Aug. 22

MUSIC OF KURT WEILL

The music of Kurt Weill is reviewed by **Gordon Bean** at 2 p.m. at Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence, 645 Castlefield Ave. Call **Susan** at 416-785-1511 to reserve a seat.

And What Else Is New

EVENING OF MUSIC

An evening of classical music performed by **Joseph Peleg**, violinist and **Judith Kenedi Peleg**, pianist. Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 8 p.m. at Adath Israel Congregation. All proceeds go to Canadian Magen David Adom. Tickets at the door or in advance at Adath Israel office, 416-635-5349. Concert is dedicated to the memory of Jennie Kernkraut in commemoration of her first yahrzeit.

MEMBERSHIP FAIR

Toronto Hadassah WIZO invites you to a membership fair Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. This is an opportunity for prospective new members to learn about this large Jewish women's organization. For information, call 416-630-8373.

CANCER VOLUNTEERS

Bayview Support Network at the Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre needs volunteers with a personal cancer experience to volunteer one morning or afternoon a week. Help is needed in the cancer patient and family library, the Planet Playroom for children of patients and in the Peer Support Room as a cancer survivor you can support those patients currently receiving treatment. To find out how you can help, call 416-480-5000, ext. 1065.

LADIES' BOWLING

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Continued on page 21

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What's New

New Darchei Noam rabbi passionate about her choices

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Rabbi Tina Grimberg, new spiritual leader of Darchei Noam Congregation, applied to rabbinical school at age 32, she did so not only for herself, but for her grandmother and her mother.

Rabbi Tina Grimberg

"I also did it for all other women who were afraid to dream, who never knew something like this was possible," she says.

Growing up in Kiev, she said, "I knew I was Jewish, and my grandmother spoke Yiddish, but there was no pride in what it meant to be a Jew. We were oppressed and shamed by it."

She recalls with fondness the times her family got together and sang Yiddish songs. "That was the only time we felt happy being Jewish."

When her family moved to Indianapolis, Ind., when she was 16, however, "the world opened up. I became active in the Reform Jewish community and worked hard on Refusenik issues. I developed a deep interest in Judaism."

But going to rabbinical school "was not an overnight decision. There were bits and pieces of me that were getting organized for the huge decision."

From university, she went on to become a family and marriage therapist. "During therapy, I would practice the systems theory, in which we bring everyone involved in our lives into the therapy process.

"By bringing God into the system as well, we were including a silent party that was not silent at all. The therapy took on another dimension; it became spiritual."

They discovered in the session that being spiritual was one of the main keys to wellness, she said. "When we describe God, we describe community, ethics, and silence and voice. It is a connection to anyone's deep roots."

Gradually, Rabbi Grimberg said, "what was lying deep within me surfaced. I realized that every step was building up to the decision [to attend rabbinical school].

"I was committed to the community, committed to Jewish learning, and committed to my relationship with the Divine. I wanted to become part of the vibrant Jewish tradition and give it to others," she said.

She attended Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Learning in New York, and began working as an intern at Temple Beth Elohim in Brooklyn as an intern, where she remained after she was ordained.

It was a difficult decision to leave, she said, but her fiancé, Moshe Shizgal, lives in Toronto, and they decided to live here after they were married this past June.

"It was a choice between two loves, and it was a choice of faith. It was similar to the choice I had made when deciding to attend rabbinical school; this was new, but the depth of my knowledge was old."

Rabbi Grimberg says she finds it an easy transition to move from a Reform to a Reconstructionist synagogue "because both are liberal strands of Judaism, both allow the full inclusion of women into Judaism, both are open to questions and both are open to looking at Judaism as a developing force, not a stagnant tradition."

She is eagerly looking forward to becoming part of the Darchei Noam community. "It is a great group of people. They have a casualness and a spirit about them that I enjoy."

She intends for her first sermon to be "open and honest; it's about moving here and moving on. Through this sermon, I want to connect with the congregation. I will also emphasize the significance of this time of year. We need to talk about Sept. 11 and we need to talk about Israel."

As a rabbi, she says, she learns more from her congregants than she learns anywhere else. "In the end, they are the living Torah. They have the questions and the answers. Their life stories are complicated. My goal is to keep my door open, make traditions accessible and inspire the community.

"Rabbis are like conductors; they cannot conduct without a symphony. Similarly, a rabbi needs a community to be a rabbi."

She also plans to make time for her new husband. "A rabbi should be a model for a balanced life, where family is the most important element. What kind of model would I offer to my congregants if I were a dedicated rabbi, but had no time for my family?

"I plan on doing my job as if it is the most important job in the world, but I cannot take on too many roles.

"We cannot be passionately involved in life if we are everything to everybody. We must limit our roles, but perform the roles we do take on well."

Continued from page 20

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FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Aug. 15, lecture by **Hassida David;** Aug. 22, bingo; Aug. 29, picnic. Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Association of Jewish Seniors program, To Our Good Health, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Speakers **Dr. Brian Goldman** and **Francine Teller** (Eat and Don't Feel Guilty). Bring lunch. Entertainment by **Paul Mathew**. Reserve. Call **Goldie** 416-635-2860.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call the office at 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002. Casino Rama Aug. 28; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. Aug. 17, 24, 31. Bingo every Tuesday at 1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Aug. 20, trip to Scarborough Bluffs, picnic lunch. Bus leaves 9:30 a.m., returns 4 p.m.; Aug. 27, free evening; Aug. 28 (Wednesday) Israeli Festival, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call **Anna** ext. 110.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Sunday, Aug. 18 – BJCC program registration begins. Pick up a copy of the new program book.

Fall registration is now open for classes for children and adults at the new Academy of Ballet and Jazz at the BJCC. New artistic director is **Nadia Veselova-Tencer**, a graduate of the Kirov Ballet School. Ext. 258 or 271.

The Royal Conservatory of Music joins the Koffler Centre of the Arts School of Music. Register now for fall classes for children and adults. Ext. 228.

New show at the Koffler Gallery through to Sept. 27. **Mark Sutherland's** Scratch, a solo show of sculptural works, sonic poems, bookworks, videos and audio-visual installations. Ext. 380.

Art exhibition at Rachel's Centre Café at BJCC featuring **Smadar Meiri-Ordynans**: A Retrospective and New Works runs to Sept. 18. A member of the Israeli Artist Group.

Folk dancing at the BJCC: Mondays – Israeli, starts Sept. 23; Tuesdays – Israeli (ongoing all year); Wednesdays – International starts Sept. 18. All classes held at the Studio Theatre, Leah Posluns Theatre.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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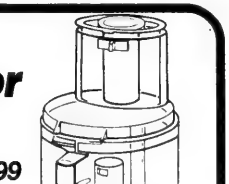
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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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On Campus

York U prof quits journal after Israeli academics fired

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

York University translation professor Candace Séguinot has resigned in protest from the editorial board of *The Translator*, a British scholarly journal whose owner fired two Israeli professors as part of a European and American academic boycott of Israel.

In April, petitions calling for a boycott of Israeli universities and cultural and scientific bodies appeared in two European newspapers – the *Guardian* in London and *Libération* in Paris – to protest Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

In June, as part of the campaign, Tel Aviv University professor Gideon Toury was fired from the advisory board of *Translation Studies Abstracts* and Prof. Miriam Shlesinger of Bar Ilan University was dismissed from the editorial board of *The Translator* by Mona Baker, the owner and editor of both journals.

Séguinot opposed to academic boycott

Séguinot said that Baker, an Egyptian-born lecturer in linguistics at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, began the journals with her own money and has made them the "two top journals in her field."

But the York University professor questions Baker's decision to implement what Séguinot calls a discriminatory policy, without any democratic input from the boards of the two journals.

In her June letter of resignation, Séguinot said that if she had known "that members of the boards could be appointed, excluded, or dismissed on the basis of their race, creed, or nationality, I would not have agreed to serve."

Furthermore, she said it is indefensible to limit the transmission of ideas, adding that "it is important to have issues presented in order to be able to respond to them."

Séguinot said both Toury and Shlesinger are respected scholars in their fields and were fired on the basis of their nationality.

Baker has reportedly said that Toury and Shlesinger's universities, not their nationality, prompted her decision.

Baker had signed a petition urging academics not "to co-operate with official Israeli institutions, including universities," but to "continue to collaborate with, and host, Israeli scientific colleagues on an individual basis."

Baker was on holiday and unavailable to comment by *The CJN*'s deadline.

Shlesinger is a peace and human rights activist who chaired Amnesty International in Israel from 1993 to 1994 and then headed the Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace, an Israeli human rights group involved in instilling fundamental notions of democracy to schoolchildren, from 1994 to 1997.

Several of the journals' board members have resigned in protest over the firings.

In addition, the International Federation of Translators and the European Society for Translation Studies have issued statements denouncing the moves against the two Israeli professors.

Séguinot said that while she does not support what she calls Israel's hard-line policies against the Palestinians, she is convinced an academic boycott merely strengthens the right-wing point of view in Israel.

Neither of the two Israeli academics have cancelled their subscriptions to the journal.

In an interview, Shlesinger said she does not believe in boycotts or in counter-boycotts and that it would be inappropriate to respond to a wrong with a wrong.

A petition opposing the boycott signed and circulated by North American and European academics argues that such moratoriums on contacts with Israel are not only discriminatory, but counter-productive, because they reinforce the perception that Israelis must fend for themselves.

The anti-boycott petition also states that these kinds of campaigns send the message to the non-compromising Palestinian community that their strategy of violence is bearing fruit.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

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Clarification please, Mr. Ombudsman

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In reporting on the horrific terrorist attacks – especially the July 31 attack at Hebrew University and the August 4 bus bombing near Safed – most media outlets refused to identify the perpetrators as terrorists, choosing the term "militants" instead.

Previous columns have dealt with this omission when it comes to Israel. But since the issue of terrorism and the language used to describe it – or more frequently evade it – is so controversial, it is important to revisit the subject.

Last year Tony Burman, CBC's head of news and current affairs, explained the network's refusal to use the "T-word": "It is the practice of CBC News in our on-air presentation to avoid the use of the word 'terrorist' or 'terrorism' and other terms where there is widespread disagreement among Canadians about their meaning. Our role is to report and describe, not to judge."

It is unclear which "widespread disagreement among Canadians" regarding terrorism Burman was referring to. Even CBC's Mideast correspondent, Neil Macdonald, said in a radio interview that "a reasonable definition of 'terrorist,' for example, would be someone who uses violence against civilians, deliberately targets civilians to advance a political agenda" (*This Morning*, April 25, 2001).

Yet, except for one brief lapse last Sept. 11, Macdonald refuses to apply the term "terrorists" to Palestinians who attack Israeli civilians. He argues that doing so would show favour to Israel's political agenda and would also compel him to "judge" Israeli authorities to be "war criminals." This implies, absurdly, a factual and moral equivalence between Palestinians who deliberately target civilians and Israel's accidental killing of Palestinian civilians when it goes after terrorists.

In his July 19 *National Post* opinion piece, "Palestinian terrorists? Not on CBC," York University professor Eric Lawee precisely dissected CBC's logical and moral incoherence on this issue. According to Lawee, CBC ombudsman David Bazay spelled out explicitly what Macdonald only implies: "Bazay states that to insist that the CBC should speak of Palestinian terrorism amounts to asking the public broadcaster 'to take sides and to embrace the Israeli government's position on terrorism, which denies the legitimacy of Palestinian resistance.'"

Is the CBC ombudsman rationalizing murderous attacks on Israeli civilians as "justified resistance"? It is hard to believe that any right-thinking individual, let alone an executive at the CBC, could endorse such a repellent view. Clarification from the CBC is certainly in order.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Montreal teenager cycles across U.S. for cancer

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

David Shahmoon could have flown from Baltimore to San Francisco in a few hours. Instead, he rode his bike. It took 58 days.

Shahmoon, 17, a Montrealer studying at Johns Hopkins University, was the youngest member of Hopkins 4K for Cancer, a cross-America bicycle trip that raised $41,000 (US) for the American Cancer Society. The group of 24 young men and women covered 3,800 miles in two months this summer, travelling a route that included major cities and the tiniest towns, mountains and desert, pristine national parks and the backwoods.

They averaged 75 miles a day.

They stayed in YMCAs, churches and campgrounds, and survived mainly on donated food. For Shahmoon, the only participant who keeps kosher, this meant living on a lot of canned tuna and beans.

The bicycle trek was organized by Johns Hopkins students and supervised along the way by two of the university's administrators who rode in a minivan that accompanied the group.

Shahmoon said he was in shape, but not particularly athletic before the trip. His "training" consisted of riding along the Lachine Canal for three or four days beforehand.

He felt his lack of preparation when they hit the first mountains in the Appalachians of Pennsylvania. He admitted that he had to walk up part of the way.

By the time, they hit the Rockies four or five weeks later, Shahmoon had found his legs. The most challenging part was climbing 20 miles uphill to reach the summit of the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado at 12,000 feet.

"There were thunderstorms and hail, but you felt like you were on the top of the world," he said.

Temperatures through the desert of Nevada reached 100 degrees, he said. "But it was a dry heat. The wind cools you off when you are riding. I found it tougher to cycle in Montreal on a humid day when I came back."

David Shahmoon comes to the end of the road 12,000 feet above sea level in the Rockies.

Most of the time, though, it was simply a question of keeping on pedalling.

Cycling was not permitted on the interstate highways, so much of the route took the cyclists through out of the way towns that were little more than widenings in the road.

"There were three other Jews in the group and sometimes we would joke that this was more Jews than this place had ever seen," he said.

The group was big news for the media in the little towns and they were interviewed for the morning television show in San Francisco. Each participant had to find $2,500 in sponsorship at the outset, and money was collected on the way.

The effort was made easier by the fact that the group was riding top-flight road bikes designed by former Tour de France champion Greg Lemond, which were sold to the group at cost. Shahmoon went through three sets of tires and 10 to 15 inner tubes. (He lost count.)

"One thing you learn is how to fix a bicycle," he said.

The route was not as the crow flies. From Baltimore, it went northwest through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Chicago; then south to St. Louis, Mo., Kansas and Nebraska; west to Colorado and the Rockies; and then through Utah, Nevada and Yosemite National Park, before reaching San Francisco.

The only significant mishap occurred to one of the riders just 10 minutes from the finishing line at the Golden Gate Bridge. That rider could not complete the trip.

It was the cause as much as the challenge that attracted Shahmoon. He considers the highlight of the trip a visit to a hospice in Topeka, Kan., where he met with terminally ill cancer patients. "It was very moving to sit and talk with them. It was uplifting. Here were people who are almost at the end and still have so much life."

Shahmoon also observed how diverse America was, not only geographically, but also in terms of its people. In places like Nebraska people were friendly and waved to them. In Colorado, for example, people were much more blasé.

Among the group itself, strong friendships were formed, he said.

Shahmoon went directly to Johns Hopkins last year after graduating from Herzliah High School (Snowdon). He has been in general studies and still has not made up his mind what to concentrate on during his sophomore year. "Every subject I've taken has interested me," he said.

Shahmoon, whose parents are Barbara and Sassoon, said he wanted to go to university away from home right after high school in order to become independent.

The experience of successfully completing something so arduous has been an important lesson, he said. "It made me understand that if I believe in myself, I can achieve what I want to do. Until this opportunity came, I never would have thought I could cycle almost 4,000 miles, but once your mind is set, nothing can hold you back."

The cyclists have a Web site with more details about the journey at www.hopkins4k.org.

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Giuliani calls Arafat an 'obstacle' to peace

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The United States is making a "mistake" in continuing to negotiate with Yasser Arafat because the Palestinian leader has not only failed to keep his pledge to stop terrorism, he is fostering it, former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani said recently in Montreal.

He also said a Palestinian state under Arafat's leadership would be "another place to harbour terrorism... Whether Arafat is assisting terrorists or can't control them, the result is the same."

Instead, the United States should insist that the Palestinians first put into place at least the beginnings of a democracy, with open elections, a free economy and respect for human rights. Until then, he said, the United States should treat those who share its democratic values differently from those who don't.

Israel is "the only absolutely reliable friend of the U.S." in the Middle East, Giuliani told an audience of close to 2,000 at Place des Arts. The event was a fund-raiser for the Hillel Jewish Student Centres and the Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association.

"Arafat should have been gone a long time ago. It's beyond doubt that he is as obstacle to peace... He's useless to the process, he's undermining it. That was clear to me two or three years ago," Giuliani said.

U.S. policy-makers have "romanticized" Arafat to the point of losing the "common sense" to recognize that if someone repeatedly does not keep his word, the person should be dumped.

Giuliani said his opinion of Arafat was formed back when he was a U.S. attorney investigating the 1985 murder of disabled American tourist Leon Klinghoffer by Palestinian terrorists who hijacked the Achille Lauro cruise ship.

Giuliani said he found Arafat to be complicit in the Klinghoffer murder and numerous others.

"It's absurd that our government helped Arafat win the Nobel Peace Prize," he said.

In 1995, Giuliani was roundly criticized by then-president Bill Clinton and *The New York Times* for having Arafat removed from a concert in celebration of the United Nations' 50th anniversary at Avery Fisher Hall, to which the city had invited world leaders.

"I had specifically not invited him and six or seven other people I didn't like. But he got a ticket from someone else. I asked my chief of staff to throw him out on the premise that he had no right to be there," said Giuliani.

Giuliani has no regrets, even though he was accused of "creating an international incident."

Giuliani was hailed by the sponsors of the Montreal event as a role model for young people because of his calm leadership during the post-Sept. 11 crisis.

He spoke for about 45 minutes without notes and without using the lectern that had been set up for him.

He began by thanking Canada for being the most supportive of any country after the tragedy.

Giuliani said that in the immediate aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center, he looked for strength from the experience of two peoples whom he had admired for their fortitude in the face of attack: the English during the Blitz and, more recently, the Israelis.

Americans, like the English and Israelis, were attacked for their belief in freedom and equality, and the fear that those ideals will spread, he said.

"They hate us for that. They know that if people [get a taste of freedom], they will overthrow the dictators. They were so frightened of that, they had to attack us."

Leadership in a time of crisis takes courage, he said, but that does not mean the absence of fear. "Having no fear in a dangerous situation is insanity.

"Courage is managing your fear in order to do what you think your obligations are."

Giuliani first realized the enormity of Sept. 11 when he saw someone jump from the 101st floor of the first tower. "It was a surreal experience," he said. "I knew we were in uncharted territory and I said to the police chief we will have to make up a response."

Later, though, he realized the city was better prepared than he had initially thought. The emergency measures that had been rehearsed many times for suicide bombings, biological attacks and plane crashes helped a great deal, he said.

"I like to make quick decisions by instinct, which is good in a crisis. But that can be bad, so I surround myself with people who take time to think things over."

Straightforward communication is also a mark of leadership, he said. "You can't be a leader if you don't explain yourself... People may agree with you or not – that is what a free society is about – but they will respect you.

"Scripted, canned responses only undermine people's confidence."

Despite the horrible events of Sept. 11, Giuliani remains convinced the world is still a better place than in the past. "It's safer, there are more opportunities, better health care and financial security...

"The great leaders are not pessimists; writers, artists, actors may be, but who is going to follow anyone into doom and destruction?"

As he learned from the mother of a firefighter who was killed Sept. 11, people "have to force themselves to go forward and enjoy the beautiful things in life."

Former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani. [Ryan Blau photo]

Proceeds from the Montreal event will be shared by the two sponsoring organization and go toward bursaries and other student activities. A portion will also be donated to the Twin Towers Fund of New York.

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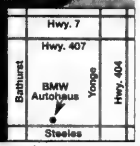

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Cotler criticizes omissions in terrorist list

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler says his own government's unwillingness to list Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah as terrorist groups is "an affront to the moral, juridical, diplomatic and political struggle against terrorism."

In a recent statement, he said, "Simply put, this 'list of terrorist entities' undermines our counter-terrorism law and policy, both domestically and internationally."

Last month, Canada's solicitor-general, Lawrence MacAulay, announced "further action against terrorism" by listing seven "entities" that Canada now officially considers terrorist based on the criteria of Bill C-36, the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The list included Al Qaeda and other Islamic groups, but made no mention of equally notorious terrorist organizations responsible for most, if not all, of the suicide bombings in Israel.

"The list... is seriously flawed and deficient," Cotler said in a response statement issued the same day MacAulay's list was published.

"In particular, it does not include major terrorist groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, who have patented what I have referred to as 'genocidal bombing' – terrorist suicide bombings that, by the terrorists' own covenant, call publicly for the destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews wherever they may be."

Others joining in the criticism were the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

SWC founder Marvin Hier urged Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to include Hamas in its listings of terrorist groups as have Germany and the United States.

Not doing so, Hier wrote, "offers them undeserved legitimacy and weakens your country's commitment to the war on international terrorism."

CJC president Keith Landy wrote to MacAulay to express his "dismay" over the omissions.

"What is particularly perplexing is that the list contained not one of the internationally known groups engaged in the long-standing concerted and murderous campaign of terrorism against Israel and its citizens," he wrote.

"We implore you to broaden the register of named terrorist organizations forthwith, and to ensure that the major anti-Israel terrorist groups are included in the first supplementary list."

In an interview with *The CJN*, Cotler also said he hoped MacAulay would include the omitted terrorist names in the next list.

"It would be unacceptable otherwise," he said.

Cotler said the only possible reason he could think of for their exclusion was that they have some perceived "generic connection" with Al Qaeda.

Cotler said the list contradicted statements made previously by his government inside and outside the House of Commons over the years by former foreign minister John Manley and current Foreign Minister Bill Graham.

"It undercuts the government's own counter-terrorism law and policy which seeks to prohibit the preparation, financing, facilitating and perpetration of acts of terrorism – and the prohibiting of those terrorist entities engaged in such acts of terrorism," Cotler said.

In his statement, Cotler also referred to the omissions as a "breach of our undertaking under UN Security Council Resolution 1373 to designate such terrorist groups on a list of terrorist entities, so as to prevent and prohibit any affiliation i Canada with them."

Moreover, the failure to include the above-cited groups also a "breach of our commitments under international co ventions against terrorist bombing and financing," Cotler sai

Cotler said even though Hamas, Islamic Jihad and th military wing of Hezbollah are listed in both UN and Canadia cabinet anti-terrorism regulations as organization whose asse can be frozen by virtue of their terrorist activities, "they are di turbingly and conspicuously absent from this list."

And the absence of the names on the list, he said, could lea people to conclude that Canada does not consider them terro ist entities.

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Montreal-based, pro-Israel 'e-zine' has global reach

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Every day, almost 12,000 people around the world receive a four-page e-mail of current articles on the Middle East reprinted from the international press and scholarly journals.

Many others receive the selection of articles by fax. In addition, 2,000 people get a weekly French version.

The origin of their mail is an office at a confidential downtown Montreal location.

Isranet Daily Briefing is a free service of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR), an independent Israel advocacy organization founded 14 years ago by Concordia University professor Frederick Krantz.

Isranet was launched after the start of the second intifadah in the fall of 2000 in order to disseminate articles that support Israel. Since then, its circulation has grown exponentially, said Krantz, the organization's director.

"We are unique in Canada, the only Israel-centred magazine published here," he said.

"The Internet has made us an international media source, a sort of clearing house for good, thoughtful writing," Krantz said. "Our actual readership is probably at least double the 12,000 recipients because many people forward Isranet to others. We get comments from people in Europe, Israel, Australia, all over – anywhere from 75 to 200 responses a day."

Isranet is produced five days a week on a shoestring budget, with a staff of just 2½ people, plus one part-timer, two or three student "interns" who receive an honorarium and a half-dozen volunteers.

Each day, the team goes through stacks of Canadian, American, Israeli and English-language Arab newspapers, magazines such as the *New Republic* and *Commentary*, major journals on the Middle East, and a wide variety of documents from think-tanks and government sources.

Members of its academic advisory board often pass along items of interest they come across in small-circulation periodicals.

Then the articles, sometimes edited, are entered into CIJR's computer system. Isranet can also be read online at www.isranet.org.

A recent issue contained two translated poems from *Al-Watan*, an Arabic-language weekly newspaper for Arab-Americans. One was titled "Yes, I am a Terrorist," an anti-West diatribe; the other, a derogatory reference to U.S. President George W. Bush, was called "The Ape."

The hardest part of the job, said volunteer research director Baruch Cohen, is selecting from a wealth of material the few articles needed to fit the four-page format. Issues are occasionally expanded to five or six pages when warranted.

Because Isranet receives so many responses, it now publishes readers' comments in a special issue once a month.

But not all of the feedback is positive, especially from the Arab community.

"Some are angry, some are hostile. We have had death threats. That's why we only publish a post-office box address."

Though CIJR publishes articles that argue the 1993 Oslo accords were a mistake, Krantz insists that an effort is made to present different points of view.

"We try to be analytical and objective," he said.

Recently, he said, Isranet began publishing original material from readers.

"These articles are some times picked up by other Web sites and credited to us."

In addition to the French version, which is a recent innovation, CIJR hopes to start a Spanish weekly version, aimed at the half-million Jews living in Latin America, he said. Another goal is to run a longer Isranet weekly on the Web site.

While the majority of recipients receive Isranet at their request, CIJR also sends it to various influential leaders such as every Quebec MNA and every federal MP.

Costs are kept down because CIJR does not have to pay the publications whose articles it uses, as long as they are clearly attributed, Krantz said. It also does not remunerate readers who write original pieces.

"They seem to be happy that we are using their stuff. It gives them tremendous exposure."

Despite its success with Isranet, CIJR still scrambles for money. "We raise every dollar ourselves, and have no foundation to speak of."

Its main annual fund-raiser, a cocktail reception, is being held Aug. 15 at the Laurentian home of Judy and Amos Sochaczevski. The guest speaker is Benny Morris, a professor of Middle East history at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. His topic will be Arafat, Camp David and the Failure of Middle East Peacemaking.

Israel seeking funds to keep consulate open

Continued from page 1

individuals and prominent businessmen and academics. In addition, such figures as Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay and Quebec International Relations Minister Louise Beaudoin have sent Peres requests to reconsider.

(Peres has also faced protests from other Jewish communities whose diplomatic missions are facing closure, such as Sydney, Australia, and Rio de Janeiro.)

In addition to Bronfman, local figures involved in lobbying to keep the consulate open have included Senator Leo Kolber, FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings and, according to one source, Rabbi Reuben Poupko.

The Jewish community went through a similar ordeal four years ago. At that time, Bronfman also intervened to keep the consulate open.

CJ Food

The D.C. Ladies are, from left, front row: Karen Cohen, Nancy Bucovetsky, Queenie Rich; back row: Elaine Lambert, Devah Wine, Lucille Winter, Bernice Finkelstein, Gloria Clamen, Bella Rolnick.

D.C. Ladies really cook together

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The D.C. Ladies have proven that the group that eats together stays together.

The nine women and their husbands have met monthly for social activities for about 15 years, but according to Gloria Clamen and Karen Cohen, "it is food that knits us together. We all love to eat and we all love to cook.

"We discuss recipes, we talk about food, and we sometimes cook together. If we don't have another activity planned, we often make a dinner."

This interest in food is inspirational, said Clamen. "There are two of us at home now and we don't cook much, but I'm always looking for new recipes, and for people to try them out on. This group gives me the opportunity."

It is out of this shared passion for food that the group – named for one of its members when he quickly needed a group name to make a reservation – came up with the *Ess Mein Kinder Cookbook*, a compilation of members' favourite recipes, now in its 10th edition.

The seeds for the book were planted after the women made a bridal shower for the future daughter-in-law of one of the members.

"We decided to create a cookbook as a keepsake for the bride. We all contributed a recipe, and the book was named in the bride's honour. We handed it out to everyone at the shower, and it was an instant hit," said Clamen.

So much so, she said, that each time a member's child gets married, they create another cookbook for the bride.

"Guests, who include the bride's family and all our 'former' brides, are always surprised and pleased to come away with this loot bag. In addition, we will fax them the recipes of anything we serve at the shower," said Cohen.

The cookbooks, she said, are an eclectic mix of recipes. "There are no rules except that the recipes be kosher. There are some traditional, some low fat and some for Passover. It is one of my daughter's favourite cookbooks."

The best thing, Clamen said, is that there are at least 22 more cookbooks to come.

The following *Ess Mein Kinder* recipes will be a welcome addition to your holiday table.

LUCILLE WINTER'S CRANBERRY GLAZED TURKEY

3-3½-lb. turkey breast, bone in
1 can (14 oz.) cranberry sauce
¼ cup brown sugar
¼ cup soy sauce
juice from ½ lemon
1 tsp. ginger powder
1 tsp. dry mustard
1 garlic clove, large, chopped
salt & pepper to taste

Clean breast (remove skin and fat) and place in greased baking dish (coat with non-stick spray). Lightly salt and pepper the turkey.

Combine cranberry sauce, sugar, soy sauce, lemon juice, ginger, mustard and garlic in a saucepan. Put about half the sauce over the turkey breast. Roast in oven, uncovered, at 325 for 1½ hours, basting occasionally. Warm the rest of the sauce on the stove before serving. (Serve separately in sauce boat). Remove from oven and cover. Let stand for 10 to 15 minutes before cutting. May be served with stuffing, potatoes, yams and/or cooked greens.

BARRY'S TRADITIONAL SPLIT PEA SOUP
(From Lucille Winter)

1 cup split green peas (mixed with yellow optional)
¼ cup baby lima beans
1 medium clove garlic, finely sliced
4 large carrots, cut into ¼-in. pieces
1 medium cooking onion, coarsely chopped
1 cup diced celery (preferably with greens)
½ cup sliced mushrooms
3 tsp. pareve chicken stock mix
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground pepper
dash of tabasco (optional)

In a large pot, bring seven cups of water to a rapid boil. Add salt, pepper, stock mix, garlic, split peas and lima beans.

Boil rapidly for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Simmer covered for four hours, stirring occasionally. Add celery, carrots, onion and mushrooms and reduce heat to simmer.

For dairy meal, may be topped with ground cheese. Freezes well.

KAREN COHEN'S OVEN-ROASTED VEGGIES

1 whole garlic bulb, separated into cloves, peeled
3 sweet potatoes, cut in chunks
3 zucchini, sliced thick (optional)
1-2 eggplants, cut in chunks (optional)
1 lb. green beans
8-10 mushrooms
2 green peppers
2 red peppers
2 red onions, quartered
¼ cup olive oil

Preheat oven to 375. Arrange vegetables in large baking pan in a single layer. Drizzle with oil and sprinkle with whole garlic, salt, pepper, onion powder, oregano and basil. Use lots of spice. Bake uncovered one hour (if brown too quickly, take out early).

Arrange on glass plate according to colours. Serve slightly warm or at room temperature. Before serving, may be drizzled with balsamic vinegar.

GLORIA CLAMEN'S FRUITY KASHA

2 tbsp. salad oil
1 cup roasted whole kasha
1½ cups broth (chicken or vegetable)
¾ cup chopped dried apricots
1 medium red apple, cored, diced
¼ cup chopped roasted cashews
¼ cup raisins
orange vinaigrette (below)
mandarin orange segments

In a 2-3-qt. pan, combine oil and kasha and stir over medium heat until lightly toasted (4-5 min.). Add broth, cover pan and cook over low heat just until kasha is tender and liquid is absorbed (10-15 min.) Do not stir. Remove lid and cool for 30 min. Do not stir. Add apricots, apple, cashews, raisins and vinaigrette; mix gently. Place in shallow service dish and garnish the rim with orange segments.

Orange Vinaigrette

Mix 1 tsp. grated orange peel, ½ cup orange juice, ¼ cup salad oil, 1 tbsp. cider vinegar, 1 tsp. honey.

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Reviews

Essays explore Jews' role in Berlin's awakening

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A backwater in the 18th century, Berlin evolved into an international city in the late 19th century.

In the process, it became a centre of radical ideas in the visual, performing and literary arts. Jews played a major role in nurturing this cosmopolitan awakening.

Berlin Metropolis: Jews and the New Culture, 1890-1918, published by the University of California Press, examines this flourishing avant-garde period through the medium of nine erudite essays by leading scholars in the field.

Lavishly illustrated, it was issued to coincide with a recent exhibition on Berlin and modernism at the Jewish Museum in New York.

The figures profiled include theatre director Max Reinhardt, film director Ernst Lubitsch, and publisher Herwarth Walden.

The culture of modernism promoted by these and other Jewish Berliners was demonized by the Nazis as "degenerate." But today it is hailed as a path-breaking development of no small importance.

Emily Bilski's essay puts the topic in perspective.

She explains that the emancipation of German Jewry was slow and gradual, and that Jews were still excluded from certain sectors of society: the royal court, the military, the state bureaucracy and, to a large degree, universities.

More or less denied access to these spheres, Jews gravitated to the free professions and to the arts, where they excelled.

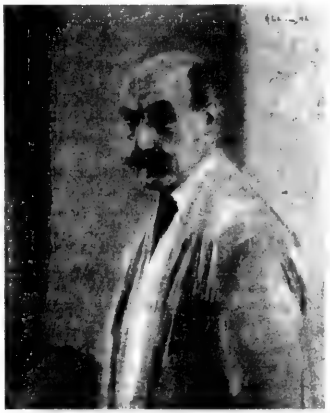
Paul Mendes-Flohr points out that the "romance" of Jews with German culture provoked an anti-Semitic reaction. He uses Werner Sombart, the social and economic historian, as an example of the backlash.

Prefiguring the Nazis, Sombart claimed that Jews were an incorrigibly alien element bent on subverting the culture and life of the native population.

In his essay, Peter Paret elaborates upon this theme, dwelling on the activities of the anti-Semitic publicist Philipp Stauff.

Sigrid Bauschinger writes about Jewish literary figures, from novelists to critics, who discovered and encouraged innovative artists.

In another essay, Bilski analyzes the four most prominent Jewish artists of the epoch: Max Liebermann, Lesser Ury, Ludwig Meidner and Jakob Steinhardt.



Max Liebermann's self portait

Chana Schultz focuses on Liebermann, who was instrumental in advancing the breakthrough of Impressionism in Wilhelmine Germany. The founder of the Berlin Secession movement, which broke with official academic art, Liebermann was president of the Prussian Academy of Arts from 1920 to 1932.

Inka Bertz zeroes in on the cultural movement that attempted to blend Zionism, Jewish tradition and modernity, and naturally enough, she deals at length with philosopher Martin Buber.

Barbara Hahn takes a close look at that peculiar institution, the Jewish salon in Berlin, and one of the hostesses she describes is Babette Meyer, the scion of a banking family.

Peter Jelavich's essay on Jews in theatre, cabaret and film concentrates on, among others, Otto Brahm and Reinhardt.

This stimulating collection of essays sheds light on an era of accomplishment and underscores the tremendous impact Jews once exerted on German culture.

Tanz! among re-issued classic klezmer albums

By ERIC STEIN
Special to The CJN

Need a healthy dose of klezmer music to nourish your Yiddish *neshama*? Can't wait for the Ashkenaz Festival? Well, you're in luck.

Columbia/Legacy Records has just re-issued three great CDs of Yiddish music from the first half of the last century that are sure to appeal to both klezmer aficionados and neophytes.

Abe Schwartz: The Klezmer King is a beautifully produced CD of 25 rare songs from 1917-1935. This CD is long overdue. Despite being the most prolific klezmer recording artist of the 1920s and the most important bandleader of the early American klezmer scene, Schwartz has not received the attention he deserves as a true giant of the genre.

Schwartz may not have been the best violinist, but he was an efficient organizer and effective arranger. Signed by Columbia in 1917, Schwartz led more than 75 Jewish recording sessions over two decades, and his bands launched the careers of klezmer legends Naftule Brandwein, Shloimke Beckerman, and Dave Tarras.

What is so amazing about this CD is how fresh and innovative many of the tracks still sound. Despite being anchored firmly in an old-world klezmer sound, Schwartz's arranging was at times highly sophisticated and he always seemed to get the most out of his musicians. Many of the recordings crackle with inventiveness and sheer virtuosity.

It is also remarkable to hear the often ingenious ways that Schwartz introduced light touches of Americana into his music, helping to bridge Klezmer from old world to new.

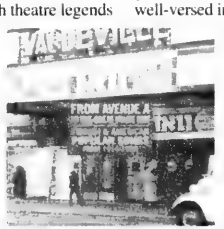
One piece from 1928, *Die Reize Nuch Amerika (The Trip to America)*, seems distinctly inspired by John Philip Sousa's marches. Another song, *Der Automobile* (1923), features Morris Goldstein's humorous Yiddish vocals lamenting the challenges of living in America's emerging consumer culture :"Not everyone can own one/ Imagine how they feel/ To be too poor to afford/ To ride in an automobile".

Overall, this Abe Schwartz retrospective is quality listening for just about anyone. Moreover, it provides unique insight into the transformation klezmer underwent in America during the 1920s, and spotlights many of the most significant American klezmorim at developmental stages in their careers. It also highlights the important role Schwartz played in the early American klezmer scene.

* * *

An appropriate companion to the Schwartz CD is *From Avenue A to the Great White Way: Yiddish and American Popular Songs, 1914-1950*. This double CD set features mostly Yiddish theatre, vaudeville and novelty songs that hark back to the golden age of American radio and stage.

There are performances in both English and Yiddish by such Jewish "crossover" stars as Sophie Tucker, Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Irving Berlin, and Benny Goodman. In these songs, Jewish music mingles with Tin Pan Alley, jazz, samba, foxtrot, and other styles. They are matched on the CD with more *heimish* cuts from Yiddish theatre legends such as Aaron Lebedeff, Seymour Rechtseit and Molly Picon.



Some of the material borders on kitsch, with titles like *That's Yiddisha Jazz*, *The Sheik of Avenue B* and *Matzoh Balls*. Nonetheless, the songs are interesting and important musical documents that demonstrate how Jewish musical influences were seeping into American musical culture (check out Cab Calloway's amazing rendition of *Ot Azoy Nit der Shnayderl*).

* * *

The gem of these re-issues is undoubtedly the long-overdue re-release of *Tanz!*, a landmark 1956 LP by American klezmer legends Dave Tarras and Sam Musiker. This is American klezmer music at its highest stage of development, just before its decline into near extinction.

Tanz! was a revolutionary record in its day. Tightly arranged and orchestrated by Musiker, *Tanz!* achieved highly sophisticated fusions of Yiddish and klezmer with jazzy American musical aesthetics. It was arguably the first klezmer "concept" album, and many contend it is the greatest klezmer record of all time.

The playing is absolutely amazing, with the strong ensemble group making the most of Musiker's brilliant arrangements. Solo excursions by the co-leaders verify their status as the leading klezmer clarinet players of their day.

The elder Tarras shines on his *Roumanian Fantasy* suite, while the protegé Musiker wrenches every bit of emotion out of a beautiful improvisation on *Der Neier Doina*, proving himself every bit the equal of his mentor (and father-in-law) Tarras.

By the 1950s, Tarras represented the old-school of American klezmorim, but the younger and lesser-known Musiker (who had done stints in Gene Krupa's band) was at the vanguard of an emerging brand of American-Jewish musician, well-versed in jazz and complex orchestration but also fluent in Jewish music.

Musiker's career was cut short by his premature death from heart failure in 1964. Had he lived on, there is no telling where he might have led the evolution of klezmer music. He was the archetype of the later klezmer revivalists, combining klezmer vocabulary with American music and developing an evolutionary mainstream style rooted in Jewish music.

Tanz! is a must-have for music fans of any stripe. This is exciting music that sparkles with originality and virtuosity. The original disc has been beautifully re-mastered and comes with two previously unreleased takes and excellent detailed notes about the making of the record.

Matched with the Schwartz CD, listeners will get a crash course in the evolution of klezmer in the first half of the 20th century.

Eric Stein is a member of Toronto klezmer band Beyond the Pale.

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Israel tells U.S. it will respond to Iraqi strike

By ALUF BENN and AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel has notified the United States that it will respond to any Iraqi attack, even if there are no Israeli casualties, *Ha'aretz* has learned.

Senior Israeli officials have explained to their American counterparts that it is important to Israel to maintain its deterrence, and that it would not practise the same kind of restraint it demonstrated in the Gulf War in 1991. The Americans empathized with the Israeli position, but said that if there are no casualties, Israel should make do with a symbolic response.

Israel and the United States have not yet held systematic consultations in preparation for a possible U.S. attack on Iraq, which would be designed to change the regime there. But the question of Israel's intervention in the war has been discussed in various meetings, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has told U.S. President George W. Bush that if Israel is attacked, it will respond.

According to senior Israeli sources, the United States would prefer for Israel to stay out, and will therefore do its utmost to keep Iraq from attacking Israel.

In 1991, the United States led a coalition that included several Arab countries, like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. The Americans believed the coalition would fall apart if Israel responded to an Iraqi attack. This time, America does not have Arab and European support from the outset, but Washington is still concerned that even the appearances of collaboration with Israel would badly affect its relations with Arab allies such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Israel's defence establishment still has no clear data about the U.S. plans. The working assumption is that the United States will not attack Iraq before the end of the year. The Israeli army is now perfecting the mechanisms that will be used if and when the war starts – early warning, home front command (distribution of gas masks and vaccines) and aerial defense (including the Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile and the air force).

The air force has already started deploying Arrow missile batteries near Hadera for a two-week drill. Military sources maintain the timing of the drill is not directly related to the expected U.S. attack in Iraq. Air force sources said this deployment had been planned a long time ago and is designed to get the forces accustomed to the equipment and the terrain so that everything would go smoothly in case of emergency.

In the last two years, the residents of the region waged a campaign against the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and the defense establishment, arguing that a permanent deployment of the batteries there would expose them to dangerous radiation. The parties eventually agreed that the IDF would only deploy there in an emergency.

Senior sources in the defence establishment said Sunday they were expecting a 72-hour warning before the American attack, although Israel has asked to be warned a week ahead of time.

"We do not have an automatic response for every given scenario, but the very statement that Israel will respond this time is important for deterrence," the sources said.

If America allows Israel to respond, tight co-ordination will be required. In 1991, the Americans refused to give Israel the codes that would have enabled the Israeli air force to operate over Iraq without crashing into U.S. aircraft.

Outgoing chief of the Central Command, Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan, said last weekend that a U.S. attack on Iraq would weaken Palestinian resolve to clash with Israel. The Palestinians depend to a great extent on Iraqi support, and any blow to Iraq would therefore cut into Palestinian resources.

Operation Defensive Shield and other IDF operations in the territories are causing "an earthquake" in the Palestinian Authority, Eitan said. "It is all beneath the surface. There is an internal debate in the territories, and most participants are still not ready to express their opinions in public, but the majority understands that they have lost the campaign [against Israel]."

Maj.-Gen. Moshe Kaplinski (Kaplan) replaced Eitan last week as chief of the Central Command. Kaplinski was Sharon's military secretary over the past year and is considered one of the candidates to become the next chief of staff.

Eitan will use the next few months for rest and studies. He may then be appointed head of the Plans and Policy Directorate.

Pilot in U.S. refuses to let Melchior fly

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CINCINNATI — A Delta Air Lines subsidiary refused to fly Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior from Cincinnati because the pilot thought Melchior posed a security risk, an Israeli radio station reported Sunday.

Melchior, who was being escorted by State Department officials for last Friday's flight, told the radio station that he waited on a plane for more than an hour before the pilot evacuated it, saying there was a security risk.

When Melchior disembarked, he said he was told he could not get back on the plane.

"The security officials and the company all put pressure on him, and there were negotiations," Melchior told Israel Radio. "But the pilot is sovereign on his aircraft, and he is empowered to make such a decision, and he did it in spite of all the pressure from the company and security officials."

He said he flew out on another Delta plane about a half-hour later. The Israeli Embassy in Washington had taken the matter up with the State Department, Melchior said.

This is the third time an Israeli official has been pulled from a flight because of a pilot's sense of a security risk, the radio reported. The others reportedly were Alon Pinkas, the Israeli consul general in New York, and a bodyguard of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

He deplored the "singling out of Israeli diplomats... and removing them from a plane in such a manner."

Atlanta-based Delta, which has a hub in Cincinnati, is the third-biggest U.S. carrier. Delta's corporate communications office was asked to comment, but had not responded at press time.

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Please reply in confidence, providing resume and references to:

Sharon Home Search Committee
c/o 500-5 Donald Street

Israel, Palestinians trade barbs, terrorism continues

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel's war on Palestinian terrorism is having mixed results, according to Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

On Sunday, Ben-Eliezer told cabinet that Israel's new policy of demolishing the homes of terrorists is beginning to have a deterrent effect.

Ben-Eliezer told the ministers that he had seen reports of Palestinian parents attempting to stop their children from carrying out terrorist attacks for fear their homes would be demolished.

Ben-Eliezer said that last week, Israeli forces arrested 25 suspected terrorists and demolished the homes of 17 terrorists.

Just the same, he said, 14 Israelis were killed and 90 wounded by Palestinian terrorists last week.

The night before the cabinet meeting, an Israeli woman, Yafit Herenstein, 31, was killed and her husband, Arno, was moderately wounded in a terrorist infiltration of a West Bank settlement. The couple's two children were unharmed.

In another attack, a Palestinian gunman opened fire Sunday on a group of Israeli road workers near the Jewish settlement of Dugit in northern Gaza.

One Israeli was shot at least five times in the arms and legs, but was reported in stable condition.

Israeli soldiers chased the gunman, who ran into a house in the nearby Palestinian area of Beit Lahiya, the army said. The gunman was killed in an exchange of fire with the soldiers.

The terror was punctuated by angry exchanges by Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his cabinet that he did not believe Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's regime would take action to halt Palestinian terror attacks.

"Arafat is the head of terrorism, and no one is counting on him," Sharon said.

His comments came as a Palestinian delegation was in Washington, D.C., for discussions with senior Bush administration officials on stabilizing the region and reforming Palestinian security forces.

Palestinian Authority Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said Sharon was trying to interfere with the visit of the high-ranking Palestinian delegation to Washington.

Last week, Ben-Eliezer met with Palestinian officials and presented what has come to be known as the "Gaza First" plan.

Under the plan, Israeli soldiers would withdraw from parts of Gaza and the West Bank city of Bethlehem in exchange for Palestinian guarantees that no attacks would be launched from these areas. Further withdrawals would take place if peace holds in these first areas.

On Sunday, Sharon said the positive reaction from some Palestinian officials to the plan was "a trick."

As Israeli and Palestinian officials traded barbs, Ben-Eliezer came under fire from a group of former Israeli security officials who called on him to keep his pledge to dismantle illegal settler enclaves.

In a letter to Israel's defence minister, former officials from the army, police and Shin Bet security service accused Ben-Eliezer of manipulating the situation to serve his own interests within the Labor Party.

"You cannot send us and our sons to protect lawbreakers," the letter said, according to Israel Radio.

In June, Ben-Eliezer said he intended to uproot some 20 unauthorized settler outposts. Several were subsequently taken down.

In related developments, Dafna Shafruch, 61, died Sunday of wounds sustained in the bombing attack at Hebrew University two weeks ago. Shafruch worked as an information systems co-ordinator for the university's Student Authority.

Shafruch had gone for lunch with the head of the Student Authority, Levina Shapira, who was also killed in the attack. Shafruch's colleagues described her as the brains of the Student Authority and said that her death was a great loss to the university. Shafruch is survived by her husband and three children. Two of the wounded from the attack are still in critical condition in hospital.

Dutch tolerance may benefit Muslim extremists

By SHARON SADEH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

THE HAGUE — The closure of the Al-Aqsa Foundation's offices in Germany last week set Holland's Jewish community in motion.

Last Wednesday Ronny Naftaniel, director of the Centre for Information and Documentation on Israel (CIDI) in The Hague, sent Holland's Justice Ministry an urgent letter, demanding that it investigate the Al-Aqsa group's activity in the country and take steps to close the foundation's offices.

"The Al-Aqsa Foundation operates around Europe, including in the Netherlands and Belgium," Naftaniel explains. He says the head of the foundation in Germany, a Palestinian named Mohammed Amar, also directs a sister branch in Holland whose main office is located in the city of Harlem, which raised 600,000 Euros in 2001 in a campaign focusing on cities with large Muslim populations.

Holland's General Intelligence and Security Service (known as AIVD, from the Dutch acronym) noted in its 2001 report that the Al-Aqsa group raises money for Hamas. But, says AIVD spokesperson Vincent Van Steen, "there is no proof that this money is used for terror activity, since Hamas also directs social and cultural activity."

The Al-Aqsa group's activity in the Netherlands is just the tip of the iceberg. A wide network of activities of extremist Muslims has stirred anxiety among the local Jewish community, as well as security officials and politicians. But a *Ha'aretz* investigation shows that despite the concern about growing Islamic radicalization, local authorities have yet to come to grips with the dangers posed by the trend. The apparently insufficient response is exemplified by the failure to implement strict security procedures in public venues and the reluctance to legislate specific anti-terror proposals.

Last year, a wealth of accumulated evidence indicated that the country's liberal immigration policy, its strong commitment to individual liberties and its atmosphere of tolerance were being exploited by extremist Muslim activists and terror elements. Police and security officers conducted undercover surveillance of Muslim operatives. They also carried out two raids – in September and April – in which 10 people, nine Algerians and one French citizen, were detained on charges of planning attacks against western targets. Four of them remain in custody, but two weeks ago one suspect escaped from his prison cell, and Dutch authorities are pursuing him.

Another investigation, carried out in co-operation with intelligence officials from the United States and other European countries, has established that the passports used by two suicide strikers who last September murdered Ahmedd Sahah Massoud, an anti-Taliban Afghan leader with the Northern Alliance, were forged in the Netherlands.

A recruitment connection operates freely in the Netherlands, trying to enlist Muslim fighters for the struggle in Kashmir. Recently the bodies of two young men who were killed last January in clashes with Indian troops were returned to Holland. Last week, authorities in Belgium announced that a number of leading members of the Fundamentalist party FIS (which has been banned in Algeria) met secretly in the Netherlands; this disclosure embarrassed Dutch security officials.

When it comes to fighting terror, the hands of law enforcement officials in Holland are technically tied. Despite intra-governmental agreements and accepted joint definitions of terror adopted in an emergency atmosphere by European Union members after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, "terrorism" as such is not defined in Dutch legislation. No person can be sentenced in the Netherlands for membership in a terrorist organization or for carrying out terrorist attacks. Persons suspected of such actions are persecuted only for criminal actions normally taken by terrorists such as kidnapping, trespassing, manslaughter or murder.

The AIVD spokesperson denies that this apparent lacuna in Dutch law poses a practical obstacle in the prosecution of terrorists. "Whoever is involved in an act of terror is involved in transgressions of the criminal code," the spokesperson explains.

In Holland, recent months have seen a lively public debate about the activities and ideologies of 700,000 Muslim residents in the country. The debate was sparked by the broadcast of an investigation on the current events television program, *Nova*. The broadcast featured secret recordings of incendiary sermons given by various imam preachers, condemning Israel, the United States, women and homesexuals.

One of the Muslim clerics called on Allah to "pour out wrath" on U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; another imam recited verses in praise of Palestinian suicide terrorists. Dutch prosecutors are considering whether indictments can be filed against some of these imams.

In a related development, a new, disturbing AIVD report on Muslim schools in the country has been released. According to the report, the schools, which are partially funded by donations from Libya and Saudi Arabia, indoctrinate students and advocate doctrines that are so extremist that they "might be harmful to the democratic legal order."

Classified documents and security sources indicate that terror organizations in Holland are involved in weapons smuggling, document forgery and illegal transfer of funds.

Plan for Falash Mora immigration

By MAZAL MUALEM
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Under a cloak of secrecy, Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef has been forging a plan for the immigration of thousands of Falash Mora Ethiopians with relatives in Israel.

The plan is based on recommendations submitted by Rabbi Yosef's close associate, Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, who travelled secretly to Ethiopia several months ago at the request of Rabbi Yosef and Shas leader Eli Yishai.

Rabbi Amar recommended bringing most of those waiting to immigrate to Israel (22,000 people dwelling in two camps in Addis Ababa and in Gondar) in an accelerated process that would obligate the candidates for immigration to undergo a Jewish training course in Ethiopia. The candidates have been awaiting immigration for the past three years.

According to the plan, Ethiopian rabbis, trained by Rabbi Yosef, would travel to Ethiopia and establish religious institutes in the Addis Ababa and Gondar areas.

The candidates for immigration, who are in fact descendents of Jews, would be required to take a course that lasts a few months about the various laws and customs of the Torah. The plan calls for the immigrants to be imbibed with "the spark of Judaism" so they can come "prepared to Israel."

While in Ethiopia, Rabbi Amar assessed the level of Judaism of the some 22,000 Falash Mora Ethiopians and recommended different methods of dealing with the mass immigration. He stayed with the Falash Mora for a few days and was shocked by their tough living conditions. In a recent meeting with Rabbi Yosef and Yishai, he submitted the findings from investigations he carried out both in Ethiopia and in Israel.

During Rabbi Yosef's term as chief rabbi of Israel, the government officially recognized the Falash Mora's Jewish authenticity. In a Halachic ruling in 1984, Rabbi Yosef in essence paved the way for "Operation Moses," which airlifted 7,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel that year. He is currently working on a halachic writ, which builds on his 1984 ruling, and will serve as a policy guide for Shas leader Eli Yishai to use in his position as interior minister.

A Jerusalem street bounces back to life

By ESTHER HECHT

David Bilmes hadn't considered the resilience of Jerusalemites when he arrived for a summer sublet in the German Colony, an upscale neighbourhood. Its narrow, tree-lined lanes were as serene and bucolic as he had expected, but the main thoroughfare, Emek Refa'im Street, was hopping.

"We were all surprised at how lively Emek Refa'im is, especially at night," said Bilmes, 45, a schoolteacher from Middlebury, Conn., here with his family for a month of study.

Life in Israel

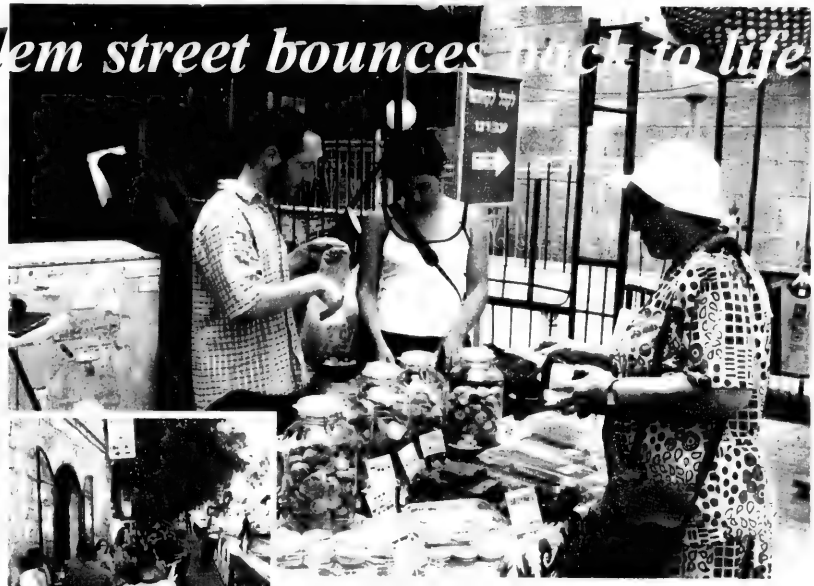
On a Thursday night in July – Thursday nights are party nights in Israel since most people are off on Friday – traffic was bumper to bumper on Emek Refa'im. Diners and drinkers filled sidewalk tables. At Caffit, the neighbourhood's trendiest café, about 10 people, including a family with young children, waited to get in. Across the street, teenagers crowded around a cell-phone promoter who was giving away glow-in-the dark necklaces.

Had Bilmes arrived in early April, he would have found a totally different scene. A wave of suicide attacks throughout March that killed 26 and wounded more than 200 in the capital, had left residents wary of entering any public place. Not only the city centre, where most of the attacks had occurred, became nearly deserted. Emek Refa'im, with its yuppie boutiques and more than two dozen restaurants, cafés, bars and fast-food stands crowded into a quarter-mile stretch, was abandoned.

But summer, tight security and a period of relative quiet have restored the bustle to this entertainment strip on the city's south side, while much of the downtown continues to languish. Emek Refa'im merchants received an additional boost when the 19th annual Jerusalem International Film Festival opened mid-July at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, just a few blocks away.

One of those merchants is Nurit Steinfeld. Last May, she opened Haruzim, a jewelry shop in which customers select beads to be strung into necklaces. In July, she closed a similar shop she had had in the city centre for eight years, because, she said, "the situation downtown was catastrophic. People weren't walking around."

Emek Refa'im, on the contrary, is a "street for strollers" and the new shop "was an immediate success," Steinfeld, 50, said. "It is more successful than the downtown store ever was… [and] things went well during the film festival."



Shopping, taking stock of life on Emek Refa'im in Jerusalem and enjoying life at a sidewalk cafe (inset). [Esther Hecht photos]

Another merchant, Yaron Menashe, 29, is co-owner of the popular new Coffee Shop.

"The street is coming alive, becoming Jerusalem's Sheinkin," said Menashe, referring to Tel Aviv's famous yuppie strip. "I hope it will become even livelier."

The German Colony gets its name from the group of Germans, members of a Christian sect, who settled the area in the 1870s and lived there until World War II, when they were expelled by the British for being Nazi sympathizers. Many of the one- and two-story houses they built still stand, alongside highly ornamented Arab-built houses and modern condos. Today, the German Colony is a Jewish neighbourhood.

Signs of the street's awakening are sidewalk stands at which vendors hawk organic olive oil and homemade cookies. Avital Steinitz, a 19-year-old soldier home on leave, comes to Emek Refa'im on Fridays, the main shopping day, to sell his cookies.

The street is an "island of sanity… where you don't feel the recession and the political situation," he said. "It's not that the people here are cut off from reality. But they go on living."

They do so even on Saturday, the country's official day of rest, when nearly all businesses and places of entertainment in the city are closed. A cinema, two cafés and now a new McDonald's do a brisk business on Shabbat.

To enhance their customers' sense of safety, many cafés, such as the popular Caffit, where a suicide bombing was averted last March when the trigger mechanism failed, have installed metal gates. Security guards unlock the gates only after they have checked customers with a metal detector. There is a constant police presence, in the form of patrol cars and roadblocks at either end of the street.

But not all diners, drinkers and shoppers on Emek Refa'im sit behind locked gates. Shops have no security guards. Fast-food stands and some of the bars and cafés have sidewalk tables with no apparent protection against terror attacks. What makes the apparent relaxation possible is a safety calculus performed by each individual.

Bilmes, who has eaten out several times on Emek Refa'im, admitted he wouldn't relax completely "until the minute we set foot home safely" in Connecticut. But when he ate out, he said he "wasn't that nervous because three of the places were pizza or falafel stands at lunchtime.

"I figured that if there was going to be a bomber, they would look for a place with more people."

Ester Inbal, 29, a doctoral student in genetics at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said she avoids crowded places but felt relaxed as she munched on a late dinner of Thai stir-fry at a sidewalk table.

"There are no security arrangements here, but there are also few people," she said. "Where there's no crowd, I feel more comfortable."

For jewelry-store owner Steinfeld, it is the nature of her business that affords protection. "A terror attack can happen anywhere," she said, "but I've never thought a terrorist would come into a bead store."

And for Sara Thenen, 52, who spends every evening with friends at an outdoor table at Gaffen Wine Center, it is precisely the lack of security that helps.

"I'm always afraid," said Thenen, who is employed by an NGO that promotes workers' rights. "[But] a place with a security guard draws [terrorist] fire."

One of Thenen's companions, Kobi Tekhoa, 54, said he provides his own security: "I keep looking around to spot suspicious characters."

Paradoxically, fatalism seems to calm people of various ages.

"I'm here every day," said Amnon Lecker, 16, one of the youngsters lined up for a glow-in-the-dark necklace. "If God wants to take you, He will."

Steinfeld, too, admits to a kind of fatalism, though each time she boards a bus, she thinks about which seats are the safest in the event of an attack. "What helps me is feeling that if my life is meant to end, it will end," she said.

And then there are those who simply can't stay home. "I wouldn't sit in a place without security," said photographer Shabi Hamawi, 26, as he sat in the Coffee Shop at a large open window facing the street. "I come here a lot. It's my life. People are smiling; there's a feeling that [the terror] is behind us. Jerusalem has such *energy*."

Esther Hecht is a writer living in Jerusalem.

The Week in Israel

Aug. 5

• Avi Volanski, 29, and his pregnant wife, Avital, 27, were killed and their toddler son was wounded in a terrorist ambush as the couple was driving Sunday night to their home in Eli in the West Bank.

Aug. 6

• The Israel Defence Forces, near Jenin, killed Ali Ajouri, 23, a local leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. Ajouri was thought to have plotted the double suicide bombing on Tisha b'Av in Tel Aviv's Neve Shaanan quarter, which killed 5 people and wounded 40. He was also believed to have sent at least two other suicide bombers into Israel in the last three months.

Aug. 7

• Israel announced it plans to buy 1 billion cubic metres of water from Turkey over the next 20 years.

Aug. 8

• Speaking at a graduation ceremony at the National Security Academy, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said: "We can't hold peace talks with… the Palestinian Authority. Rooting them [terrorists] out is the only way to reach peace." The prime minister stressed that Israel was not targeting the Palestinian population, but rather those linked to terror, and he said Israel would do everything in its power to help Palestinians who were not involved in terror. Israel's hand continues to be extended in peace, he told the audience, and he implored the Israeli people to not give in to the recent "sense of anger and frustration."

Aug. 9

• A CIA team that visited the Mideast secretly has formulated a detailed plan for large security reforms in the Palestinian Authority, a newspaper report revealed. The team did not meet Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Kasparov to take on Israeli chess program

By YUVAL DROR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, will match himself against the Israeli chess program "Junior" in Jerusalem on Oct. 1.

In Jerusalem to announce it, Kasparov said that if he wins the planned six-game match, he would donate some of the $1 million (US) purse to victims of terror attacks and their families.

The program was developed by two Israeli software engineers: Amir Ban, one of the founders of the Israeli high-tech company M-Systems, and Shay Bushinsky, director of development for the Kasparov Chess company.

The two began work on the program in 1994. Since then, Junior has twice won the world microcomputer chess championship on Israel's behalf, in 1997 and 2000. Last year, it won a third, and more prestigious, title for Israel – the world computer chess championship for all types of computers – and two weeks ago, it successfully defended this title, beating previous winning programs from the U.S., Russia, Germany and Holland. It was this victory that prompted Kasparov's offer of a challenge match.

In an interview, Bushinsky noted that the planned Kasparov-Junior match is a rare event. "When Kasparov lost in 1997 to IBM's 'Deep Blue' program, chess players went into shock," he said. "Since then, no chess master has challenged a computer program."

However, he said, this was partly because expert players initially had no real chance to practise against computers.

"Deep Blue played a total of six games and then disappeared," Bushinsky explained.

In contrast, Kasparov has had ample opportunity to become familiar with Junior, and he now believes that he has discovered its weaknesses and can therefore defeat it. Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the World Chess Federation (FIDE – Fédération Internationale des Echecs), said that an experienced international judge would supervise the competition, which will be attended by the organization's leadership and representatives of its 162 member states. "Humanity is hoping that Garry will beat the computer," he said.

As a contribution to the peace process, he added, the challenge match will include a friendly chess competition between 100 young Israelis and Palestinians.

Kasparov said he sees the upcoming match as symbolizing a new era in the "man versus machine" contest.

Associates of the chess champion said it was Kasparov who insisted on the venue, spurred by a similar challenge match in Bahrain – sponsored by the emir of Bahrain and the Arab satellite television station Al Jazeera – between the world's second-ranked chess player, Vladimir Kramnik, and the German chess program that is currently ranked fourth in the world.

"I'm certain that Kasparov thinks he will beat Junior," Bushinsky said, adding that he and Ban would soon begin preparing the program for the upcoming match.

But who does he think will win? "Junior, of course," replied Bushinsky.

International chess champion Garry Kasparov (left) plays all comers at Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall. [Israel Sun photo]

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The Believer *explores violent Jewish self-hatred*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The events in *The Believer*, a jolting movie written and directed by Henry Bean, are not merely figments of Bean's imagination.

In the mid-1960s, an enterprising reporter from *The New York Times* stumbled upon a sizzling hot story. He discovered that the leader of the Ku Klux Klan chapter in the city was none other than Daniel Burros, who was born and raised a Jew.

When the reporter's story appeared on the front page of the newspaper, Burros shot himself, thus bringing to an ignominious end the life of a self-hating, pathetic Jewish man.

In *The Believer*, which opens Aug. 16 at the Carlton and Bayview theatres, the Burros character is embodied in the person of Danny Balint (Ryan Gosling), a former yeshiva student who has rebelled against his people with a vengeance.

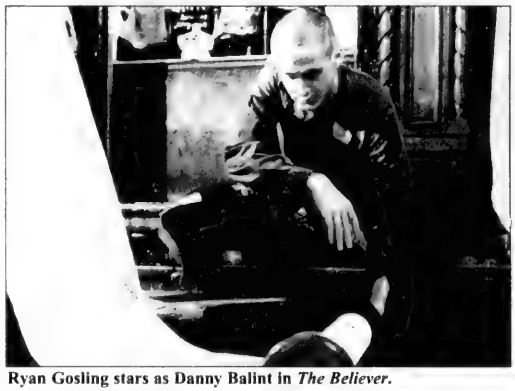
There are, he claims at a meeting of like-minded neo-fascists, "50 reasons" to hate Jews.

Comparing Jews to rats and Judaism to a sickness, the intense Balint claims that Jews control and manipulate the media, that they are rootless nomads, that they incite class warfare and that they pull at "the fabric of life."

It isn't completely clear why Balint has become a neo-Nazi skinhead. But as a series of jarring black-and-white flashbacks indicate, Balint, as a precocious yeshiva student, had serious theological disputes with his impatient teacher and never reconciled himself to the generally submissive manner in which the vast majority of Jews went to their deaths during the Holocaust.

As the film opens, Balint, sporting a jersey emblazoned with a bold swastika, is lifting weights, hardening his body for the street battles that surely lie ahead.

On a crowded subway, he spies a bookish Jewish student wearing a kippah. When Balint harasses him, he leaves the train. Outside the station, Balint beats him, calling the victim a "yeshiva bocher" and a "fu--ing Jew." This throbbing scene firmly establishes Balint's "credentials" as a violent thug.



Ryan Gosling stars as Danny Balint in *The Believer*.

The scene shifts to the home of Linda Moebius (Theresa Russell), a neo-fascist sympathizer. The guest speaker, Curtis Zampf (Billy Zane), claims that Jews "are not an issue anymore," and that anti-Semitism has become passe.

His remarks clearly irritate Balint, whose objective is to build a society modelled after Nazi Germany.

Although Moebius and Zampf do not share Balint's hardcore beliefs, they are impressed by his quick intelligence and his ability to articulate ideas. As Balint rises in the organization, a freelance reporter seeks him out for an interview.

He surprises the usually self-possessed Balint with a pointed question: How can you be a neo-Nazi when you're Jewish yourself? "Do I look Jewish," Balint asks plaintively. He threatens to sue the reporter's "Jewish newspaper," and then to commit suicide, if his Jewish identity is revealed.

These scenes unfold with a dramatic tautness that is the hallmark of *The Believer*.

A misdemeanour in a Jewish restaurant prompts a judge to order them into "sensitivity training" with Holocaust survivors. "We have nothing to learn from these people," Balint says dismissively.

Although Balint is a zealous anti-Semite, the level of his Jewish knowledge arouses suspicion. Balint retorts, "If you really hate something, you study it."

Despite his ardent anti-Semitic outlook, Balint, as Bean suggests, is basically conflicted. When he and his fellow neo-Nazis are planting a bomb in the shul, Balint is strangely moved by the ark and the Torah scroll.

And in a bizarre turn that strains the credibility of *The Believer* and highlights the inconsistencies in Balint's mind, he teaches his impressionable girlfriend (Summer Phoenix) Hebrew and momentarily leads a Jewish congregation in prayer.

In spite of these lapses, this is a strong, largely plausible film, whose gravitas is greatly enhanced by Gosling's superb performance.

The Believer is far-fetched at times, but it commands a viewer's attention and interest.

Actress loses her head over Stratford career

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Julie Tepperman couldn't be happier.

The graduate of the George Brown Theatre School says she was prepared for a life of not knowing what she was doing six months in advance. Now, at 23, the actress has a nine-month contract with the Stratford Festival, currently in its 50th season, and has been chosen to study at Stratford's exclusive Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training in the fall.

"It's really quite remarkable," said the Thornhill native, who also spent four years at York University. "Most [acting] jobs are for two or three months."

Though Tepperman is not starring in any production, she plays minor roles in two performances in her rookie season. She is Isabelle the maid in *All's Well That Ends Well* and Henriette Bavay in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, where she is beheaded in the opening scene.

Julie Tepperman

"She [Bavay] is beheaded; that's how it starts," said Tepperman about the play adapted from a 1905 novel by Baroness Orczy about a fictional British hero of the French Revolution. "It's the most chilling opening to a scene ever."

In the novel/play, a French actress begins to admire her English husband after she learns that he is the legendary Scarlet Pimpernel, a man who risked his life to save French aristocrats from the guillotine.

Tepperman said she "has never been in anything this big before.

"It's amazing to see all the elements of a production come together," she said.

William Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* is about a doctor's daughter who cures the ailing king of France and claims marriage to a young lord as her reward. Tepperman, in a non-speaking role, plays Isabelle the maid and is also the understudy to Diana and Mariana.

"It's a difficult play," but added that "because the run is so long, chances are [she will] be in," Tepperman said.

Either way, she said, the experience of working alongside top performers is rewarding for her.

"It's different [from] anything I have experienced," said Tepperman, who attended Associated Hebrew Schools until Grade 5 and graduated from Unionville Secondary School in 1997. "I am able to observe their work and learn through osmosis."

Tepperman said her first few weeks at Stratford were like a maze. She tried to learn where all the buildings were while rehearsing "all the time."

"[It was a] pretty intense time, being away from home with new surroundings. It's like Grade 9 all over again," she said. "I had a hard time speaking to people."

But she is now settled and is eagerly preparing for her fall classes.

"I'm quite happy. They only pick 12 people and I really wanted to do it," said the actress, who had to forgo a role in *King Lear* to accept the placement. "I can't be in *King Lear*, but it gives a very realistic view of how theatre works and I'm getting to do it every day."

The conservatory, founded in 1998, provides young performers with a 15-week program taught by senior artists. It develops students' voice, movement and understanding of classical texts and acting.

Tepperman said her success is due to "always having very supportive parents," and being taught by "really wonderful teachers."

All's Well That Ends Well runs until Aug. 31 and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* plays until Nov. 2. For tickets call, 1-800-567-1600.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

MODERNIST CERAMICS BY RIE AND COPER ON VIEW AT GARDINER MUSEUM

Dame Lucie Rie (1902-1995) and **Hans Coper** (1920-1981) are credited with revolutionizing ceramic art by embracing the rigorous simplicity of modernism. The Vienna-born Rie and German-born Coper are said to have established a new European aesthetic based on modernist design principles.

An exhibition at Toronto's Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art showcases representative pieces by Coper and Rie and traces their influence in the work of 56 contemporary ceramic artists. Items in Ceramic Modernism: Hans Coper, Lucie Rie and Their Legacy include colourful bowls, vases, cups and saucers by Rie and elegant sophisticated sculptural pieces by Coper.

Rie, who studied art in Vienna, was forced to flee Austria in 1938. Coper escaped Germany in 1939 but was interned as an enemy alien in England and briefly in Canada; after being sent back to England, he joined the war effort.

At the Gardiner Museum until Sept. 2. 111 Queen's Park. 416-586-8080.

* * *

Moscow Yiddishist on Tour: Yefim Aleksandrov, a Muscovite performer of traditional Jewish songs, is the producer of *Songs of the Jewish Shtetl*, a musical currently on a 16-city tour of North America.

The 30-person show features Yiddish songs and dancers in traditional folk costumes, and has been warmly received in Russia, Germany and Israel. It is "totally dedicated to the preservation of Jewish culture in the mother tongue [Yiddish]," Aleksandrov explains. According to the *Moscow Courier*, "every song is a visual episode of the days gone by of the Jewish villages," even as the show still retains a strong contemporary feeling.

Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave. Sept. 4, 8 p.m. 416-491-3014 or 416-226-9151.

* * *

Agam Donates Sculpture: Israeli sculptor **Yaakov Agam**, who lives in France, was in Jerusalem recently for the dedication of a new sculpture he donated to Yad Sarah, the large volunteer organization that helps people with disabilities.

Agam calls the work *Being and Becoming* and describes it as a "fluid piece, a wheel within a wheel... [symbolizing] freedom of movement and a fuller life." It adorns the entrance of Yad Sarah's headquarters on Jerusalem's Herzl Boulevard.

Yad Sarah provides a spectrum of valuable medical services for free or at a nominal fee to people in need. It relies on 6,000 volunteers at more than 90 branches throughout Israel.

* * *

Literary Competition: The CBC Literary Awards are open to all Canadians, whether living in Canada or abroad. Original and unpublished short stories, travel literature and poetry submissions are invited in either official language. First prize is $6,000, second prize $4,000. $20 entry fee. Deadline Sept. 30.

Details on the Web at www.cbc.ca/literaryawards, or write to CBC Literary Awards, CBC Radio Arts and Entertainment, P.O. Box 500, Stn. "A", Toronto ON M5W 1E6.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The Toronto Potters 11th Biennial Juried Exhibition is on view in the gallery shop of the Gardiner Museum of Ceramics, 111 Queens Park, Aug. 14 to Sept. 11.

• Originally slated for mid-July in Nathan Phillips Square, the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition has been rescheduled for the Labour Day weekend (Aug. 30 to Sept. 1). It is expected to generate about $2.5 million in sales for 550 participating artists. Free lunch-hour concerts will be held in the square on Wednesdays thru August, noon to 2 p.m.

• The acclaimed Soulpepper Theatre Co. presents **Strindberg's** *Miss Julie* from Aug. 22, **Genet's** *The Maids* from Aug. 23, and **Absolutely Chekhov – The Chekhov Project** from Sept. 3, all at Harbourfront. 416-973-4000.

•The RBC Seniors Jubilee 2002 presents 1,300 performers doing singing, dancing, comedy and cabaret in the newly renovated Roy Thomson Hall. $15-$35. Aug. 19 to 23. 416-872-4255.

• The Royal Ontario Museum is the only Canadian venue for Treasures from A Lost Civilization: Ancient Chinese Art from Sichuan. On view until Nov. 10.

• The Jewish Information Service is updating its Jewish Arts Directory. Jewish artists working in dance, drama, education, film, music, literature and visual arts are asked to contact Lee at 416-635-5600 or email jinfo@ujafed.org.

Red Hot Mama was a philanthropist

By BEN ROSE
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — Performer Sophie Tucker gave millions of dollars to Zionist causes, wrote a letter to Hitler admonishing him for banning her *My Yiddishe Mama* record in Germany and worked "black face" to start her vaudeville career.

"Sophie was never comfortable with radio and TV formats because she was not used to any restraint," said Valerie Boyle, who portrays Tucker in *Sophie, Last of the Red Hot Mamas*, which opens at the Red Barn Theatre in Jackson's Point for previews on Aug. 28 and runs until Sept. 14.

From the time Israel was established in 1948 until she died at age 82 in 1966, Tucker donated large amounts to the Jewish National Fund and other Zionist charities. There are schools named for her in Israel.

She first realized how important her Jewish roots were when she performed in England in the 1930s and a large Jewish audience connected with her.

"I'm amazed by the number of people who come up to me and say, 'I didn't realize that Sophie lived that kind of life,'" Boyle said after her performances in the play last year in Orangeville, Hamilton, Port Dover and Peterborough.

Valerie Boyle portrays Sophie Tucker at Red Barn Theatre.

Boyle has done hours of research on Tucker's life, read her autobiography, *Some of these Days*, and collected lots of her sheet music, as well as 78s, long-play records, discs and tapes of her songs.

Tucker was born in a farmer's field near the Baltic Sea. Her mother was about to give birth to her when the wagon driver taking them out of Poland threw her mother and two-year-old brother Phil out of the wagon because he had a schedule to keep.

Years later, when she first went to New York, she worked as a prostitute and was arrested.

Tucker was married three times, once when she was just 15 and had given birth to a son, once to an alcoholic and once to a gambler. All three marriages ended in divorce, and she was forever paying alimony.

Boyle, who is not Jewish, tells it as it was, leaving out none of the twists in Tucker's career. She sings her songs, using Yiddish expressions.

"Sophie's family came to Ellis Island in 1886 under the identity of an Italian Catholic who had befriended her father, Lewis Tuck, in Poland," Boyle said. "Outwardly, they were Catholics, but they retained all of the Jewish rituals inwardly. She used expressions like chutzpah, mishpoche, oy vey and shmatte, but she didn't do them very well because she never really understood Yiddish.

"When I was learning her songs, I had coaching from a Yiddish lady, Ruth Slater, of Hamilton, a singer who is now retired. Until then, I didn't realize how different Yiddish is, depending on what country people come from."

In the production, Boyle says she enjoys her interaction with Randy Vancourt, who plays the part of Teddy Shapiro, Tucker's accompanist for 48 years. (She never signed a contract with him, because she thought it would be bad luck.)

Vancourt, who was one of the comedians in *Chutzpah A Go Go*, is now in an acting and piano-playing role in a Brockville play.

Boyle is currently in front of the cameras, playing the part of a school principal in an NBC children's TV show that will air in September.

Sophie was written by Boyle and revised by Jordan Merkur, Red Barn's artistic director.

For more information, call 1-888-Red-Barn or visit their Web site, www.redbarntheatre.ca.

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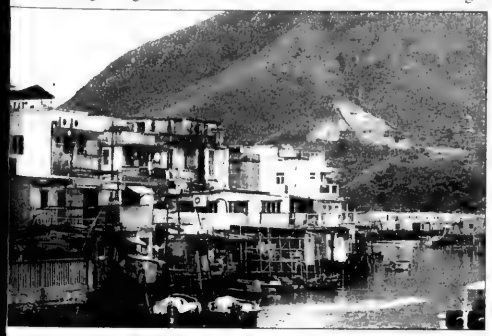
Arts & Travel

Hong Kong is not all skyscrapers and packed roads

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

GRASS ISLAND — This small, remote island in the South China Sea, known locally as Tap Mun Chau, seems a long, long way from Hong Kong's towering urban landscape and relentlessly frenetic pace.

Sprinkled with sprays of white and pink flowers, the kind often seen in delicate Chinese watercolours, Grass Island is part of an archipelago of islands that constitute the greater Hong Kong area.



The fishing village of Tai O.

When Canadians think of Hong Kong, they usually conjure up images of a busy waterfront, gleaming skyscrapers, upscale malls, jam-packed roads, crowded sidewalks and picturesque outdoor markets.

They most definitely do not associate Hong Kong with green, serene getaways like Grass Island, or with the sandy beaches and ethereal Buddhist statues on neighbouring Lantau Island.

But if you look at a map, you'll soon discover that Hong Kong does not just consist of Hong Kong Island and adjacent Kowloon, the hub of its commercial and financial districts.

In fact, the biggest chunk of Hong Kong, a whopping 88 per cent, is composed of the New Territories, north of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, and the 200 or so islands and islets scattered throughout the South China Sea.

The South China Sea from a bluff on Grass Island. [Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Once you're plugged into this reality, you can experience Hong Kong's largely unspoiled rural hinterland, so near and yet so far.

Not being all that familiar with this dimension of its geography, I joined an ecotour of the New Territories and Grass Island. It was organized by Paul Etherington of Hong Kong-based Natural Excursion Ideals Company.

He picked me up at my hotel, the Peninsula in Kowloon, and we drove 35 kilometres northwest to the Sai Kung Peninsula.

Within about 30 minutes, the noise and congestion of Kowloon gave way to the sheer bliss and glorious mountainous greenery of the New Territories.

We boarded a ferry, and within 20 minutes, we disembarked on Grass Island, some two kilometres in length and less than a kilometre in width at its widest point.

The island supports a permanent population of about 100, mainly fishermen and their families.

On weekends, though, it is overrun with tourists from Hong Kong eager to enjoy its isolation, explore its nooks and crannies and sample its seafood. Since we were there on a Thursday, we practically had Grass Island to ourselves.

Etherington, a British ex-pat who settled in Hong Kong 25 years ago, showed me the Tin Hau Temple. Close to the docks, it was built during the Qing dynasty. To me, it was just another temple, undistinguished by architectural flair.

We walked up a cow path, past a profusion of white and pink hackberry shrubs, and reached a scenic bluff with an enchanting view of fishing boats.

Then, as we skirted a Taoist cemetery, we passed a herd of wild cattle grazing contentedly in a sloping pasture.

Grass Island has a calming effect on visitors. I was impressed by its sylvan splendour and simple charms. It was, in a word, perfect.

After a hearty meal at a restaurant, we headed back to the New Territories for a round of cycling. I was not entirely comfortable with the bike, since it lacked adjustable handlebars. Nor was there a large enough safety helmet for me. Nonetheless, I set off.

The countryside was lush, the day was humid. We cycled along a narrow concrete path, and eventually we reached a quiet bay, where we paused for a photograph. By then, I was tired and drenched in perspiration.

The ride back to Etherington's van was harder, given the steep ascents and the sweltering weather. As I negotiated a curve, my left brake hit a railing. I was sent flying, first to the left and then, violently, to the right as my lower back hit an exposed rock.

Etherington helped me up, but I was in pain. Despite the mishap, I enjoyed this segment of the trip.

Several days later, having partially recovered from my fall, I joined a bus tour of Lantau Island, which is almost twice the size of Hong Kong Island.

Densely wooded and ridged with relatively high mountains, Lantau Island is still rather wild, a refuge of deer, armadillos, squirrels, water buffalo, cattle and python snakes.

But clusters of apartment buildings, as well as Hong Kong's new airport, Chek Lap Kok, have filled in some of the void.

And now comes word that Disneyland is building a theme park near the airport.

Despite these encroachments, 60 per cent of Lantau Island remains parkland. It should also be noted that the island, the advance of urbanization notwithstanding, is still served by an antiquated one-lane road, which tends to slow traffic in both directions.

Lantau's southern coast has the best sandy beach in Hong Kong, Cheung Sha. The interior of the island is crowned by pine-clad Phoenix mountain, the island's highest peak. It is ideal for hiking.

The village of Tai O, whose fishing fleet has been reduced to some 20 vessels, exudes a quiet, understated charm. Vendors sell a huge variety of fish, fresh and dry, on its main street.

The island's main claim to fame is probably the Po Lin Monastery, a religious retreat built in the 1920s.

Two hundred and fifty steps lead to the Tian Tan Buddha statue, which was cast in Nanjing, China. Often wreathed in mist, the statue is 34 metres tall, a ghostly monolith that attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually.

***

For more information contact the Hong Kong Tourism Board in Toronto, 416-366-2389. The Web site address is Discover-Hong Kong. com.

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How old is old?

Photography exhibit dispels myths with depictions of vibrant seniors

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Sara Pachter, who escorts travel groups, was born in 1915. Is she old?

The great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson was born in 1925. Is he old?

Social worker and photographer Irene Borins Ash, 50, tries to answer these questions – and dispel some outdated myths about aging – in a new exhibit titled Treasured Legacies, which opens Sunday, Aug. 25, and runs to Sept. 30 at Holy Blossom Temple in the Cecile and Harry Pearl Gallery.

The show includes photographs of Jean Vanier, June Callwood, Nathan Leipciger, Ed Mirvish, Dr. Henry Morgentaler and Rabbi Gunther Plaut, along with some 40 other seniors, all over age 60. Each picture is accompanied by one or two paragraphs in which the subjects share their wisdom.

Borins Ash says the pictures depict vibrant and high-functioning people from a variety of occupations, cultures and social backgrounds – well-known and not-so-well-known individuals who have developed healthy attitudes to growing older.

"They have meaningful and joyous lives in spite of losses and changes," she says. "Aging well starts when a person is young."

She says the exhibit is important for seniors to view, but it will also be of interest to younger people. "Young people don't want to see older people. I'm trying to show them that there is beauty in the aging face."

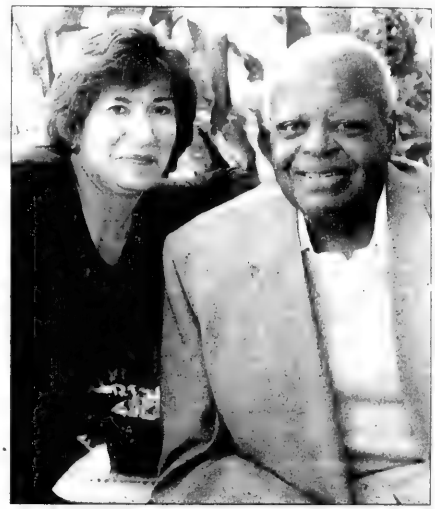
In 1994, Borins Ash who has worked with the elderly for many years, presented a paper on healthy, gracious and meaningful aging at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, and in 1999, she delivered papers at the Ontario Gerontology Association and the Fourth Global Conference of the International Federation on Aging. The presentations led to her interest in photographing seniors.

"These people look their age, but they remained active because they accepted that they were aging and who they are, and their limitations. Above all, these active, vibrant and joyous people enjoy their lives."

She believes that there is a strong connection between the mind, body and spirit. "When all three are in harmony, a person has a better chance at gracious aging."

The exhibit's Aug. 25 opening will run from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and feature Oscar Peterson as guest speaker. His topic is Creativity and Aging.

For more information on the Treasured Legacies exhibit, which is sponsored by long-term care provider Leisureworld Caregiving Centres, call Holy Blossom Temple, 416-789-3291 ext. 221.



Photographer and social worker, Irene Borins Ash, whose photographic exhibit opens soon at Holy Blossom Temple, is seen with jazz pianist Oscar Peterson.

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women seeking men

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady 5'5", slender, enjoys travel theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life. **AD#1151**

TREE FINER THINGS IN LIFE
I'm a fun loving, down to earth personality, attractive blonde enjoy travel theatre learning new things very hard working. I have no kids and seek an intelligent, active easy going male between 45-55 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1211**

SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4" with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments. I enjoy long walks, talks cozies, movies, art, poetry nature, animals. I'm open minded I value respect & sincerity friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET
Great personality easy to please lovely lady who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive 52 yrs old, looking to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old. **AD#1138**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50 ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5" 120 lbs seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship. **AD#1166**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, traveling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. Have a great one. **AD#1132**

FUN & COMPASSION
Single female from Montreal 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour conservador. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker secure fit compassionate, good natured conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel. **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

LET'S MEET
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, single parent w/ 12yr old son. A vivacious, lively ambitious hard working woman, she enjoys life, country walks, hiking, swimming, dancing, dining out, please respond. **AD#1421**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people seeks a companion to enjoy theatre sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call. **AD#1260**

MR WONDERFUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" with brown hair & eyes. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun. Seeking a Jewish traditionalist over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6' feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams. **AD#1248**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male. **AD#1146**

POSITIVE OUTLOOK
Single female, 65 yrs old, fun loving, classical. Enjoys travel, heart music, dancing, outdoors, candlelight, wine, romantic places, has positive outlook on life. Seeks a complimentary man for long lasting for long lasting relationship. **AD#1036**

SMART 'n SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish female 64 yr old, smart, spontaneous, compassionate & has good sense of humour. Seeks 65-75yrs male, who's active, handsome, loving & kind, who is ready to share love & friendship. **AD#1071**

LOVES TO LAUGH
Debra is 46 yrs old, a single mom w/ 2 grown children and enjoys movies, dining, travelling, live theatre. She also enjoys doing home decorating and seeks a fun loving, easy going guy, who loves to talk & laugh. Give her a call! **AD#1111**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
She's down to earth, professional, independent & fun loving is seeking a male who shares the same qualities for a companion first and see how it goes from there. **AD#1124**

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy a Jewish, on her 50's and attractive. She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes. She's sophisticated sexy warm, compassionate sensuous and loves life. She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs preferably tall, non smoking, sweet, kind hearted & well groomed. If you think you're a match leave a message. **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman loves to travel & meet new people. She enjoys theatre and sports and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old. **AD#1405**

YOUNG AT HEART
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche. I'm 59-69 yrs a non smoker, who's kind w/ good qualities. I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's and I love life & dancing. I'm compassionate & sensuous. Call me. **AD#1159**

MUSIC TO MY EARS
I'm 50+ yrs young, slim, brown hair & eyes, and non smoking. I love animals, long walks, movies, dancing and dining. I have no children living at home and seek a gentleman between 60-67 yrs young for friendship and conversation. I hope to hear from you soon. **AD#1236**

LET'S LIVE IT UP, EH?
Single female with hazel eyes, reddish hair, seeks love & laughter. She enjoy ballroom dancing, theatre, walks in the park. Looking for a non-smoker gentleman, who's 69+ yrs, 5' 8" with similar interests and more. **AD#1197**

HARD WORKING GAL
Attractive, down to earth and friendly female. She's 40 yrs old, a hard worker, and never been married. She enjoys movies, dining & dancing and seeks an attractive friendly, down to earth, hard working male between 40-49 yrs, for a serious long term relationship. Please call & leave a message. **AD#1387**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
41 yr old, single, professional woman. She enjoys a variety of interests ranging from the intellectual to the creative & physical. Seeking an intelligent, considerate family oriented man who's serious about getting serious. If this is you, please leave a message and she'll be sure to call. **AD#1225**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way. Financially secure perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit. Please leave a message. **AD#1095**

SEEKS A PROFESSIONAL
Nancy is Jewish, a youthful 56 yrs, divorced with 2 grown children. She enjoys dining, movies, long walks, country drives, and seeks professional man between 50-65 yrs a great sense of humour and strong sense of integrity. She looks forward to hearing from you. **AD#1161**

CONSERVADOX FEMALE
Single female from Montreal 50's, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour and conservadox. She enjoys art, dining and dancing, and travel. She seeks a male, 53-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests for friendship first. **AD#1034**

Perky widow, financially secure, professional, loves to travel and meeting new people. Looking for a companion, ideally a male in his 60-70s. Give her a call. **AD#1066**

SSSWEETER THAN SUGAR
She's sensational, super, sophisticated, sincere, successful, spontaneous, sensitive, swanky, sentimental, self assured, stable, self motivated, supportive, shapely, slim, sleek and sexy. A sultry scorpion of 37yrs, seeking a relationship with a man who know what he wants. **AD#1226**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto. She's 80 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel. Please call. **AD#1413**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute, smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1095**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11" wants a lady with similar interests who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour. Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1364**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted. Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys. **AD#1412**

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances into the arts, fit, non smoker. Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality. Wants a best friend/lovers later. Looking for a soulmate. Please respond. **AD#1232**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests. This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling. She works in science and engineering. **AD#1548**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7" medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel bands, likes to have fun. Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match. Send me your info and picture and I'll find you a catch. **AD#1290**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, having fun, good friends and honest communications. **AD#1128**

men seeking women

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous. Interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids 5' 10", 170 lbs, w/ brown hair, enjoys boating, camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female Jewish, preferably around the same age, who's honest, sincere, female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock'n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise please leave a message. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. If this is you, leave him a message. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading please call and leave a message. **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active enjoys theatre, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love it this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. Leave him a message. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK
Hi there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young, feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959 blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, likes long walks, singing, seeks a pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word, warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959 and traditionalist, top shape, pristine conscientious sensitive, drives with passion, class and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for your call. **AD#1572**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female 29-35 yrs, who is kosher and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1456**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic, seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

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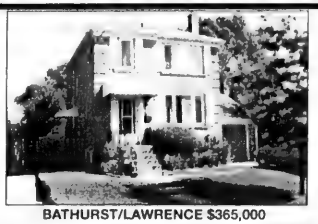

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$1,490,000. Fantastic 2/3 acre. New home, 5 bedroom, 8 bathrooms, stone house, circular drive, best part of Thornhill Stephen Selesnick* Ext. #281

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On 45 x 125 ft south lot! Separate entrance to in-law suite. 3 bedrooms, refinished hardwood floors, fabulous Armour Heights – just move right in! $394,900. Carole Lazer* Ext. #348

STUNNING HOME! BAYVIEW & YORK MILLS
$1,295,000. 5,100 sf of luxury on a 60 x 221 ft lot. Exquisite finishes. Spectacular backyard landscaping includes swimming pool, hot tub & waterfall. Must be seen! Carmen & Ron Justein* Ext. #520

NEW PRICE! REDUCED TO SELL!
$1,790,000. Best part of Arnold, within walking distance of private schools & synagogues. Approx. 10,000 sf of luxury living features 7+2 bdrms, 9 baths, Kosher kitchen. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

FABULOUS PENTHOUSE! SW VIEW
$319,900. Beautiful condo features 2 bdrms, 2 baths, solarium, grand marble foyer, upgraded kitchen w/top of line appliances, full ensuite, laundry, 2 parking spots. M. Noik* Ext. #289

WALK TO SYNAGOGUES & SCHOOLS
$689K. Magnif. fam home within walk dist. to religious schools & shuls. 4+3 bdrms, 4 baths, fin'd bsmnt w/2 bdrms, 3 pce bath, hot tub, outdoor pool. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** Ext. #289/545

WILSHIRE-BEVERLEY GLEN $375K
Quiet Thornhill crescent, 4 bdrm, 4 baths, spacious layout, family size kit w/breakfast bar, huge pantry, whirlpool ens, rec rm, c/air, c/vac, ++ Quick closing. Maxine Povering** Ext. #308

1ST AD! 3 BDRM CONDO - $234,900
Spacious 3 bdrm + den, 2 baths, in attractive location, overlooks pool & park, walk to bus, shopping, synagogues, available immediately. Paula Bernstein* Ext. #228

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* * *

LOWER VILLAGE - $1,065,000
Multi-family dwelling. Updated kitchens & baths. Fully rented. Private drive. 3 car pkg. Floor plans, income & expenses available **Don Wagman.**

* * *

FOREST HILL CONDO - $875,000.
Fabulous penthouse suite. 2 bdrms. + den. White kitchen + Breakfast/family rm. Ensuite laundry. Approx. 2,200 sq. ft. + 1,100 sq. ft terrace. 2 car parking. City view. ***Leslie Dennis.**

* * *

HILLCREST PARK - $659,000.
Luxuriously renovated 5 bdrm. home. Custom kitchen w/breakfast area. Main fl. powder rm. 2nd fl. laundry rm. Garage. ***Ed Rojas.**

* * *

YONGE / ST. CLAIR - $619,000.
Rarely available corner suite. 2 bdrms. Kitchen + breakfast rm. Custom built-ins. Central a/c. Tiled balcony. Approx. 1,525 sq. ft. 2 parking spots. ****Don Wagman.**

* * *

ST. CLAIR / AVENUE RD. - $518,000.
Lovely suite, in exclusive 16 unit building. 2 bdrms. + den. Multi walk outs to balcony. Ensuite laundry. Approx. 1,800 sq. ft. 2 parking spots 24 hr. security. ***Elaine Kehoe/*Tracy Selver.**

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $469,000.
Luxurious & spacious penthouse suite. Approx. 2448 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms 3 baths. Large family rm. Walk to synagogues, shops & TTC. ***Elaine Goldenberg-Pike.**

* * *

BATHURST / SHELBORNE - $419,000.
Updated 3 bdrm. home on south facing lot. Finished lower level. CAC Private drive & attached garage. ***Irene Elina.**

* * *

"GOVERNOR'S HILL" - $379,000.
Yonge/York Mills. Approx 1,092 sq. ft. of luxury living. Family rm Ensuite laundry. CAC. Locker. Parking. Fabulous amenities. ***Karine Lobart.**

* * *

YONGE / EGLINTON - $374,900.
Fabulous home in prime location. 3 bedrooms. Central air. Lovely garden. Steps to Subway, Shopping & Schools. ***Christina Paisley.**

* * *

"BEDFORD GLEN" - $349,000.
Lawrence/Avenue Rd. 2 storey Penthouse Suite. 2+ bdrms. 3 baths Eat-in kitchen. Marble fireplace. CAC. Ensuite laundry. Locker. 2 terraces. 2 parking spots. ****Richard Sherman.**

* * *

"DNA" CONDOS - 2004 OCCUPANCY
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* * *

YONGE / FINCH - $235,000.
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N. Miami Bch., Winston Towers, lux. 1 bdrm. conv., 2 bths avail now. $400/wk U.S. 416-739-7555.

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330 OBITUARIES

KLEIN, Rose – on July 26, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. E.
KORMAN, Efraim Fred – on July 28, 2002.
KAPELUTO, Bohor Alexandre – on July 27, 2002.
GITMAN, Lea – on July 28, 2002, late of 12 Rockfor Rd.
BLANKITNI, Chaim – on July 29, 2002, late of 20 Bayhill Dr.
NEGIN, Sonia – on July 31, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
BRANDT, Baruch Ben – on Aug. 1, 2002, late of 54 Laurelcrest Ave.
GOLDKORN, Noe – on Aug. 2, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Marianna (*Janny*) Glassman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 18th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community #4 Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

330 OBITUARIES

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ELIE JENAH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 25th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Magen David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MOSCHE ZEISLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 18th, 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PAULINE KRYSTAL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 18th, at 10:15 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Independent Friendly Workers Circle Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORDECHAI SILBERSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section - FFFF
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID SINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, at 11:30 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section #9
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

330 OBITUARIES

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LILLIAN KOZLOV ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 25th, 2002 at 12:00 noon

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer - Section 22
Bathurst St., South of Steeles, East side

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Philip & Channa Price ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 25th, 10:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St., So. of Steeles
Kieltzer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MORRIS WEISS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 18th, 9:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Yavne Zion Section

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Arts & Travel

Play explores father and son tensions

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

The relationship between famed writer Franz Kafka and his father, Herman, was a torturous one, so much so, that at age 35, the younger Kafka bared his soul in a 50-page letter to his domineering dad.

Alon Nashman, with the help of co-author Mark Cassidy, has adapted the letter into a play, *Kafka and Son*, in which Nashman plays both men.

It will be one of the featured attractions at the Ashkenaz Festival, which runs from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, at Harbourfront.

The letter reveals much about Kafka's inner life and about the always-epic relationship between father and son.

But the play also evokes the women in Franz's life – his fiancée and mother – who tease him toward the impossible poles of sex and succour.

"He is the ultimate, sensitive Jewish artist, a sort of canary in the mine who sensed the rising tide of fascism in Europe, in which the individual can be reduced to a number. But what he was responding to more than anything else was an agonized relationship with his overbearing father," Nashman said.

"Kafka is so enticing to me because he is a kindred spirit and an inspiration," Nashman said. "I identify with his view of the world, both absurd and unwittingly truthful, and I find him painfully funny to read."

He never actually wrote plays, but Kafka loved the theatre and there is an inherent dramatic quality to his work, Nashman said.

Kafka is also the latest in a string of prominent intellectual figures Nashman has portrayed on stage.

"I've made a career out of playing people much smarter than me," Nashman jokes. "I've been Albert Einstein, Allen Ginsberg, Jesus, astronomer Johannes Kepler, and Rabbi Akiva."

Nashman attributes his start as an actor to his own father, Harold, who was founding director of Camp Wahanowin.

"Thankfully, my life is less fraught than Kafka's. I am blessed with a wonderful wife, Elizabeth, and three amazing children, Tiferet, 7, Hershel, 4, and Nashma, 2, who all accommodate the sometimes crazy schedule of an actor. And I have an excellent relationship with my father."

Cassidy, who is also the play's director, said that when it comes to the relationship between fathers and sons, the play is just as relevant today as when the letter was written.

Along with Suzanne Hersh, Cassidy is co-artistic director of Threshold Theatre, which will stage *Kafka and Son*. It will get a post-Ashkenaz showing Jan. 11 at the official re-opening of the Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre (formerly the Bloor JCC).

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Nisker wins fans in Masters tennis debut

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to the CJN

Andrew Nisker of London, Ont., ranked ninth among Canadian tennis players, would barely be recognized on the street by fans of professional tennis. Yet, when he made his debut at the recent $2.95-million U.S. Tennis Masters Series Canadian Open at York University, fans greeted him with the affection generally shown for top players of the game, such as Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras.

The 23-year-old Nisker, ranked 799th in men's professional tennis, was a huge underdog against American Alex Kim in his qualifying round match.

However, Nisker showed guile and determination in grinding out a tough match before losing 7-6 (5), 6-3 before the cheers of the partisan Canadian fans at centre court.

Nisker's low ranking does not indicate the promise he showed in the match. A lot of long rallies in this baseline struggle forced Kim to come up with perfect volleys and backhands to conquer Nisker.

"I feel good despite the loss. A few points here and there may have made the difference. I now know that I am capable of playing at a high level. I am determined to look at the next year as a time to develop my game and compete at this level," said Nisker.

Nisker started playing tennis at a young age, as well as basketball, doing well in both sports. He led his high school team to a regional basketball championship, but started to excel in tennis in 1995.

Nisker won the All-Canadian singles championships that year, and was ranked third among Canadians 18 and under. He then won a scholarship to compete on the men's tennis team at Vanderbilt University in 1996.

Under the coaching of former American Davis Cup doubles player Ken Flach, Nisker was ranked as high as 20th in American collegiate singles.

"I owe Ken Flach a lot for what I learned from him. The struggle has been hard since I graduated from Vanderbilt in 2000. I am playing a lot of satellite tournaments [he was a finalist in one tournament and a quarter-finalist twice since his graduation] and feel the best is yet to come."

In doubles, Nisker and fellow Canadian Frank Dancevic teamed up before a few hundred fans who rallied the duo to a 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 victory over the team of Andrew Florent and Chris Haggard. Trailing 3-0 in the second set, Dancevic and Nisker broke serve and won the tie-break with aggressive shots.

"The fans helped us win. They encouraged us when we could have been wiped out."

Dancevic and Nisker lost their next match to the seventh seeds, David Prinosil and David Rickl, 6-4, 6-2, but still gained fans. The Canadian duo were signing autographs for fans that week in a session by Tennis Canada titled New Balls Please Canada, showcasing rising Canadian players.

The Canadian Open had four Israeli players (Noam Behr, Amir Hadad, Harel Levy, Noam Okun) and a Jewish player from Argentina (Gaston Etlis) competing in the qualifying round. None of them advanced into the main draw.

Most disappointed by his showing was Levy, who in 1990 had the best performance ever by an Israeli athlete in Canada, when he finished as a finalist to Marat Safin in the Canadian Open in Toronto. Levy's ranking was as high as 30th in 2001, including a victory over Pete Sampras.

Andrew Nisker

Levy suffered a hip injury in November 200 and was out of action fo the next six months. He has never regained hi form since returning t the tennis wars. Hi ranking has now plum meted to 322.

"I feel that it is just matter of getting more matches before I am back in the top 50. No matter how well I do for the rest of my career, I will never forget doing so well in Toronto two years ago," said Levy.

* * *

Drop shots: Sharon Fichman, 11, of Fores Hill defeated 12-year-old Aaron Chan 7-5 in a tie-break co-ed challenge event held at the National Tennis Centre. Fichman is ranked as the number one player in Canada 12 and under... Former Russian and now Israeli tennis star Anna Smashnova was scheduled to play at the Rogers AT&T Challenge women's tennis event in Montreal Aug. 10-18. Ranked 18th on the women's professional circuit, Smashnova is the highest ranked Israeli ever in the history of women's tennis.

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Tryouts planned for Pan Am Maccabi Games

Maccabi Canada is inviting Jewish athletes who would like to represent Canada at next summer's Pan American Maccabi Games in Caracas, Venezuela to try out in a number of sports.

The Jewish sporting organization is looking for athletes in baseball, basketball, beach volleyball, bowling, bridge, golf, gymnastics, half marathon, judo, karate, rugby 7, soccer, softball, squash, swimming, tennis, triathlon, volleyball and water polo.

For the first time at a Maccabi-sanctioned event, the basketball tournament will include a youth competition. Eligible players must be born between Jan. 1, 1984 and Dec. 31, 1986.

For information regarding trials for all sports, contact Ted Badner at 905-707-7556. For general information call Allen Gerskup at 416-630-7799, ext. 223. Maccabi officials can also be reached by e-mail at: maccabi@maccabicanada.com.

The Pan American Maccabi Games are held every four years as a celebration of Jewish unity, culture and pride through athletic competition. The 10th Pan Am Games will take place from July 17 to 28, 2003.

In addition to athletes from North, Central and South American nations, Great Britain, Australia and Israel will also send participants to the games.

The Pan Am Maccabi Games are sponsored by the Latin American Maccabi Federation ("CLAM") and are similar to the Maccabiah Games held in Israel.

Although sports competition is the games' primary focus, they are also intended to promote friendship and camaraderie, to share Jewish culture and traditions and to foster a sense of unity and pride among Jews from around the world. Approximately 2,500 participants from 20 countries will gather in Caracas for the games.

The Venezuelan and Canadian organizing committees have designed a varied program for the Canadian team that includes sightseeing, parties and cultural events.

Breaking the silence

By ART EGGLETON

Guest Voice

The people of Israel are struggling to protect their children's right to live and laugh in their own neighbourhoods without a threat of violence and intimidation.

Despite the horror of the Holocaust, Israel has been largely on its own throughout its existence, fighting for survival in the face of regional hostility and insidious terrorism. The world did not intervene when Israel was attacked in 1948, when it was completely encircled in 1967 or when it was invaded in 1973. It is true that a select few, such as Canada, have always defended Israel's right to exist. But the world has criticized Israel again and again when it has legitimately defended itself from terror. Against this onslaught, the voices of solidarity for the embattled nation have been few and far between.

Today, Israel faces a new kind of threat. It faces suicidal guerrilla-style terrorist networks, which target civilians in order to intimidate the Israeli public through the murder of the greatest number of innocent people. These evil acts of terrorism are just the new manifestations of the old struggle of self-preservation that the Jewish people have been forced to fight against the forces of extremism and hatred.

Yet through it all, Israel's *tikvah*/hope for a sustainable peace has never diminished, and its commitment to its legitimate quest for security has never wavered. It is time for Canada and for the world to break the silence and stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel in a united front against terrorism. Canada must be fully supportive of Israel's legitimate right to defend itself and its citizens from attack. We cannot separate our own war against terrorism in Afghanistan from the war that Israel fights. There is no moral equivalence between a suicide bombing that destroys a Passover meal and the cautious, precise Israeli military reaction to capturing and arresting the perpetrators who have masterminded and supported this act of barbarity. Terrorism is a political message wrapped in flames of violence. It is never justified and it is always evil.

We must not forget that Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat rejected the generous offer of peace that former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak put forth during the Camp David II negotiations in July 2000 and in Taba in September 2000. It is also clear that in the aftermath of the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, many within the PA leadership made a conscious choice to embrace barbarism in the misplaced hope that Israelis would tire from the persistent violence and would unilaterally concede. At the very least, the PA has chosen to allow waves of suicide bombers to slaughter innocent people instead of undertaking meaningful negotiations that would result in a lasting, mutual compromise.

Canada must make it clear to the PA that it must stop all terror attacks directed against Israel. We must unequivocally state that the PA must do everything in its power to thwart its own militants, as well as the terrorist groupings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, not only from carrying out their atrocities, but also from operating. The PA leadership must rein in the militants and close down the machinery of anti-Semitic propaganda that it controls. The teaching of hatred of Jews must be stopped and the glorification of death must cease.

The world is now calling for elections inside the disputed territories. It is a unique opportunity for the Palestinian people to take their destiny into their own hands and reject the corrupt regime of violence that has enriched Arafat and bankrupted their economy.

The Middle East has always been a baffling maze of rivalries and hatreds, but this quagmire status quo does not have to persist. Israelis have proven in Camp David II and in Taba that they wish to reach a two-state solution that will respect the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. It is now time for the Palestinian people to choose peace and elect a leadership that will grant Israel a permanent peace and defensible borders. And if the world will break its silence and side with those who fight to defend their children instead of those who sacrifice them, we might live to see peace in the Holy Land.

Art Eggleton is a Liberal member of Parliament for York Centre.

CABBAGE GRAPE SALAD

6 cups shredded cabbage
1 1/2 cups seedless red grapes
1 1/2 cups diced tart apples (i.e. Granny Smith), peeled, cored & sprinkled with lemon juice

Honey Ginger Dressing
3/4 cup plain yogurt
3 tblsps. mayonnaise
1 1/2 tblsps. honey
1/2 tsp. ground ginger

Yield: 8 servings. Combine salad ingredients. Mix dressing ingredients. Pour over salad and chill for 30 minutes. Toss before serving.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I just returned from being away at summer camp for four weeks. I had a great time at camp and I wish that it hadn't ended so quickly! Now that I am back home in the city though, I feel nervous about being here. During my month away, I didn't really keep in touch with my friends from school, and I feel a bit disconnected from them. Last year was my first year of high school, so most of my friends are relatively new. Why is my adjustment back to the city so difficult?

Camp-Connected

Dear Camp-Connected,

Your re-adjustment to city life after being away for the summer is totally normal! The transition between any two intense social experiences, in your case camp and school, is stressful for anyone.

Feel free to take your time getting used to being home before you jump back into the swing of city life. Getting over the post-camp blues requires some relaxation and down time at home. Keep in mind that during summer vacation, most teenagers have independent and individual experiences, so everyone is going to have to make that same adjustment back home. You are not the only one!

Once you are used to being back at home, make contact with your friends in the city. Start slowly by calling one or two school friends. Once you speak to one or two people, you will probably see that most people are feeling the same nervousness as you are experiencing, and that will make it easier for you overcome your own discomfort. Before you know it, you will be excitedly making plans to spend time with your friends from home! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

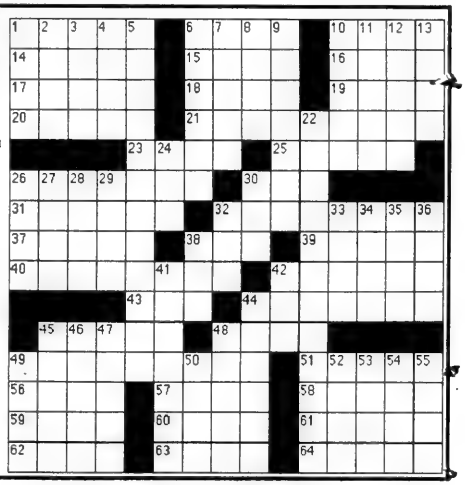
(Answers to the crossword are on page 22.)

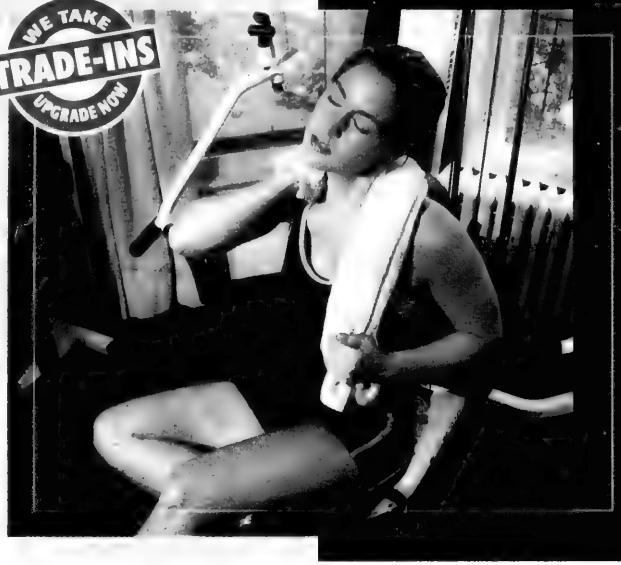
The Canadian Jewish News

Summer Meshugass - So What Else Is, Nu?
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Ezer Weizman served as one
6. Goes with cadabra
10. 50 years after the passing of Samuel Hanagid, to a Roman
14. Joyce, Beckett, and Yeats
15. Debussy's Afternoon of a _____
16. Looked over
17. Formidable Jewish-French filmmaker
18. Kind of like that or a bit more
19. Canadian fliers
20. __ ___ is to grown-up thing, model is to building
21. For a century, the unchallenged capital of summer meshugass
23. Marjorie Morningstar's author
25. Where the doves hang out
26. For a century, capital of the hotdog
30. The Cat in the ___
31. First of a long line of French kings
32. For at least in recent centuries, children's summer spirits
37. Hole-in-the-ground kind of geology
38. Bound or horn
39. What famine can do to dogs of war
40. For much more than a century, where we get our tan
42. Ham, the Kosher type
43. Fun to do, wet edge of the beach
44. For a century or more, at Atlantic City
45. Beautiful Dan. city
48. ___ 18, Warsaw Ghetto, by Uris
49. People of Ur (var.)
51. Someone subject to evaluation
56. "___ _ vege-table, it's good for you!"
57. Prefix, joint troubles
58. Prefix - resins, paints based on them
59. Charge on real or personal property
60. Homeland for 14 Across
61. Careens
62. Hungary's Nagy
63. Ice-shaving cones, for short
64. Hmmmmm!

Down
1. Native Arizonan
2. The IRS can't touch some of these
3. Lively song or musical speech
4. Site of first Israel-PLO agreements
5. For a century of summers, what else?
6. When this happens, there's a blur
7. Netanyahu's successor
8. Khalidah, in English
9. Spielberg got one for Schindler's List
10. Badge
11. For over a century, do this for fun
12. Calf steaks
13. Israel's army, more than once
22. For most of the past century, but for 1948-67, we prayed here freely
24. Switch positions
26. A Tsar, familiarly
27. Greenspan
28. Wrongful act, in legalese
29. This sometimes falls over a crowd
30. What Samuel Hanagid compared a battle to, in its terrible finale
32. Pen dweller
33. This guy is soon parted
34. One way to learn, but not the best
35. This many in a minyan, in Metulah
36. Poetically forever and forever
38. For 1,000 centuries, in our time off
41. For about a century, good ice-cream!
42. One can smoke one
44. For centuries without number, Mama's specialties
45. From the first, the word for life
46. Western
47. The quick vehicle to vacation land
48. One's in Paris, the other in D.C.
49. Prefix for bate, no mate
50. 60 Across, poetically
52. Quick points in tennis
53. Eitz, in English
54. Jane, of England
55. What _____ is nu?





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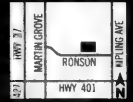

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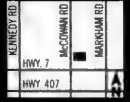

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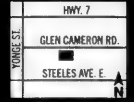

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Terrorist list may grow

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian policy-makers appear to be preparing to add three Palestinian groups to a list of organizations in the country's anti-terrorism legislation.

In a meeting last week with senior Jewish community leaders, Foreign Minster Bill Graham was lobbied to include Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade to the list of "entities [that] knowingly engaged in terrorist activity."

Please see related story on page 3.

Under the legislation, it is a criminal offence to belong to these organizations. The list is compiled by the solicitor general.

Participants in the meeting "were led to believe a list will be published. I believe our concerns will be allayed shortly," said Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Jewish community's lobbying arm on Israel.

Wilder was part of an 11-person delegation of senior leaders of national Jewish agencies who met last week with Graham and members of his staff. The 90-minute meeting, held in Toronto, included discussions on a variety of issues touching on Canada's Mideast policy.

The meeting was "cordial," but the Jewish group advanced its concerns "in a very forceful and deliberate manner. "We don't go for the purpose of a photo op," Wilder said.

The delegation pointed out that the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) condemns acts of terror and specifically refers to Hamas and Islamic Jihad as terrorist groups on its Web site. "We say it's inconsistent under the anti-terror legislation... for them not to be there."

The participants also discussed the Yasser Arafat-led Palestinian Authority. "We called the PA an enterprise that Canada ought not to be dealing with," Wilder said. "Canada should not bolster or lend legitimacy to them."

The minister appeared to "share our frustrations" but wondered what might come after Arafat, Wilder said.

Continued on page 28

ISRAEL AND THE PA OFFICIALLY TALKING AGAIN: Israel's Defence Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer, left, led a delegation last week that met in Tel Aviv with Palestinian Authority officials headed by PA Interior Minister Abdel Razeq Yihiye, second from right, to discuss security issues. ***Please see related story on page 27.*** ***[Israel Sun photo]***

Birthright offers hope: Melchior

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In these difficult political times, Birthright Israel is a sign of hope for Israelis, Rabbi Michael Melchior told members of the Jewish press in a conference call last week.

Rabbi Michael Melchior

The Israeli deputy minister of foreign affairs announced that Birthright applications for the winter trip are now available and appealed to parents and organizational leaders to encourage young adults to participate in the program.

According to a TelSeker poll released recently, 45 per cent of the Israelis surveyed prefer visits as a show of solidarity to political advocacy and financial contributions. Rabbi Melchior said Israelis are taking heart from the fact that Birthright kids are still coming despite the current violence.

As a parent of five children, he said he understands concerns about safety. However, he noted "that we have now learned the patterns of terrorism and have put measures in place to deal with security."

Some of the precautions include keeping students outside of populated areas and off of all public transportation.

Continued on page 28

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Ki Tavo
Candlelighting: 7:50
Havdallah: 8:55

Threat reported against Danish Jewish leaders — please see page 27

The News in Brief

CANADA

War Stories Sought

TORONTO — The proprietors of a planned museum near Jerusalem that will honour the 1.5 million Jewish soldiers who fought for Canada and other Allied armies in World War II are seeking memoirs, diaries and pictures from Canadian Jewish veterans. The museum will be located on the site of the Armored Corps Memorial and Museum near Ayalon, which commemorates the 4,885 soldiers killed in Israel's military campaigns. Canadians can contact the Armored Corps Association's general manager, retired brig.-gen. Menashe Inbar, by mail at D.N. Shimson 99672, by e-mail at latrun@interpage.co.il, or by phone at 011-972-8-925-5268.

ISRAEL

Arafat a Billionaire?

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat has assets estimated at $1.3 billion (US), the head of Israeli military intelligence, Maj.-Gen. Aharon Ze'evi, told a Knesset committee last week. He also said Arafat is facing growing dissatisfaction among the Palestinian populace, but that the Palestinian leader is still the person who "pulls the strings" in the PA.

Nine Indicted

JERUSALEM — Nine Israelis were indicted last week in connection with the May 2001 collapse of a wedding hall here. The nine, who include the building contractor and the owners of the hall, face a variety of charges, including manslaughter and negligence. The collapse killed 23 people and injured nearly 400.

Katsav on Al-Jazeera

JERUSALEM — Israeli President Moshe Katsav was interviewed for the first time on Qatar's Al-Jazeera television network last week. He told the satellite service Israel would do whatever it can to achieve peace with the Palestinians. He also said Israel's only precondition for talks is an end to bloodshed.

WORLD

Racist Incidents Up

BERLIN — The number of anti-Semitic incidents in Berlin nearly doubled from 2000 to 2001, according to official statistics released last week. In 2001, there were 105 such cases, up from 56 the previous year, according to the state of Berlin's interior minister. The majority of cases involve anonymous mail threats sent to German Jewish officials.

Pearl Buried

LOS ANGELES — The father of Daniel Pearl said *Kaddish* as the slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter was buried last Sunday. Pearl, whose body was returned to the United States the previous week, was kidnapped earlier this year in Pakistan by Islamic radicals and forced to attest to his Jewishness before being murdered. The funeral was held at an undisclosed location in Encino, an area of southern California where Pearl's family lives.

Gay Housing at YU

NEW YORK — Yeshiva University's medical school will allow gay and lesbian couples to live together in its married student housing. The university's decision, reportedly reached late last month, ends a long-standing lawsuit launched in 1998 by two lesbian medical students whose domestic partners were not allowed to live with them in university housing at the Bronx-based Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The university won earlier court battles on the case, but the New York State Court of Appeals reinstated the lawsuit last year.

Athletes Remembered

MUNICH — A memorial ceremony for the 11 Israelis killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics was held last Sunday. The one-hour ceremony took place at the monument to the victims, a large stone tablet placed at the bridge linking the former Olympic village to the Olympic stadium. An Israeli flag was draped across the tablet. Munich hosted this year's European Championships in Athletics, which ended Aug. 11.

Premiums Jump

NEW YORK — Insurance premiums for U.S. Jewish institutions have risen so much since Sept. 11 – 50 per cent or more in some cases – that many Jewish federations and community centres have been forced to lay off staff and cut things such as after-school programs for children and services for the elderly and the poor, JTA reported last week. Insurance industry representatives deny Jewish groups are being singled out, saying other businesses and non-profit groups are also facing increased premiums because of the danger of terrorism.

Nazi to Stay in Jail

BERLIN — A former commandant in a Nazi labour camp must serve another 10 years of his life sentence, a German court has ruled. The court said Josef Schwammberger's "particularly cruel" crimes outweighed concern over the 90-year-old's frail physical condition. In 1992, Schwammberger was found responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Jews during his time as commandant at several SS labour camps in Poland from 1942 to 1944.

City Council Pays Tribute to Rosenzweig

TORONTO — At its last meeting, Toronto City Council observed a moment of silence in memory of David Rosenzweig, the 49-year-old father of six who was murdered July 14 outside a kosher pizzeria on Bathurst Street.

In a tribute motion, Mayor Mel Lastman said council members "are deeply saddened [by] the tragic death of Mr. David Rosenzweig, who died in an unprovoked attack."

He "demonstrated throughout his life an unbinding love for his family, even to the end as he assisted his son with a broken-down car," Lastman said on council's behalf.

The mayor said Rosenzweig "was a proud, loyal and committed Jew, a peaceful man who was a role model for each life he touched" and "was respected by the community he served and dedicated his life selflessly to his faith and the betterment of the world."

The motion was moved by Councillor Howard Moscoe and seconded by Councillor Howard Feldman.

Council also sent a letter of condolence to Rosenzweig's widow, Chavie.

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Peace Now asks Graham to press for Mideast conference

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A Canadian Friends of Peace Now delegation met Canada's foreign minister, Bill Graham, in Toronto last week.

The delegates, led by Peace Now co-presidents Av Sohn and Dr. Frank Guttman, urged Graham to press for a Middle East peace conference and to use Canada's influence with Israel and the United States to seek an immediate halt to Israeli settlement activity in the territories.

Peace Now also urged Canada to establish an international fund to compensate Palestinian refugees and Israeli settlers who would be resettled in the event of a peace agreement, said Sheldon Gordon, Peace Now's policy director.

In addition, Peace Now called on Canada to urge the PA to reestablish security co-operation with Israel, and to add groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah to its list of terrorist organizations.

Gordon said that Graham expressed an interest in these ideas, but did not respond with a flat yes or no to any of them.

"He was noncommittal, but his body language was open and sympathetic."

Gordon believes that Graham will now study Peace Now's memorandum at greater length.

"We think we'll see some movement on some of the points, but I can't tell you which ones."

Some are already under consideration, Gordon added.

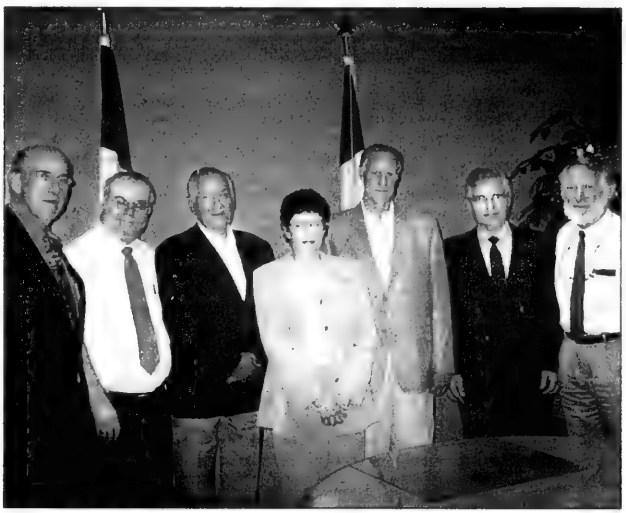
Canada may yet add anti-Israel groups to its existing list of terrorist organizations, he said.

As well, Canada may help develop Palestinian institutions in the autonomous areas, which Israel currently occupies.

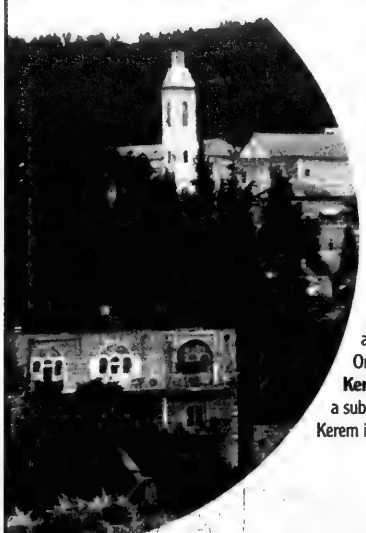
Gordon expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the one-hour meeting, held at federal government offices in downtown Toronto.

"We thought it went well. Graham was open and receptive, though it remains to be seen whether he'll adopt these ideas.

Continued on page 25



From left: Fred Zemans, Sheldon Gordon, Frank Guttman, Beverley Stern, Bill Graham, Av Sohn and David Brooks.



Where Time Stands Still

Israel begins with Jerusalem. It's the country's capital, its spiritual center and the hub of every visit. Jerusalem is also an enticing collection of quiet, unique neighbourhoods around every corner. One of them is **Ein Kerem.** Now considered a suburb of Jerusalem, Ein Kerem is actually an ancient village, unburdened by time, on the southwest side of the city. You'll find winding narrow roads, religious history, lush gardens, stone houses, artists at work, unique shopping opportunities, quaint restaurants, a music center showcasing the multiple talents of many musicians from the former Soviet Union and Hadassah hospital nearby. And while you're in Jerusalem, you may want to take in these special events.

What's Happening

- **Italian Ball** – August 27, 2002 at the Taverna Restaurant, with proceeds designated for the Museum of Italian Jewish Art
- **Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival** September 4-13, 2002 with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra at the YMCA Concert Hall
- **Jerusalem Judaica and Jewellery Fair** – September 22-26, 2002 at the International Convention Centre

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Greater Toronto Area

An entertaining playbill

From the editor's desk

A summertime, mid-week excursion to the Stratford Festival last week offered up a memorable pairing of theatrical performances.

* * *

The Threepenny Opera tells a rough and jarring tale of the dark, conscienceless, often brutal, side of life on the streets of pre-Victorian, early 19th-century London.

Written and first performed in 1928 in Berlin, the work was a successful collaboration between the controversial German playwright-lyricist Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill, the son of a chazzan from Dessau, Germany, who wrote the score.

Threepenny is a hard-hitting, satirical look at the norms, conventions and hypocricies of civil society – middle and upper class – as seen by the beggars, petty thieves and roughhouse criminals who comprise the hardscrabble underclass of industrial, urban society.

"The powerful of the earth can create poverty, but they can't learn to look at it," observes the contemptible, but acridly honest J. J. Peachum, who ruthlessly runs a stable of beggars.

The opera is set in the London district of Soho on the eve of Queen Victoria's coronation.

The central character is a villainous rake named Macheath (Mack the Knife), who exploits and manipulates everyone within his self-pleasing reach.

The plot revolves around two woman who love him, whom he betrays with recreational ease; the service-providers at his favourite brothel, who betray him with similar absence of conscience; and the vengeful efforts of competitor criminal cads to bring Macheath to the gallows.

Apart from the opening song, *Mack the Knife*, which was recorded by modern jazz stylists such as Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald, but immortalized in the early 1960s by Bobby Darin, none of the musical numbers is easily hummable or rings in the ear after the final curtain falls.

Indeed, much of the music is technically very challenging, an aggressive hybrid of fierce, often angry, libretto with atonal harmonies and minor key digressions.

Based on an earlier 18th-century play by John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*, the Brecht/Weill opus imagines a play written for an audience of beggars about the beggars' life. Thus, neither the story nor the music attempts to idealize or find redemption in any aspect of the misery of life on the street in 1830-ish London. The Brecht/Weill approach is in sharp contrast, for example, to the recent musical dramatization of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, which deals with essentially the same theme, including many of the same unsavoury types of people and set around the same time period, but in Paris.

Indeed one of the lines delivered by the character Jenny, one of Macheath's favourite former paramours at the brothel, is a haunting echo of fate of Hugo's Fantine. "I never had a family; all I had was dreams."

If the music was not generally hummable, it was almost always powerful and powerfully delivered. Especially strong performances were executed by the key female roles: Sheila McCarthy as Mrs. Peachum, deferential though cunning and sly; Susan Gilmour as Jenny, determined, vengeful and with an aching beauty to her voice; Blythe Wilson as Lucy Brown, diffident, vampish and robust in song; and Diana Coatsworth as Polly Peachum, frustratingly naive, dependent and exploited.

Peter Donaldson was outstanding as the loathsome, but somehow-still-friendly J.J. Peachum, and George Masswohl found the right comedic balance as a corrupt, craven police chief, Tiger Brown.

* * *

Some three hours later, with barely enough time to wash off the makeup, change costumes and enjoy a light dinner, Donaldson and McCarthy wowed a different audience as Sir Percy Blakeney and his wife, Marguerite in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

A dramatization of the 1905 novel by Baroness Emmuska Orczy, the plot is a high-drama tale of good vanquishing evil, of courage, treachery, rescue and triumph.

Made famous in a number of film and television versions, the story is of a fictional British hero, his true identity hidden behind a foppish facade, who risks his own life countless times to save the lives of woebegone "aristocrats" from Robespierre's guillotine across the English Channel in Paris.

This production marks the first time the play has been performed at Stratford, and director Dennis Garnhum has wisely decided to "mellow" the heart-stopping suspense of the book by making it a hybrid comedy/drama adventure. Thus, Peter Hutt's portrayal of Robespierre's special security agent, Chauvelin, whose singular task it is to find and unmask the British rogue, is entertainingly played, not as an evil menace who lurks in shadows, but as a nasty, mean, even petulant Yosemite Sam-like character obsessively chasing the silly rabbit.

Ultimately, he manages to confront his prey, but true to the destiny predestined for the evil hunter by Baroness Orczy, he loses the hero as proof of and poetic testament to the Baroness' conviction that humanity must repel inhumanity even as justice must always prevail over injustice.

The production is a delightful stop for a summer afternoon, a gift to the visual senses, rich in period costume and elaborate settings. —*MBD*

SeeJN

SEVENTY-TWO HOUR RALLY:

Jews and Christians from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka came to Israel on a 72-hour visit last week to demonstrate their support for the Jewish state. More than 1,000 demonstrators, some of whom travelled for 22 hours for the brief visit, marched through the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, waving banners and singing songs. The rally's organizers, led by Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, of Englewood, N.J., had hoped to subsidize the trip, but financial backers pulled out last month, forcing many would-be supporters to drop out.

[Israel photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Students plan campaign against Anti-Calendar

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Jewish students are scheduled to meet this week to plan a course of action in response to a students' "Anti-Calendar" dedicated to murdered "innocents" in Afghanistan and Palestine.

Students returning for the fall semester at the University of Toronto can expect "an aggressive campaign to challenge the Arts & Science Student Union (ASSU)," which published the Anti-Calendar, said Simon Rosenblum, director of public policy and Israel affairs for Canadian Jewish Congress.

Rosenblum, who is advising the Jewish students, said the Anti-Calendar's dedication is outrageous and will likely offend the majority of arts and science students on campus.

The Anti-Calendar is published annually as a students' evaluation and guide to arts and science courses and instructors.

Jonathan Leef, the student who first raised concerns about the guidebook, said he plans to write a letter to the ASSU "expressing my views on the Anti-Calendar and asking why such a publication is being hijacked to express personal opinions that are offensive."

It should stick to student matters and not speak out on political issues for which there is no student consensus, Leef added.

Leef, along with Lisa Isen Baumal, director of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the U of T, met last week with a university race relations officer but were told the Anti-Calendar does not meet the threshold of a racist incident.

The students were advised to contact the ASSU and begin a dialogue to discuss their concerns, said Leef.

Despite criticism that the Anti-Calendar's dedication was one-sided, ASSU president Ranjini Ghosh stood by editor Terry Buckland's choice of dedication subjects. Ghosh and the ASSU executive approved the dedication prior to publication and she said there was no malicious intent in its choice of subjects.

"We just dedicated it to the innocents of Afghanistan and Palestine regardless of their caste and creed. That's all it is."

Ghosh said there was no intent to exclude anyone. The reference to the innocents of Palestine was meant to include everyone in the region, she said.

Ghosh, who described herself as an Indian Hindu, said she would not have approved any publication that was exclusive and she pointed to numerous campus programs that were available following 9/11 to support all those devastated by the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

She also discounted suggestions the Anti-Calendar should have steered away from political issues. "We are a political organization. We are a student union... We are supposed to have a political agenda, but not separating anyone on campus."

Earlier, Buckland told *The CJN* "the dedication, when it was picked, was in the news at the time – friendly fire" and referred to innocent people in Afghanistan and Palestine who were affected by ongoing warfare.

"I did not say any particular groups. I said any people in that area. I thought that covered everybody," he said.

That's "patent nonsense," Rosenblum responded.

Students at the U of T, most of whom are probably unaware of the controversy, must be informed of the position taken by their student union, he said. "We will bring this to the students and say, 'Do you want your leadership to represent you in this way? Are you comfortable with that?'"

Rosenblum expects the mainstream student body will wonder why there was no dedication to the 3,000 innocents in New York City, who were killed by terrorists flying two passenger planes into the World Trade Center, or to the innocent Israelis who are subject to terrorist attacks.

Leef said he agreed with the race relations officer's conclusion there was no racist intent in the dedication, but he believes it to be the expression of a leftist political agenda.

"The big question is, why is there such an anti-Israeli tone to leftist arguments? Where's the motive coming from? I'm noticing the expression of anti-Israel sentiment around the world is close to classic anti-Semitism, the demonization of Israel, ostracizing Israel, excluding Israel and Israelis from academic circles. It's pretty much what people did to Jews 100 years ago.

"The anti-Calendar didn't happen in a vacuum, even though it's not a racist publication."

Anti-Israel resolution cause of concerns

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Community leaders are concerned that the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT) – which educates teachers – could be promoting the teaching of false and biased history in its classrooms.

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Simon Rosenblum would like some reassurance that the Centre for Anti Racism Studies, headed by Prof. Sherene Razack is not "hijacking legitimate anti-racism studies into a vehicle to act against the legitimate interests of the Jewish people."

Statements condemn Israel

On April 29, Razack circulated a resolution and covering letter condemning Israel.

The letter and resolution, which appear on the Internet (www.canpalnet. ca/academic.html), refer to a United Nations mission "to be dispatched to report on the possibility that massacres and crimes against humanity have been perpetrated by the Israeli army at Jenin and the old city of Nablus."

The resolution goes on to state that "many independent eyewitness accounts have spoken about 'atrocities beyond belief.'" In the covering letter, Razak encourages her colleagues "to stand up and denounce these crimes against humanity."

A recent United Nations report concluded that no massacre and no atrocities occurred in Jenin during the Israeli army incursion last April.

The UN report accuses "Palestinian militants in the camp, as elsewhere," of adopting "methods which constitute breaches of international law that have been and continue to be condemned by the United Nations," and blames Israelis

Continued on page 14

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Rabbi Howard Morrison
Topic: **Hanah – Heroine of the High Holy Days**
A paradigm of Jewish piety for our times
Refreshments following
Memorial Plaque Dedication at 11:30 p.m.
Selichot Services – 12:00 midnight
Led by: **Rabbi Howard Morrison,**
Cantor Aaron Bensoussan and the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Choir
Charles Heller, Director

BETH TZEDEC 416-781-3511
Beginning at 10:00 p.m. with refreshments
10:30 p.m. **The Pearl Gertrude Brody Annual Memorial Lecture**
"Where Are We Going?" Pre-Selihot Cine-Forum
Panel: **Prof. Marty Lockshin, Rabbi John Moscowitz and Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl**
Moderator: **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**
A clip from the Spielberg-Kubrick film, *Artificial Intelligence: AI* (2001) will be shown
Selichot Service – 12:00 midnight with
Cantor Meir Finkelstein and Choir

BETH TIKVAH
416-221-3433
Pre-Selihot Programme at 10:00 p.m.
Featuring
Rabbi Dr Avraham Feder
Beth Tikvah's Rabbi Emeritus and Senior Scholar will speak on
"Healing For The Heartbroken"
Selihot Services at 11:45 p.m.
Led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen**
Featuring **Hazzan Avi Keller,**
The Festival String Quartet of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Beth Tikvah Choir under the direction of Marilyn Cohen

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
905-889-4975
Beginning at 9:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: **Professor James Diamond**
Chair of Jewish Studies, University of Waterloo will speak on
"The Thirteen Attributes of Selichot: Unity of God as A Model for Unity of Israel"
Torah Mantels Ceremony – 9:50 p.m.
Changing of Torah Mantels to High Holiday White
Refreshments to follow
Selichot Service – 10:45 p.m. and
Dedication of Memorial Plaques
Led by **Rabbi Martin Berman**
and Cantor Ben Silverberg

Israeli historian pessimistic about Mideast peace

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Benny Morris is one of Israel's most important new historians. A liberal, he backed the 1993 Oslo accords and supported the right of Palestinians to statehood.

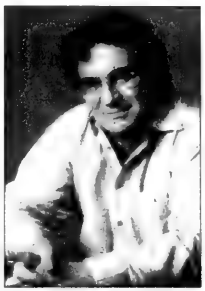
Having concluded that the Palestinians were prepared for a two-state solution, he was optimistic that the Arab-Israeli dispute could be resolved through peaceful means.

But today, two years after the collapse of the Camp David summit and the eruption of the second Palestinian uprising, Morris is deeply pessimistic.

A professor of Middle East history at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the author of seven acclaimed books about Israel's perennial conflict with the Arabs, he now believes that the chances of an Israeli-Palestinian accommodation have receded.

"The Palestinians don't accept and don't want a Jewish state," he said bluntly in a talk at Holy Blossom Temple last week sponsored by the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research in Montreal. "They want Palestine to themselves."

As Morris sees it, the current Palestinian leadership, headed by Yasser Arafat, rejects partition and a two-state solution and regards Israel as a latter-day Crusader state, a passing "infidel presence" that can be eliminated by means of violence, attrition and demography.



Benny Morris

Morris, a Sabra whose birth coincides with Israel's establishment in 1948, once thought that the conflict was well on its way toward resolution.

Egypt and Jordan had signed peace treaties with Israel in 1979 and 1994, respectively. The Palestinians had been ejected from their base in Lebanon. Their support of Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War had grievously weakened them.

"Perhaps," he mused, "the Palestinians had woken up to the reality of history."

Maybe they would follow in Egypt's and Jordan's footsteps.

Morris, who was imprisoned during the first intifadah for refusing to serve as a soldier in the West Bank, was further heartened by his perception that the Oslo peace process seemed to breaking down Arab-Israeli animus.

Another cause for optimism, he explained, revolved around his belief that Israel's peace talks with Syria, sputtering though they were, might yet lead to a breakthrough.

Yet, as he watched developments unfold, Morris' confidence was badly shaken.

The president of Syria, Hafez Assad, rebuffed an unprecedented offer by Israel's former prime minister, Ehud Barak, under which Israel would withdraw from virtually every square foot of the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty.

Some months later at Camp David, Arafat rejected a deal that would have given the Palestinians about 90 per cent of the West Bank, all of Gaza and a foothold in eastern Jerusalem in return for ending the conflict with Israel.

Subsequently, Arafat turned down a proposal from then U.S. president Bill Clinton, endorsed by Barak, sweetening Israel's Camp David offer.

Arafat did not submit a counter-offer, perhaps because Israel was familiar with the oft-reiterated Palestinian demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, comprising about 22 per cent of Mandate Palestine.

Instead, Arafat insisted on the "right of return," demanding that millions of Palestinian refugees in neighbouring Arab countries be granted the right to return to their former homes in Israel.

"Both sides understood that the implementation of the 'right of return' would result in the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state," said Morris. Through demography, he added, the Palestinians hoped to gain a majority for an Islamic state to supplant Israel.

In the wake of Ariel Sharon's controversial visit to the Temple Mount in east Jerusalem in September 2000, Palestinian riots broke out. "The rioting evolved into a full-scale terrorist war," said Morris. This, in essence, was the Palestinian response to Barak's and Clinton's diplomatic overtures.

Morris said the Palestinian reaction was in keeping with a rejectionist mindset: they rejected a 1937 British partition proposal, a 1947 United Nations partition plan and a 1978 autonomy plan embedded in the Camp David agreement signed by Israel and Egypt.

He thinks the line of Palestinian rejectionism can be traced back to the arrival of European Jewish/Zionist settlers in Palestine in the early 1880s.

What also disheartens Morris is the brutal nature of the current intifadah, characterized by suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

He argues that Palestinian society supports these attacks – not because Palestinians want to eject Israelis from the territories but because they seek to destroy Israel altogether.

This perception of Palestinian goals led him to the conclusion that there is a basic asymmetry in Palestinian and Israeli attitudes.

The Zionist movement generally embraces partition, but Palestinian nationalism does not. "During the early 1990s, the Palestinians appeared ready for partition, but in their hearts, they don't accept a two-state solution."

Morris, whose books run the gamut from *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-49* to *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999*, is not entirely pessimistic.

Peace is still possible, provided the Palestinians reassess their hostile view of Israel, waive the "right of return" and stop resorting to terrorism.

Most Israelis, he said, still cling to the hope that the Palestinians will be satisfied with a two-state solution.

But in almost the same breath, Morris succumbs to a feeling of hopelessness. Even if Israel and the Palestinians reach a settlement, the agreement will not hold. "Hamas will take over and tear [it] up."

Morris, who has been described as saying that Israel's occupation of the territories is immoral, contends that Palestinian moderates such as Sari Nusseibeh are marginal and do not represent Palestinian public opinion.

> *'The Palestinian peace camp does not exist in practical terms'*

"Arafat and Saddam Hussein set the tone, not Nusseibeh."

And he observed: "The Palestinian peace camp does not exist in practical terms. Palestinian liberals are in the closet, fearing assassination."

Morris, who referred to himself as a "lowly academic," said that the removal of Jewish settlements in the territories would motivate the Palestinians to end their conflict with Israel. But even if Israel withdraws from the West Bank and Gaza, the Palestinians will make additional demands.

"The problem is not the occupation of the territories, but Israel itself."

Turning to Israeli Arabs, Morris warned that they pose a future threat. "I fear they will be part of the Palestinian struggle against Israel... They will growingly become a time bomb and a fifth column."

The pull of Palestinian nationalism, he noted, will supersede the economic benefits Israeli Arabs enjoy.

Asked during a question-and-answer session if Israel has the inner strength to withstand the looming challenges to its existence, Morris replied, "I don't know."

But then he pointed out that Israeli residents of Tel Aviv left in droves during the Gulf War, and suggested that Israel may not be as resilient as it was during the War of Independence.

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Greater Toronto Area

Camp brings Israel to Canadian children

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

For Asher, Daniel, Jonti and Sharon, it's all in the delivery.

While campers swam and water-skied around us on Haliburton's Moose Lake, the four Canada-Israel Experience (CIE) professionals stressed the need to implement educational summer programs that are also fun.

Sharon Shwartzman, who began her teaching career as an educational officer in the Israeli army, explained that "camps have become the second classroom as far as Jewish education is concerned."

With so much happening around them, it's important to bring Israel to these kids in a creative way, Asher Afriat said, adding that the activities have to feel as if they're a part of their camp lives.

The four Israeli educators brought the CIE program, organized with the support of the Jewish Agency for Israel and other groups from across the communal spectrum, to seven camps in Quebec and Ontario this summer.

At B'nai Brith Camp Northland, Afriat, Shwartzman, Jonti Blackman and Daniel Erlick converted a wood cabin playhouse into a caravan of games about Jerusalem.

For almost two hours, the 12 year-old campers – dressed mainly in T-shirts, sweatpants and baseball caps – rotated around eight different play stations in order to collect points.

The six teams of seven kids built sand mountains, deciphered ancient Hebraic codes, found keys to the gates of the Old City and listened to modern Israeli music as they scurried between the checkpoints.

The children are at each station about eight minutes so that they don't have time to get distracted or lose attention, Shwartzman pointed out.

They don't even realize that they're learning about the geography, history, culture and sociology of Jerusalem, she said.

The counsellors decide which activities to choose from their stock of informal learning activities after discussions with the camp directors.

"We've built a large pool of programs about Israel, but the directors guide us so that we can choose the right one for each camp," Afriat said.

In the future, Shwartzman hopes to be able to spend more time training Canadian staff so that they can be more involved in offering similar kinds of programming.

Given the current violence in the Middle East, the four Israelis realize that many parents are reluctant to send their children to Israel.

In today's environment, Blackman pointed out that it has become even more important for Jewish children to be able to find meaning in their heritage. The challenge for these CIE professionals is to simulate the Israel experience so that the campers will have a deeper understanding of the situation.

"It is important for us to be here to discuss the issues presented by the campers and staff," Erlick said.

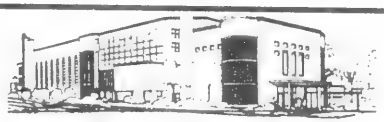
Erlick said that "some of the older kids ask tough questions. They really want to understand the current situation."

On the waterfront docks at Camp Northland are (from left) Jonti Blackman, Daniel Erlick, Asher Afriat and Sharon Shwartzman. [Anna Morgan photo]

The four counsellors, who live in and around Jerusalem, come from different backgrounds and bring varying political points of view to the discussions. Afriat was born in Jerusalem, Shwartzman in London, England; Erlick made aliyah from Brooklyn six years ago, and Blackman is originally from South Africa.

"Many Canadian counsellors are surprised to see that we're all different – and that we're not all religious," Blackman said.

"Kids here see a reflection of Israeli society when they meet us," he said. "They hear that there are nuances and shades to all the issues."



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We were wrong; the perversity worsens

Nothing, we thought last year, could more poignantly illustrate the hollow morality and perverse empty posturing of the United Nations than the ascension of Syria to the 15-member Security Council of the United Nations. Sitting on the council, which carries the UN's "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," was one of the countries on earth most responsible for the sabotaging of international peace and security. Had the appointment not been an affront to decency, it might have been quite droll.

According to media reports last week, we now face the very real possibility that Libya may be appointed to head the UN Commission of Human Rights. Africa, whose turn it is to nominate the head of the UN Commission of Human Rights for next year, has nominated Libya.

"We the peoples of the United Nations... reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." These words appear in the preamble of the UN charter. The protection of human rights was deemed so important by the framers of the UN charter, that it is explicitly mentioned in six additional Articles.

Very few are the countries on earth whose governments are the complete and utter antithesis of the reaffirmation of "human rights," or "the dignity and worth of the human person." But Libya is one of them.

Its long-standing dictator, Col. Moammar Gadhafi, oppresses his people and presides over a totalitarian society in which any dissent is denied and human rights are but a far-off chimera.

It appears our conclusion about the UN last year was wrong. The perverse posturing there may be worsening.

* * *

Last week, in this space, we urged the government of Canada to "rebuke [Yasser] Arafat for trying to conscript it in his transparent con game" of interceding with Israel and the United States "to save the peace accord" that he signed with his "partner Yitzhak Rabin."

After the edition went to press but before it arrived in the mail to our subscribers, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister John Manley publicly rejected Arafat's phony pleading. It may not have been a rebuke, per se, to the leader of the Palestinian Authority, but the point was expressed to him with sufficient clarity. Canada will not fall for nor be a party to Arafat's predictable ploys.

The current situation was of his own making, Manley told Arafat, and he – Arafat – alone would have to deal with its consequences.

We commend Manley for his prompt, definitive response to the Palestinian leader.

Now, if only he would act as definitively to persuade Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay to include Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the PFLP and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade on the list of "entities knowingly engaged in terrorist activity."

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, AND Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones

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CBC ombudsman answers CJN

Your editorial, "Public broadcaster, public hypocrisy" (*CJN*, July 25) was both inaccurate and unfair.

The editorial made the claim that I hold the view that asking the CBC's reporters to describe suicide bombers as terrorists amounted to asking the CBC to take sides with Israel. That's wrong. The truth is I have no problem with having the suicide bombing of civilians described as an act of terrorism.

It's unfortunate that your newspaper did not bother to check with me before writing an editorial based on the mis-statement of my views in Eric Lawee's article July 19 in the *National Post*. As I told Lawee, there's nothing in CBC journalism policy that prevents the public broadcaster's journalists from calling a spade a spade or a terror attack a terror attack. I also said journalists should only make this kind of editorial judgment once they had gathered all the relevant facts. Your editorial described this approach as "wholly unacceptable."

In his article, Lawee failed to report the context of my remarks, which were made as a specific reference to those who would have the CBC routinely refer to all Palestinians in this conflict as terrorists. I noted that neither side in this dispute respects the definition of terrorism as the deliberate targeting of civilians. The Israel Defence Forces, for example, routinely brands as terrorists those who attack either civilians or soldiers. There's a tendency there to equate Palestinian resistance with terrorism.

So my view is that the CBC's journalists should beware. They would indeed be taking sides if they embraced holus-bolus the way the word terrorist is misused by Israeli authorities. Just as they would also be taking sides, if they adopted holus-bolus, Palestinian allegations about state terrorism. While I have urged the CBC's programmers to be careful with their words, I have never found fault with any CBC journalist who has described one of these attacks on civilians as a terror attack. And while the terms "terrorist" and "terrorist attack" have been used in CBC's coverage of the Middle East, there's clearly a preference in daily news reporting not to label the actions of either side in this dispute. The preference is to provide purely factual accounts and to let the listener and viewer be the judge.

This is not only the case at the CBC, it's also the case at many of the world's leading news organizations, which, like the CBC, generally discourage daily news reporters from characterizing the people and events they are assigned to cover. It's true that there are inconsistencies, that while the attackers of the World Trade Center have been labelled as terrorists, the exploding humans, the "H-Bombers" of the Middle East, tend not to be.

While I agree that the public broadcaster should be consistent in its handling of stories about terrorism, I would like to paraphrase what my colleague Michael Getler, ombudsman for the *Washington Post*, said in a recent column about his newspaper: Despite some lapses and shortcomings, my sense is that fair-minded listeners and viewers would be very well informed by the CBC's coverage during the course of this lengthy conflict.

David Bazay
CBC Ombudsman

Editor's Note: It is a departure from our usual practice to publish a response to a letter that has not yet appeared. However, we felt the comments in the above letter were of sufficient importance to give Eric Lawee an opportunity to respond.

Lawee responds to CBC ombudsman

David Bazay's complaint about my citation of him in a single instance merely spotlights the sort of well-honed evasions found throughout his correspondence, while deflecting attention from his failure to adequately address the points raised in my article and *The CJN* editorial.

How nice that Bazay has "no problem" if a Palestinian suicide-bombing that blows people to smithereens is called an act of terrorism. How admirable that he has never faulted a journalist for doing so. For my part, I've not found a single case where a CBC journalist describes a Palestinian attack this way despite the fact that I have reviewed scores of CBC accounts of murderous Palestinian assaults on Israeli civilians.

If calling murderers of Israeli civilians terrorists is "no problem," why do the CBC's journalists not do so, or hardly ever do so? They prefer to give "purely factual accounts," Bazay says. Using the word terrorist is a "kind of editorial judgment" that reporters should make "once they had gathered all the facts." But surely it is not editorializing to call someone who takes an innocent life with malice aforethought a murderer, or to call a person who unlawfully takes money a robber. It is simply, as Bazay would say, "to call a spade a spade."

No one is asking for "holus-bolus" applications of the terrorist label, only a consistent one based on the widely accepted definition of terrorism Bazay endorses. (In his *CJN* letter, Bazay does admit to the CBC's inconsistencies such as in referring to the attackers of the World Trade Center as terrorists, then shrugs at the blatant double-standard.)

Bazay is right about one thing: I should have called more attention to the straw man he sets up in his essay when he speaks of those who ask the CBC to "routinely refer to all Palestinians in this conflict as terrorists." That CBC journalists routinely fail to brand all Palestinians involved in the conflict as terrorists is, of course, hardly the problem. It's that they don't routinely refer to *any* of them this way, including homicide murderers who slaughter civilians, especially women and children.

Yes, the CBC should "routinely refer" to Palestinians who pump bullets into a cowering five-year-old in her bed or blow up students in a university cafeteria as terrorists. When it does, the most glaring of "lapses and shortcomings" in its Middle East coverage will finally have been fixed.

Eric Lawee
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Canadian pro-Israeli academics must challenge Mideast distortion

By DAVID GOLDBERG and TILLY SHAMES

For the better part of two years, various sectors of the Jewish community in Canada have participated in efforts to counter the systematic global campaign to delegitimize the State of Israel. But one sector still to become fully engaged is the pro-Israel community at Canadian universities and colleges.

The absence of a co-ordinated effort by scholars to articulate a concerted pro-Israel viewpoint has emboldened Israel's enemies at many Canadian academic institutions. Efforts have been made to manipulate important academic institutions toward adopting a decidedly anti-Israel corporate perspective. Without an engaged group of pro-Israel academics clearly present on campus, the distortion of facts about the Middle East crisis will go unchallenged, poisoning the overall quality of post-secondary education in Canada.

Clearly, the unfair scholarly treatment of Israel is today most pronounced in Europe, as witnessed in the controversial case of two Israeli academics dismissed from their work with the University of Manchester on the grounds that Israel "has gone beyond just war crimes." Even on major university and college campuses in the United States, there have been noisy anti-Israel demonstrations, involving both students and faculty, along with petitions to boycott Israeli scholars, declare Israel a "racist apartheid state" and divest holdings in Israel.

Canadian institutions, however, are not immune from this disturbing phenomenon. Though sometimes more genteel than their European and American counterparts, some Canadian-based professors have shown no compunction about using every tool at their disposal to promote an anti-Israel agenda.

For instance, in a recent issue of the Bulletin of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), Queen's University sociologist and longtime Palestinian activist Elias Zureik published an article ostensibly describing how steps taken by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) to create a modern educational system were disrupted by the past 23 months of violence.

However, Zureik's article is actually a thinly-veiled full-frontal assault on Israel's legitimacy, specifically on Israeli "occupation" and "oppression" as the cause of all ills affecting the Palestinian people. There is no reference to the steps taken by Israel to modernize the educational system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after 1967, including building the first universities and colleges for the Palestinians, even in the absence of peace. Nor is there an acknowledgement of the fact that, instead of devoting resources to the development of an educational curriculum that would inculcate support for peace among Palestinian children, the PA cynically re-directed vast sums of international donations away from education and toward their efforts to destroy Israel militarily.

However, as disconcerting as Zureik's attack on Israel is, it is the decision of CAUT to run such a blatantly polemical article in its bulletin that we find truly troublesome.

One might well ask what business a journal devoted to facilitating professional communication among Canadian university teachers has in delving into the contentious Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And even if the editors of the CAUT bulletin could justify entering into the Middle East fray, would it not have been more appropriate, more in line with the academic principle of the free exchange of competing ideas, for them to ensure that all sides of the debate were expressed? Publishing Prof. Zureik's screed against Israel as a stand-alone article compromised the bulletin's integrity.

An even more glaring example of the attempted manipulation of a Canadian academic institution for anti-Israel purposes relates to the petition condemning "the current atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinians by the Israeli state and army" that was disseminated on the letterhead of the Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). It is bad enough when an individual academic brings disrepute to his or her university by attaching its name

Standing up against the distortions hurled against Israel. [RNS/Reuters photos]

to a piece of anti-Israel polemic; it is fundamentally wrong for an employee of a respectable academic institution such as OISE to imply that her hatred toward Israel is officially endorsed by that institution.

OISE has publicly disassociated itself from the inappropriate political activities of Sherene Razack, the anti-racism centre's director. However, the apparent ease with which Razack almost succeeded in manipulating OISE for nefarious purposes should be of significant concern to everyone.

Without a strong reaction from the Jewish community, as in the OISE case, scholars will have free rein to use their professional titles and university campuses as covers for their anti-Israel rhetoric. A case in point is R. Michael Neumann, an associate professor of philosophy at Peterborough's Trent University.

Writing for an avowedly radical left-wing Web site called "CounterPunch.org," the essence of Neumann's inflammatory argument is encapsulated in the nonsensical title of his article, "It's hard to say what's so bad about Israel." Some of his more outrageous statements include the following: "Israel is a growing evil whose end is not in sight"; "The new state accorded full rights only to its Jewish inhabitants, and defeated its Arab opponents both in battle and in a propaganda campaign that effectively concealed Israeli racism and aggression"; "...by the mid-1970s, Israel's crimes were no longer the normal atrocities of nation-building nor an excessive sort of self-defence. They represented a cold-blooded, calculated, indeed an eagerly embraced choice of war over peace"; "Israel stands out among other unpleasant nations in the depth of its commitment to gratuitous violence and nastiness: this you expect to find among skinheads rather than nations"; and "What matters here is not Israel's arrogance, but its stature. Israel stands right in the spotlight and crushes an entire people. It defies international protests and resolutions as no one else can. Only Israel, not, say, Indonesia or even the United States, dares proclaim: 'Who are you to preach morality to us? We are morality incarnate!'"

Let us be very clear on one point: while we find Neumann's argument completely reprehensible, we do not deny him the right to express his opinion, for that is the cornerstone of the intellectual tradition. What we find truly disconcerting is the danger that, in the absence of a strong pro-Israel voice to balance theirs, Neumann and his cohorts at other Canadian post-secondary institutions will continue to skew the intellectual debate about Israel and the Middle East.

The serious case of Concordia University notwithstanding, we can perhaps take some solace from the fact that the challenges confronting supporters of Israel (students and faculty alike) at Canadian universities and colleges pale by comparison to those faced by their counterparts in Europe and the United States. Nevertheless, as we have suggested, there is evidence that the anti-Israel animus that is driving the agendas of foreign academic institutions is beginning to emerge in Canada.

It is the obligation of the organized national Jewish community to encourage Jewish academics and their students, many of whom are feeling increasingly isolated even on larger Canadian campuses, to speak out confidently on Israel's behalf. Resources should be devoted to ensuring that they have access to accurate and timely information about what is occurring in Israel and in neighbouring Arab and Muslim countries. Speaking tours by qualified Israeli scholars should be organized, not only for the larger metropolitan universities, say, in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver, but also for smaller or more isolated campuses such as Dalhousie, Trent, Waterloo, Saskatoon, Lethbridge and Victoria. Steps should be taken to co-ordinate with local universities the establishment of permanent Chairs in Israel and Jewish studies. The defunct program of academic exchanges between Canadian and Israeli post-secondary institutions should be revived, expanded and institutionalized. In addition, a group of dedicated Canadian academics (Jewish and non-Jewish alike) should be established to undertake research and publish material that sensitizes readers to Israel's perspective.

In Belgium, above, and in New York City, below, communities rally in support of Israel.

There is no shortage of ideas for how to activate (or in some cases, re-activate) Canada's pro-Israel academic community. And this is most certainly not to diminish the important work that a handful of Canadian scholars are already doing on Israel's behalf. For example, as reported in the Aug. 15 issue of *The CJN*, York University prof. Candace Séguinot resigned from her position associated with the University of Manchester to protest the firing of the two Israeli professors.

What is required is a concerted effort to encourage academics from across the country to become fully engaged in the debate from an Israeli perspective. Nothing less than the integrity of the intellectual discourse among Canadian scholars is at stake.

David Goldberg is the director of research for the Canada-Israel Committee. Tilly Shames is the CIC's associate director of research.

When will it ever end?

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

When I hear a broadcast or read the morning newspaper, I am, like many of you who read this column, listening for the moment when Israel will be mentioned. When I hear the introduction, I fear it will be a tale of violence. Violence seems to be the envelope in which so much news from Jerusalem has enfolded.

We rarely are informed about significant inventions that have come out of Israel. Few readers know about the country's scientific advances of worldwide importance or its literary achievements of significance. Meanwhile, the public impression remains the same: Israel is a place where various forms of violence are perpetrated much of the time.

That is, unfortunately, not surprising. Look at a map produced in an Arab country and you will not even find an indication that there is such a country as Israel. In omitting its presence, the map expresses what appears to be an almost universal Arab wish – that Israel disappear altogether. With that in mind, why print a map that still contains it?

Meanwhile, how often do I read of peace negotiations that are being planned between Israel and the Arabs? My heart would rejoice if they showed any promise of success, but alas, they do not, and they certainly will not as long as the Arab community has an almost overwhelming desire to see Israel disappear.

As pessimistic as it sounds, how can Israel contemplate peace with a partner that wishes, above all, its destruction? Peace, in any meaningful sense, is an arrangement of parties who recognize the legitimacy of each other's existence. But when that is absent, peace can only mean a temporary suspension of violence.

It would be helpful if discussions about the Middle East would focus on this regrettable situation. Israelis wish for peace more than any other nation in the world but, unfortunately, it is surrounded by countries that wish for its destruction.

You read, very rarely, of this bitter truth. Instead, you are fed a diet of generalities that presumes that if Israel would only make peace, all would be well. It is a naive attitude. As long as Israel's neighbours wish for its ultimate disappearance, peace is an empty hope. Some would call this way of thinking a form of desperate pessimism, but I would rather name it a regretful realism. I wish it were otherwise.

Hitting the right notes

It's hard to say who felt the most impact from the visit: the guests or their hosts. What's clear is that those on both sides will long remember the experience, and with good reason.

Earlier this month, the Jerusalem Youth Orchestra (JYO) returned home after a 10-day concert tour in North America. Comprised of 37 gifted teenage musicians, the group created a lot more than just beautiful sounds during their stay in the United States and Canada.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

When the orchestra members arrived in New York at the start of their tour, little did they expect that one of the highpoints in their trip would be a stopover in a remote wilderness area.

Given the situation in terror-shaken Jerusalem, tour organizers felt providing the troupe with a day of true peace would do them a world of good. Such was the thinking behind their visit to Ontario's Algonquin Park.

The first stop in Algonquin was Camp Tamakwa on South Tea Lake, which invited the JYO for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. At their own initiative, the orchestra put on a superb performance led by conductor Albert Piamenta at the camp's lakeside amphitheatre.

Only a week earlier, the JYO had left Israel, where a setting such as Algonquin Park is unthinkable. The ensemble arrived at Tamakwa from Ottawa, where they had heard news of the terrorist atrocity at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. Several of the musicians had relatives there at the time.

"Coming to camp was a much-appreciated break for us," says Lital Belinko, 17, who plays the clarinet. "The day before was so stressful because we heard about the attack back home at Hebrew University. My sister studies there and I was so afraid something happened to her until I finally spoke to my family in Jerusalem. At Tamakwa, it was so peaceful and we felt so much warmth and support from everybody."

Tamakwans, too, were touched by the visit.

"It really moved me," says Marc Crane, a 15-year-old camper from Michigan. "I know Israel is going through such tough times and it must be so hard for people there, especially for kids our age. It was beautiful to see them in a setting free of worries."

Senior directors David Bale and Vic Norris invited the JYO to Tamakwa in a symbolic show of solidarity with Israel.

"There was something special about the orchestra's visit," says Norris. "You could just feel and see in the eyes of the kids and in the way they played the music how important it was for them to experience life outside Israel and to enjoy such a beautiful safe haven. When they played *Hatikvah*, it was a very emotional moment for all of camp."

As Tamakwa's resident family from Israel, the visit was especially poignant for my wife and me and our children.

Next in their Algonquin experience, the JYO left Tamakwa for the nearby Bonita Lake cottage, where Roots owners and Tamakwa alumni, Don Green and Michael Budman, hosted the visitors for dinner, a sleepover at the site and various water sports the next morning.

"It gave Michael and me great satisfaction to open our place at Bonita to these kids so they could have such a relaxing time and real-life experience in Algonquin Park," says Green. "Especially when you think of what these kids live with in Israel every day as compared to how lucky people are in Canada. They deserved every second of it."

Exactly 24 hours after arriving in Algonquin, the JYO's dream-like stay at Tamakwa and Bonita ended with the orchestra's departure for Toronto and their final performance of the tour. Three days later, the JYO returned to Israel where several of the musicians must now begin their military service.

The Algonquin visit was organized by Eli Rubinstein, who heads Toronto's Congregation Habonim. He was with the JYO kids into the wee hours of the night at Bonita as they played music, danced and sang – all for their own enjoyment.

"There's not a hint of aggression in their souls," says Rubinstein. "Yet when they return to Israel, some of them will have to go into the army to face an implacable enemy whose only goal is to destroy them. It's very sad. Take any of these kids and if you were to give them the choice between a gun and a musical instrument, they'll choose a musical instrument any day of the week."

Readers can write Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

1971 at Hebrew U - personal recollections

The depravity with which Palestinian terrorists destroyed a cafeteria at Hebrew University on July 31, killing eight people and wounding dozens, was morally indistinct from hundreds of other terror attacks. Terrorists employing the same type of brutality have murdered other teenagers in discos, restaurants, markets and buses.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

This was also not the first time Hebrew U has been targeted. More than 30 years ago, "General" Yasser Arafat's terrorists bombed a cafeteria on the university's Givat Ram campus (built after Mt. Scopus was cut off from the rest of Jerusalem in 1948).

The echoes of that attack were still reverberating when I came to Hebrew U in July 1971 – one of a few thousand overseas students who arrive every year to enjoy the treasures of the Hebrew language and experience life as an Israeli. Four years after the 1967 war brought an end to the Jordanian-Palestinian occupation and desecration of Jewish Jerusalem, the campus on Mt. Scopus, which had remained an island under tenuous Israeli control from 1948 to 1967, was being restored and expanded.

The campus was a massive construction site, with dozens of new buildings going up to house classrooms and research institutes. A system of underground tunnels was also being built to connect these new buildings and provide easy access to buses in the summer heat and winter rain. At the time, with the experiences of the 1967 war still fresh, some overly creative students imagined that these massive concrete tunnels would be used as military strongholds to prevent an Arab effort to retake Jerusalem. Israel was still threatened from all sides, and peace was a very distant and abstract concept. The façade of "normalcy" and wishful thinking that formed the environment in which the illusions of Oslo developed 20 years later had yet to emerge.

Mirroring the physical reconstruction outside, the new classrooms, libraries, student dormitories – architecturally uninspiring and functionally minimalist (not in a positive sense) – became incubators for the Jewish renaissance.

Twenty-three years after the restoration of independence in the Land of Israel, Israelis and Jewish students from overseas intensely debated the direction that this renaissance should take, and how 4,000 years of very rich learning, tradition and debates on the key questions of life should be applied to moulding the future of the Jewish people.

From our vantage point above Jerusalem, we looked out on our history every day. With the Temple Mount and the Old City on one side, and the Judean desert on the other, we were constantly reminded of our personal obligation to ensure Jewish survival.

In this atmosphere, Palestinian terrorism was always a danger, and part of the precarious environment, but far from a dominating factor. During the year that I spent as an overseas student at Hebrew U, there were airplane hijackings (Sabena); an airport massacre conducted by hired killers from the Japanese Red Army; numerous bombings in downtown Jerusalem; the massacre at the Munich Olympics; and other attacks. But the choice then, as now, was clear: if we wanted to survive as a people, we had to continue with our mission, regardless of the attacks.

Tens of thousands of students have participated in similar programs on other Israeli campuses, and many stayed to become part of the Jewish renaissance and to contribute to the triumphs of Zionism. We have become fully integrated and have assumed leadership positions in the Israel Defence Forces, in the hi-tech industries, and everywhere else. The graduates of these programs are now teaching at the newer universities – Tel Aviv, Bar Ilan, Haifa, and Ben-Gurion – matching, and often overtaking, Hebrew U's academic achievements and contributions to Jewish learning.

And along with so many other Israelis, some of us have paid with our lives, including some of the latest victims of Palestinian hatred and brutality who were murdered in Hebrew U's Frank Sinatra cafeteria. But three decades of experience have also demonstrated that the commitment to Israel and Jewish survival will not been shaken by terrorism. Now, as was the case 30 years ago, students will continue to come, regardless of the risks, to make their contribution.

The Kirshner File

Greenspon takes the helm of the Globe

When Edward Greenspon strode into his functional office on the dimly-lit editorial floor of *The Globe and Mail*, I jokingly mentioned that he had made some interesting career strides since our last meeting little more than two years ago.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

"I just moved across the hall," he quipped, a tentative smile wreathing his bearded face.

Well, not exactly.

Exactly one month ago, Greenspon, 45, started work as the *Globe*'s new editor-in-chief, succeeding Richard Addis. After 16 years in jobs ranging from business writer to Ottawa bureau chief, he had made the spectacular leap to the pinnacle of Canada's self-styled national daily, the first Jew to hold that coveted, prestigious position.

In May 2000, when I last interviewed him, Greenspon, born and raised in Montreal and a graduate of Wagar High School, had just been seconded to launch globeandmail.com, the paper's breaking news Internet site. Within about a year of that appointment, he was writing a national affairs column from Ottawa. By the spring of this year, the rumour mills were churning out speculation that he would succeed Addis, a British import.

On April 5, a day after Greenspon received the Hyman Solomon Award for excellence in public policy journalism, Phillip Crawley, the publisher of the *Globe,* asked to see him. Crawley, having closely followed the trajectory of his rise, offered him Addis' job. "I was honoured and delighted," Greenspon said.

"I appointed Ed because he was the outstanding candidate," Crawley explained. "Having excelled in all his jobs, it was an easy choice for me to make, especially considering his strong intelligence and deep knowledge of Canada."

Crawley, who did not conduct a formal search for Addis' successor, added: "Ed has a strong sense of what the *Globe* can and should do as a national newspaper, both in terms of reflecting the diversity of such a large and increasingly multi-ethnic country, and in terms of offering a range of opinions which inform and enrich the debate on the choices we all face as Canadian residents. His experience means the paper's coverage of policy issues will be enhanced."

Greenspon, who describes his job as "special and wonderful," feels the weight of responsibility as he takes charge of "an institution of great importance to the country." Yet, he observed, "I honestly can say I haven't felt intimidated or overwhelmed."

In fact, Greenspon, the co-author of two books on Canadian politics, is ready for the challenge and confident of his management team. To prepare himself for the task, he submitted to a series of intensive briefings, shadowed Addis, reflected long and hard on his objectives, and jotted down his ideas in colour-coded binders.

On his first day as editor, he arrived at 7: 15 a.m., an hour earlier than planned because he had set his alarm clock too early. "My office was locked and the newsroom was empty," he said, displaying a look of mock bafflement. "Where was everyone?" As the day wore on, he chatted with reporters and editors, renewed old acquaintances and presided over his first story meeting. As he made the rounds, he felt quite pumped up and excited, taller than his five-foot-eight height.

On day two, July 23, Greenspon appeared on *Canada AM*, then delivered a "town hall" speech to the staff. He described the *Globe* as a paper of "authority and integrity," saying he hoped to build "a truly" national newspaper. He warned them that Toronto's newspaper war continues, pitting the *Globe* against the *National Post* and the *Toronto Star*. He talked about reaching "the next level of excellence," from good to great. He described himself as a "voice for change," and said that the presentation of news is "our number-one priority."

Comparing himself to an orchestra conductor, he observed, "You are the players. You make the music. But the conductor holds the baton to make sure we produce a symphony and not a cacophony." In addition, he declared that he intended to be an "activist" editor, assured them that there would not be radical changes, since the *Globe* already had a "winning formula," and informed them that he would essentially leave the paper's basic design intact.

But although he has barely warmed his seat, Greenspon has already made changes. He hired the *Post*'s celebrated columnist, Roy McGregor, to be "the voice of the country." He plans to install a business columnist in Calgary and a *Report On Business* reporter in Atlantic Canada. More to the point, the *Globe* will be robust in covering vital Canadian issues, such as the state of the overstrained health care system.

Further ahead, he intends to expand international coverage, though he concedes that foreign bureaus, including the Jerusalem bureau, are costly to maintain, and to reshuffle the lineup of overseas correspondents and editorial board writers.

When the conversation turned to the Middle East, he said, "I'm not the Jewish editor of the *Globe*. I'm the editor who's Jewish." Having unburdened himself of this weight, Greenspon said he understands the Jewish community's interest in and attachment to Israel. The *Globe*'s coverage of the Middle East will be fair and realistic, recognizing Israel's yearning for security and the Palestinians' national aspirations. "We will not be a friend of terrorism."

Edward Greenspon

Greenspon does not think that the North American media, in general, is anti-Israel, but he believes that some journalists were too hasty in condemning Israel for a "massacre" in the Jenin Palestinian refugee camp that never even happened.

Greenspon joined the *Globe* as a business reporter in 1986 after graduating from Carleton University and working for the *Lloydminister Times*, the *Regina Leader-Post* and the *Financial Post*. He grew up in the Montreal suburbs of St. Laurent and Cote St. Luc. His late father, Mortimer, was an insurance agent and financial planner. His mother, Rosalie, is a real estate agent. Greenspon's older sister, Ina, is a teacher in California.

While he was a reporter and foreign correspondent based in London and covering pivotal events such as the end of communism in Poland and the reunification of Germany, it never occurred to Greenspon that he could be editor of the *Globe* one day. But as he assumed managerial posts, from managing editor of the *Report On Business* to deputy managing editor, he thought that it might not be an impossible dream.

A week before Greenspon came on board as editor-in-chief, David Rosenzweig, an Orthodox Jew, was murdered in Toronto. Local newspapers immediately labelled the murder as a hate crime, but the Toronto police subsequently downplayed it as a racially-motivated killing. The juxtaposition between Rosenzweig's violent death and Greenspon's impending installation as the *Globe*'s first Jewish editor struck Greenspon.

"I thought about it," he said. "I also thought about Daniel Pearl [the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was murdered by Islamic fundamentalists in Pakistan], and was glad I live in a society like Canada."

Although he is acutely aware of the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Canada and elsewhere since the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000, Greenspon, being an optimist, likes to believe that Rosenzweig was not murdered because he was Jewish.

"Maybe my ascension [as editor] is a symbol of the real Canada, where race and religion – the old divides – should not be factors in selecting a person for a position. Canada is a wonderful experiment in multiculturalism." He paused. "My Jewishness was never a factor, but 20, 30 years ago it would have been."

To Greenspon, "the fundamentals" of his life – family and vocation – remain unchanged and unchangeable. But he acknowledged that the need to move his wife, Janice Neil, and their children – Bailey, 12, Joshua, 10, and Jacob, 8 – from Ottawa to Toronto, scheduled for Aug. 26, will be something of a wrench, an "upending" experience.

Since Bailey's bat mitzvah is not far off, he and his wife must decide which synagogue they will join. And then there is the question of which afternoon Jewish schools the children will attend. In Ottawa, they went to the Temple Israel school.

His wife, an instructor of journalism at Carleton University, is on a six-month sabbatical. But having received offers from Toronto-based media, she must decide whether she will return to Carleton. In the meantime, the Greenspons have bought a house in the Lytton Park area of Toronto, a leafy, solidly middle-class neighbourhood between Eglinton and Lawrence.

Immensely aware of the *Globe*'s historical niche and role in Canadian journalism, Greenspon looks upon his editorship both as a stewardship and a daily learning experience.

As he put it: "Getting a newspaper right is a never-ending job, though this newspaper is on the right track. It's a constant work in progress."

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לשנה טובה תכתבו
Best Wishes for a Healthy New Year

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto

Getting priorities straight in La La Land

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

A New York prosthodontist, who has treated many well-known supermodels, said that models can spend up to $100,000 to try to get the right smile. He comments: "I'd say that about 90 per cent of the top supermodels have had dental implants put in because they want to have the perfect smile."

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Teaching Judaism in a culture obsessed with objectifying (mainly female) bodies – in which the daily rigours of cosmetics, skin care, hair care, and fragrances are religious rituals in their own right – has its challenges. As external panache replaces internal integrity as the currency of choice, the ability to persuade young Jews that the soul is the most important part of the self is under increasing fire.

Adam, a 13-year-old who held his bar-mitzvah party at Los Angeles' famous Whisky a Go Go nightclub, had this to say about his Jewish coming of age: "The bar mitzvah scene is really glamorous. I mean, for kids that can't afford it or are not as fortunate, I guess they are out of luck. People usually spend between 15 grand – 15 grand being the lowest, really low – to 90 grand. I had a glass blower and carnival games, lots of them. I had a sweatshirt maker, a make-your-own video game. I had dancers. I had a steel drum band during the appetizers. I had faked stuffed lions and parrots. I felt really good after the bar mitzvah, and I was getting a lot of play with girls."

It is possible that Adam had mastered an ironic sense of humour when he concluded that "my parents know that money ruins kids," but somehow I don't think so. (For those who think I'm making this up, I commend you to the May 25, 1997 edition of *The New York Times*, where, along with his comments, you will find a picture of Adam dancing at Whisky a Go Go with a woman who is, shall we say, scantily clad). Woe unto us who had to make do with a Torah reading and a modest lunch. What we seem to have missed.

For all the talk of spirituality that has flooded the media over the past 15 years, it is the way one looks and how much one carries in one's wallet that seems to be our primary educational message to the next generation. Not everyone is like Adam, of course, and there are parents who are very responsible about delineating between reality and La La Land. But somewhere in all of this we seem to have lost our way, and the corrosive effects of stressing appearance and wealth make their way past every denominational border. The impact is found among the most liberal and the most Orthodox of Jews.

As another Rosh Hashanah looms large, and the frailty of being alive has never been more obvious – with the tragic events of the past year in Israel, and even here in Toronto – the message of focusing on what ultimately matters in life seems as timely as ever. May God bless us with a renewed perspective on the important things, and the time to follow through on our newfound awarenesses.

Jewish Family Institute focuses on interpersonal relationships

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

A hip Toronto rabbi is using humour and principles from the Torah to give audiences across North America the tools to make their marriage great.

For the past three years, Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky has hosted an eight-week program at the Village Shul in Forest Hill, on How to Make Your Good Marriage Great.

This summer his program has become more of a stand-up routine, now that he has hit the road and begun touring the continent.

He has condensed the material – and jokes – into one- and two-day seminars, and recently he has performed 1½-hour comedy shows geared for clubs. He also appeared as a relationship expert on *Politically Incorrect*, with host Bill Maher.

"You'll come out of [the program] with the tools to create the marriage of your dream. You'll have a ball, you'll laugh and walk out with the marriage you always wanted," said Rabbi Pamensky, who taught at CHAT for three years, was a rabbi in congregations in Israel, South Africa and Toronto, and is now speaking about marriage full time. "It's very fun and funny."

In Toronto, the original eight-week seminar is available only at the Jewish Family Institute (JFI) at the Village Shul.

JFI's co-director Bronwyn Shepherd says the program is perfect for their organization, whose mandate is to promote positive relationships between parents, children and spouses. The group's aim is to provide families from all segments of the community with useful family-focused learning opportunities.

"[There's] such a demand that we have waiting lists," she said. "[This program] goes well with all our principles. It makes good families great."

Shepherd said the course costs $180 and "gives you the tools to communicate with each other."

Harold Nashman

Rabbi Pamensky added that it's his "dream is to stem the tide of divorce," and said couples often run into problems because they just are thrown into marriage, without an instruction manual. He explained that his program could perhaps double as one.

As an example of the tools he gives couples during his program, Rabbi Pamensky cited the use of eye contact and the importance of always taking your spouse's call.

Susan Zehavi, co-director of JFI, has taken the class. "It is dynamic and hilarious. He's so bang on and right," she said. "[I] have a greater appreciation for what's involved for a happy relationship. There is a greater sensitivity in our marriage.

"I loved his humour. My husband loved it. We started thinking again about our relationship and making each other happy," the mother of four added.

JFI was founded on the principles of the late Yetta Nashman, of whom Zehavi said, "Her entire focus was on relationships. Every person thought they were very special."

She said Nashman's husband, Harold, started the centre because he wanted to honour Yetta's morals and vision. It has grown tremendously and currently offers many family programs that Shepherd said "help people go down the right path [of marriage] the first time around."

Rabbi Pamensky's course is only for married people, but he did admit with a laugh that "women don't need as much coaching as men do."

For more information on How To Make Your Good Marriage Great or on the JFI, contact Shepherd at 416-785-1107, ext. 204, or visit www.jewishfamilyinstitute.com.

Jewish Life

A sweeping view of Jews in medicine

***Jews and Medicine: An Epic Saga*, by Frank Heynick, KTAV Publishing, 2002, $39.50 (US).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

There must be something special about Jewish doctors. Just consider, a tiny Jewish minority provided half the physicians in medieval Europe. Even anti-Jewish kings and bigoted clergy invariably preferred Jews as their personal physicians. Curmudgeonly H. L. Mencken, who harboured some anti-Semitic feelings, never extended those feelings to the medical field: "I go only to a Jewish doctor," he said. "Medicine requires brains, and the Jews got it. *Goyim* make bum doctors."

Among the most significant books on the subject were Harry Friedenwald's *The Jews and Medicine* (1944) and his study *Jewish Luminaries in Medieval History* (1946). His lucid non-technical style made for increased interest in medical history and the contribution of Jewish physicians and scientists.

Antedating Friedenwald's contribution was Dr. Julius Preuss's Biblisch-Talmudische Medizin, published in 1911. There is a recent and felicitous English translation of this useful and admired work. Until now, these volumes have been the major source of our knowledge of the Jewish contribution to medicine. These books are now joined and updated by Heynick's splendid achievement.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

In a panoramic manner, Heynick transports the reader across continents and eras. The sweeping narrative recounts the adventures and scientific triumphs of such human benefactors as Maimonides, Freud, Ehrlich, Metchnikoff, Chain, Waksman, Salk and a host of others. These innovators pioneered the germ theory, solved the riddle of natural immunity and overcame many of the scourges that before them had carried away untold numbers of their fellow human beings.

Other advances in medical technology that bear Jewish signatures include digitalis, the world's first oral contraceptive, the invention of the laryngoscope, modern tranquilizers, the first practical birth control pill and the wonder drug, streptomycin.

Maimonides occupies an honoured place in medical history. So great was his fame that the two opposing leaders in the Wars of the Crusades – the Muslim Saladin and the Christian Richard the Lion-Hearted – bid for his services as court physician. The Rambam's loyalty lay with Saladin, who was far more tolerant of the Jews than was his Crusader adversary. His fame remained so great that for hundreds of years, even in the 20th century, sick people in search of a cure went to sleep in the Synagogue of Maimonides in Cairo or journeyed to his gravesite in Tiberias in Israel.

A feature of Heynick's book is its absorbing evocation of the various cultures and civilizations that Jews have confronted in their long journey through history. The author uses the metaphor of the eternal wandering Jew as physician as he roams from places as diverse as ancient China to modern Europe.

In a strange episode in the biblical book of Exodus, Moses places the image of a serpent upon a raised staff to cure the Israelites. In time, what became known as the staff of Asklepios became identified with medicine and its practitioners.

Impressive as were the 12 Nobel Prizes in medicine awarded to Jews in the first half of the 20th century, this number has been dwarfed by the three dozen Jews who were so honoured in the five decades after 1950. It is a good bet that in any given year, some Jewish scientist – man or woman – won or shared the Nobel in medicine. (This from a people who, even at their height, probably never constituted more than a fraction of one percent of the world's population.)

This book of 600 pages is highly recommended, both for its sheer readability as well as for its value as a work of reference.

Klezmer & the Internet — pt. 1

This is an article about tzimmes and kugel. About hot latkes and schnapps. And of course, about raisins and almonds.

No, it's not about Jewish cooking. It's about how klezmer music is cooking around the world thanks to groups like Tzimmes **[http://www.tzimmes.net/]**, Kugel **[http://members.aol.com/shawnkugel/kugel.html]**, Schnapps **[http://goanna.cs.rmit.edu.au/~isaac/schnapps/]** and many others.

There is no better place to start your hunt for just about anything klezmer than at Ari Davidow's Klezmer Shack **[http://www.klezmershack.com/]**. This massive site is dedicated to all aspects of contemporary klezmer music with sections devoted to KlezNews, KlezCalendar and KlezLinks. Davidow also provides a concise and readable history of the rebirth of klezmer music and defines what klezmer music is (and isn't) **[http://www.klezmershack.com/articles/aboutklez.html]**:

"It's balkans and blues, ancient Jewish culture and prayer and history, spirit and jazz all mixed together. Good klezmer, and the music inspired by it, demands that one dance... Some of it lies with an approach to playing that I still don't know how to describe, but includes a lot of central- and eastern-European riffs and that mysterious *krechts*... that soulful burst of intensity that the lead musician, often a clarinet, will play, almost like an instrumental complaint."

The late Leo Rosten explained in *The Joys of Yiddish*: "The word klezmer comes from two Hebrew words, *clay* and *zimmer*, meaning vessel of music or song. The idea is that the instrument, that is, the violin, clarinet, takes on human characteristics like laughing and crying. With a joyous exuberance or a soulful wailing" **[http://www.users.drew.edu/jbazewic/hst/klesmer.html]**.

Back at Klezmer Shack, there are dozens of articles on such topics as Klezmer Drumming, Klezmer Music Theory and an piece from the San Francisco Chronicle on a city where the music is surprisingly popular: "In Today's Berlin, It's Hip to be Klezmer. The playful Jewish music is the rage in Germany's biggest city, and a community once wiped out is getting back on its feet" **[http://www.klezmershack.com/contacts/klezwords.html]**.

Klezmer's popularity is an international phenomenon. Klezmer music has been celebrated at KlezFest in St. Petersburg, Mazltov! In Holland and the Israeli Fest in Safed. One of the largest parties will be held over the Labour Day weekend at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre with the Ashkenaz Festival **[http://www.ashkenazfestival.org/]**. This year's lineup includes Buenos Aires' Lerner y Moguilevsky, Poland's Cracow Klezmer Band and, of course, Canada's own Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band.

Do you want to track down a great klezmer clarinetist you heard on a CD or maybe assemble your own Klezmer band? KlezContacts has e-mail addresses for everybody who's anybody in Klezmer music **[http://www.klezmershack.com/klezcontacts.html]**. And you can find almost 150 Klezmer links at the Klezmer Ring. **[http://s.webring.org/webring?ring=klezmer;list]**.

So is it time for you to try you hand at some klezmer? The Klezmaniacs say, "Yes, you too can learn how to become a klezmer musician. You too can enjoy all of the fame, wealth, and groupies which are the natural right of this status [though how much this amounts to is a question you shouldn't ask]." Here are their three tips:

1. Be born Jewish. Helpful but not essential.
2. Listen to *lots* of klezmer music.
3. And pick up an instrument. If you're going to be a klezmer, you shouldn't be shy.

You'll find a lot more practical advice on their webpage **[http://home.att.net/~fiddlerzvi/klezmusic.html]**.

Even if you're not a musician, you can still feel the power of these songs. At a Web site devoted to the "King of Yiddish music," Leo Fuld **[http://members.lycos.nl/jiddish/fuld01.htm]**, you'll find a fascinating quote attributed to one famous observer: "The Yiddish folk songs, why they are the most sincere, the most heartfelt have heard anywhere. They are the truest expression of the soul of a people." – Albert Einstein.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Notice to Visitors to Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Arrangements have been made by Pardes Shalom to provide complimentary transportation to the cemetery for the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on **Sunday, September 15th.**

On each of these days, a bus identified by a sign "**PARDES SHALOM**" will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

The bus will leave the cemetery at 12:30 p.m. for return to the Betel Centre and the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

For further information, and to register, please call the cemetery office 416-635-2883, extension 211 - Trudy, or extension 224 - Esther.

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Belle Ewart shul hosts Israeli teens

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Israeli teens visited Toronto. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Yoav Picard found some things puzzling here while on a recent visit from Israel.

"When we arrived, we went to a place called the Boat Shul [an Orthodox congregation on Bathurst Street south of Lawrence Avenue]. We saw lots and lots of black hats, but we looked and looked and we didn't find any boats.

"Then we went [to the Hebrew Centre of Belle Ewart], not to a boat shul. Everywhere we looked we saw boats, and we even saw a few people with black hats."

Yoav was visiting for two weeks along with five other Israeli teenage boys, all of whom have had family members killed or badly injured in terrorist attacks. They were here as a guests of a group from the Hebrew Centre of Belle Ewart.

During their stay, they visited Ontario Place, Niagara Falls and Paramount Canada's Wonderland and went white water rafting on the Ottawa River. They also attended a Toronto Blue Jays game, and went fishing, jet skiing and boating in Belle Ewart.

Joe Fried, a Toronto lawyer who was part of the group that brought the teens to Canada, said that last summer, some of the cottagers who attend services at the Hebrew Centre, arranged to have five sefrei Torah donated to the Israeli army.

"This year, we decided to bring over the teens. We contacted One Family: Victims of Terror, an organization in Israel that works with victims of terrorism, and they chose six boys."

Outwardly, he says, the boys were high spirited and full of fun. "They were happy to take part in all the activities; it was hard to know the trauma they have been through."

Initially, however, security was a big issue, said Jack Samuel, a real estate agent who belongs to the congregation.

"They asked if our group would have a security guard with them, and whether I carried a gun. They had heard about the murder of David Rosenzweig, and they were quite concerned.

"They also wanted to know where the Arab population in the city lived, and whether non-Jews would be at Wonderland. They were unaware of the dynamics of Canadian society."

But after a few days, he said, "their fears banished and they settled into their holiday."

The visit was also a success for the teens' Canadian counterparts, he said.

"Our children saw the community reaching out to these teens, and that had a tremendous impact on them. They were able to meet kids their own age who have suffered immeasurably. They were able to put a face on people they have been reading about."

Yoav, who spoke on behalf of the other boys, said that the Belle Ewart group "brought us here, opened [their] houses and made us feel welcome. Why? Because [they] feel our pain – the terrible losses [we have suffered] and [they] want to take away from us some sadness.

"What we saw in Canada is that [we are] a family. We don't agree on everything and we are very different, but we still care about each other. We saw this in ways we did not understand before we came here."

Yoav said that people in Israel are "scared, angry and sad, but we must go on. When there are Jewish people outside Israel who care about our *matsav*, it helps, but still we need more.

"We need your [prayers] and we need your money. We need students to come to Israel to learn, and we need families to come to Israel to visit. The country needs tourists, the economy needs money and the Arabs and the whole world need to see that Am Yisrael is together."

He invited all Canadians to come to Israel, with one last plea. "When you do come, please do us a favour and bring with you lots of water," he said. "You have way too much here, and we are running short."

Anti-Israel resolution cause of concerns

Continued from page 5

for "refusing to facilitate full and safe access to the affected populations."

Bene Israel Congregation

Invites you to join them in This year's High Holidays Services on **Sept. 6th, 7th & 8th** for **Rosh Hashanah** and on **Sept. 15th & 16th** for **Yom Kippur** Congenial Sephardic service at Bernard Betel Centre, Music room.

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Board of Jewish Education executive director Seymour Epstein said, "As a graduate of OISE, I would be concerned that an institute that trains teachers for Ontario schools and is justifiably committed to academic freedom of speech has within its walls at least one faculty member not concerned with balance in the teaching of history."

Rosenblum said CJC was involved in discussions with OISE in April.

University of Toronto provost Shirley Neuman said the OISE/UT incident was investigated by the acting dean, Cecilia Reynolds, when the controversy surfaced in the spring. At that time, Reynolds disassociated OISE/UT from the resolution.

In a statement to *The CJN*, Neuman said, "We recognize that to protest a combatant's role in a war can be hurtful to some members of the community, but such a protest is not in itself racist or hate speech.

"Academic freedom means that scholars must be able to express views that are challenging while respecting academic responsibility."

In addition, Neuman said that "the petition's resolution does not constitute a formal statement of OISE/UT or of the University of Toronto.

"Persons who have added their signatures to the resolution have done so as individuals. They are free to make such a statement without fear of reprisal just as others are free to disagree with their position."

Razack was not available for comment.

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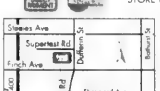

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HELPING ISRAELI KIDS, ADULTS: The Canadian Friends of Jerusalem Elwyn, an organization dedicated to helping children and adults with special needs in Israel achieve independence and dignity, recently elected its new leadership at a meeting in Toronto. Cary Wolgelerenter, the incoming chair, expressed his and the organization's thanks to the longstanding leaders of the organization, Jennie Cass, Dorothy Wiener, and Syrma Kochberg. These three women, who have long dedicated themselves to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities in Israel, served the organization from its founding, more than a decade ago. The organization sponsors annual "Scaramouche" dinners, which have remained an attraction for gastronomes and philanthropists alike. The new board decided to dedicate most of the work of the organization to Israel Elwyn's Dvora Agmon Preschool Development Center in Jerusalem, which serves more than 70 children with special needs. Seen here (from left) are Dorothy Wiener, Cary Wolgelerenter and Jennie Cass.

THE OLD "Y' CLUBS RIDE AGAIN!

The clubs of the YMHA - circa 1945 to 1955 - wish all of their members, families and friends, their very best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year. This is the time for remembering the past and looking forward to the future. More details soon to come regarding the long-awaited "Y" ALL-CLUBS REUNION on Tuesday, October 22nd that will celebrate our youth.

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ש'שאר ע'נ'נו

גידי קורן וחברים

אנטי ישראליות אקדמית

פרופסורית מומחה ערבי בבית הספר לחינוך של אוניברסיטת טורונטו מחתימת פרופסורים מרחבי קנדה על עצומה שמגנה את פשעי ישראל כנגד פלשתין. אף מילה כמובן על מעשי הטרור היום יומיים. אפילו העובדה שהאו"ם נאלץ להודות שלא היה קבח בג'נין לא שינתה את דעתה. עד כה חתמו שלושים ומשהו פרופסורים משבע אוניברסיטאות. אפשר להניח שאלפים ראו את העצומה ובחרו שלא לחתום. ונכון, זו מדינה דמוקרטית ומותר לפרופסורית מוסלמית להביע דיעות גם כשהן מבוססות על שקרים.

לעומת זאת באירופה חתמו כאלף פרופסורים על עצומות הקוראות לנתק את היחסים המדעיים עם ישראל ולהחרים את המוסדות והחוקרים הישראלים. רק להזכירכם שבימי הטאצים היו רק כעשרים אחוז מתושבי גרמניה חברים במפלגה הנאצית, אבל **ששים** אחוז מן הרופאים הצטרפו ביוזמתם ל"מפלגה".

ללמדך שגיונות אינה פתוחה יותר אצל משכילים.

יש בקרב הישראלים בקנדה קבוצה לא מבוטלת של אקדמאי-רופאים, חוקרים, מרצים בכירים באוניברסיטאות. זו החזית שלנו! עמיתינו הישראלים זקוקים לכל עזרה אפשרית! צריך להזמין אותם מתי שאפשר, צריך לנסוע לכנסים בישראל, דווקא כי כל כך הרבה שפנים וכלבים אידיפאלים הפסיקו לנסוע. צריך למצוא זמן ויזמה ולספר לקולגות שלנו מה עובר על ישראל במכת הטרור.

וכולנו צריכים לקנות לראש השנה רק תוצרת הארץ.

מתנות מישראל

כותב לי בעניין זה הרב ישראל לנדא, האיש שעוסק יום ולילה באהבת ישראל:

"הנני בא בשורותי אלה לחודות לך על שורותיך בדבר העשייה של מרכז חב"ד לדוברי עברית למען ישראל וחיילה... בודאי תשמח לשמוע כי סיבוב ראשון של מבצעים אלו הסתיים החצלחה מיוחדת...חשבתי על רעיון קל ומעשי:

כל משפחה מעניקה לרגל שמחות ומועדים פעם סיר ופעם פרחים, פעם מגש ופעם אגרטל. אולי היה מקום לעודד את הציבור לסור אל חנויות הג'ודאיקה אשר חלק ניכר מהמוצרים הם מתוצרת ישראל ובכך נרויח רווח כפול....."

הימים ימי או טו טו חגים- והרעיון של הרב נשמע לי אידיאלי. אבל שישאר ביניכו.

החתונה היוונית השמנה שלי

סרט שראיתי בישראל לפני שהתחיל כאן, למרות שזה סידטה של יוצרת קנדית שהוסרטו בטורונטו. זהו סיפורה של בחורה ממשפחה יוונית שעובדת במסעדה המשפחתית וכל מה שמעניין ממנה זה להתחתן עם בחור יווני ולהביא לעולם ילדים. היא כמובן -יש לה רעיונות אחרים, מה שעושה שמח על המסך וטוב בלב. סרט שיביא לכם חיוכים. בלי פילוסופיה, נקי נקי, אבל מה-זה -חביב. מתאים לקיץ החם ביותר בהיסטוריה של העיר.

דויד גרוסמן-"בגוף אני מבינה"

אם יוצא לכם להציץ ברשימת הספרים רבי המכר בישראל, לא תוכלו שלא לראות את דויד גרוסמן בראש הרשימה. אלה הם שני סיפורים בספר אחד. הראשון הוא כמעט מונולוג של גבר שמגלה לניסתו (אשת אחיו) שהוא יודע שנים רבות שאשתו מקיימת יחסים רציניים עם גבר אחר. חסיפור השני עוסק ביחסים סבוכים בין פסיכותראפיסטית לבין נער מטופל בגיל ההתבגרות, כפי שנראו לביתה של המטפלת שהיתה אז ילדה בעצמה. שני הנושאים נשמעים בהחלט מעניינים. אבל הכתיבה של גרוסמן- מה זה קשקש: ממש שי עננן חילוני. בשבילי זה היה כמו לאכול חצץ וכדי להוריד אותו לשתות נפט. אבל שיהיה ברור: זוהי כתיבה מדוייקת, מאד מפורטת- כל מחשבה מנותחת תחת מיקרוסקופ אלקטרוני. הספר היה קשה במיוחד משום שבמקביל אני קורא את ספרו החדש והמדהים של עמוס עוז, ספר שאינך רוצה להחמיץ בו אף מילה. אבל על כך עד יסופר ב"שישאר ביניכו" עתידי.

נימוסים והליכות

זקן מעוצבן נכנס לבנק בבת ים ואומר לפקידה:

"תפתחי לי חשבון בנק מחורבן"

הפקידה המזועזעת לא מאמינה למשמע אוזניה, וחוקן חוזר ואומר:

"אללה, יא פוסיטמה, את פותחת או לאו".

ממחרת הפקידה להזעיק את המנהל והוא מסכים איתה שאין זה מתפקידה של הפקידה לסבול יחס כזה. הוא ניגש לאשנב ושואל-"מה בדיוק חבעייה, אדוניו?".

ענה לו הזקן: " אני רוצה לפתוח חשבון מחורבן להפקיד את החמישה מיליון שקל שזכיתי בטוטו".

מחייך הפקיד ואומר:

" ואתה רוצה להגיד לי שהפוסטמה הזאת עושה לך בעיותי"...

Greater Toronto Area

Beth David gets new associate rabbi

Pinsker headed Reconstructionist Darchei Noam

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

"It's not such an odd thing," says Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker, referring to his recent cross-denominational career move.

Earlier this summer the 55-year-old rabbi left Darchei Noam, the 300-family Reconstructionist congregation he led for 11 years in North York, to take a position as associate rabbi at nearby Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, which is affiliated with the Conservative movement.

A longtime member of both the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly as well as the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Rabbi Pinsker described himself in a recent interview as a traditionalist in the Reconstructionist movement. He was ordained Reconstructionist, but has served three Conservative congregations (and two Reconstructionist ones) in his 26-year career.

In Toronto, his appointment is in fact unusual. It does not, however, indicate any change in Beth David's ideology, said Rabbi Philip Scheim, spiritual leader of Beth David, which has about 1,200 families.

Rabbi Pinsker has "menschlichkeit" and very good rabbinic skills, said Rabbi Scheim. "Learning was the issue, not his ordination."

The position Rabbi Pinsker is assuming is primarily educational, although he will also be involved in pastoral care, running a learning-oriented alternate service and performing rabbinic functions at life cycle events.

Rabbi Pinsker said his new position, which began Aug. 1, is "an exciting challenge."

He was already familiar with Beth David from saying Kaddish there for his father three years ago. The rabbi found the congregation's minyan to be "populated by the most wonderful people, very sweet and very generous to strangers who came in. Beth David was so warm, outgoing, good-humoured and consoling to people."

Some of the main differences between the two synagogues, as they represent their respective denominations, involve the ritual involvement of women, and the role of the rabbi.

Balancing of tradition and change is present in both movements, said Rabbi Pinsker, but the process is different, he explained. In the Reconstructionist movement, a common slogan is, "the past has a vote, but not a veto."

Likewise for Reconstructionist rabbis, who can be outvoted on matters of halachic policy, he said. Although a Reconstructionist congregation cannot require a rabbi to do anything that goes against his or her conscience, the rabbi is not *mara d'atra* (halachic arbiter) as is the case in Conservative congregations.

Also, the Reconstructionist movement is fully egalitarian. Conservative congregations in Toronto, for the most part, are not.

Beth David, a longtime traditional Conservative congregation, began to see changes in women's ritual participation almost two years ago, when Rabbi Scheim announced in his Rosh Hashanah sermon the gradual implementation of increased women's participation, including aliyot but not being counted as part of the minyan. The sermon was followed, uncharacteristically, with applause from the congregation.

Although that type of change is appealing to Rabbi Pinsker, who is married with three daughters, his view is that "Judaism is Judaism. It's not egalitarianism or a set of issues defined solely by a specific subgroup."

Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker

He believes in looking at what people do, he said, rather than at denominational labels. His approach, he added, has always stressed the importance of Jewish observance.

The son of eastern European Jews who identified as Orthodox, Rabbi Pinsker grew up in Chicago with a strong sense of Jewish ethics imbued in large part by his father's generous business practices.

He often mentored younger businessmen, whether they were Jewish, African American or Mexican, the rabbi recalled, and when customers couldn't afford the merchandise, he would tell them to pay when they had food on the table and their rent was paid.

But despite a strong Jewish influence at home, Rabbi Pinsker credits a Presbyterian minister with his decision to enter rabbinical school. Having studied philosophy, religion and psychology for his undergraduate and master's degrees, Rabbi Pinsker was told that he would never find a career to satisfy him unless he entered the clergy.

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Yiddish, Soviet Jewish scholar came late to Judaism

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Anna Shternshis was born and raised in the Soviet Union, the product of a typically assimilated and deracinated Jewish household.

Like many Russian Jews who came of age during the Soviet era, she was only vaguely aware of her Jewish background.

As she put it: "I knew I was Jewish, but did not know exactly what it meant, except for the line in my passport. We were not practising Jews."

Considering her upbringing, Shternshis' metamorphosis into a scholar of Yiddish and Soviet Jewish culture is really nothing short of remarkable.

Still more amazing, Shternshis, 28, teaches at one of Canada's most illustrious institutions of higher learning, the University of Toronto.

Apart from teaching Yiddish language courses (beginner, intermediate and advanced), she lectures on Yiddish literature, movies and theatre.

And in September, when a new term gets under way, she will teach a new course on Soviet Jewish culture – thought to be the first course of its kind in North American academia.

"We will analyze not only how the state tried to use propaganda to convert Jews into devoted Soviet citizens," Shternshis explained, "but also how people understood, and responded to, the materials."

She will use books, pamphlets, theatre scripts, songs and oral histories to examine these issues.

On Sept. 2, she will present a lecture, titled Singing About Stalin: Yiddish Folksongs in the Soviet Union, at the Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture.

"Music and folksongs played an important role in Soviet society in general and among Jews in particular," Shternshis said.

Officially published songs were anti-religious and encouraged Jews to become farmers. Still other songs glorified the government's achievements and served as distractions from the struggles of everyday life.

"Soviet Yiddish songs are a mirror through which we can view the cultural policies of the state toward Jews," she observed.

When she studies such songs, she looks for subliminal propaganda messages.

"Sometimes, old Yiddish songs were altered," she said. "For example, a popular lullaby by Shalom Aleichem acquired a verse, 'Sleep my child, and let comrade Stalin know you sleep well.'"

Through oral history testimonies, Shternshis gauges the popularity of such songs.

"Occasionally, officially promoted songs became popular for different reasons than expected by the government. The song *Birobidzhan* encouraged Jews to settle in this Far Eastern province. But oral testimonies demonstrate that Jews sang it to parody this failed settlement."

A graduate of the Russian State University for the Humanities, she was born in Moscow, the daughter of Arkady and Bella Shternshis, an engineer and medical doctor, respectively. They lost relatives in the Ukraine during the Holocaust.

Although anti-Semitism posed a problem for some Soviet Jews, Anna Shternshis experienced little of that animus, and it did not deter her.

"However, I do remember certain remarks which made me feel bad at certain moments of my life. And when I was in high school, a boy did not want to sit next to me because I was Jewish. Since he was not popular at all, it was nothing to worry about.

"The fact that my sister and I knew nothing about what the word 'Jew' means led to some funny situations. When I was six, I called her a 'Jew.' We thought it was a dirty word. I also thought one ate matzah on May Day."

Shternshis was introduced to Jewish culture, in a systematic way, in 1991, when the Russian State University of the Humanities and the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York launched Project Judaica.

"For the first time, Russian students were taught Yiddish, Jewish history, Hebrew and Jewish tradition, literature and culture in a Soviet state university. I really enjoyed the program, and after graduating, I decided to pursue my interests in Jewish studies."

Anna Shternshis

As part of Project Judaica, she studied at Hebrew University for a term.

Her parents were very supportive of her career plans, and were especially pleased by the fact that she was able to converse with them in Yiddish, just months after starting to study the language.

"They felt that my interest in Yiddish and in Jewish culture would have pleased their parents had they been alive."

Shternshis, whose parents still reside in Moscow, left Russia in 1996, bound for Oxford University on a scholarship.

There she studied Yiddish in the department of modern languages and literature. Her doctoral dissertation was on Jewish popular culture in the Soviet Union.

Then, as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, she studied the role of Yiddish songs in Soviet propaganda.

Last year, after teaching a course at the Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies, she was hired by the University of Toronto.

Shternshis, who is married to music journalist Dan Rosenberg, is currently writing a book on Jewish identity in the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1941. The book's tentative title is *Soviet and Kosher*.

She has also embarked on an oral history project about Jewish daily life in early Soviet Russia. The transcribed interviews, in Yiddish and Russian, are stored at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

During the summer, Shternshis was in Germany interviewing Soviet Jewish immigrants in Berlin.

Looking ahead, she plans to write a book on the daily lives of Jews in the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1953.

To the best of her knowledge, Russia today is home to about 500,000 Jews. "They have no trouble getting into universities, finding jobs or, for that matter, leaving the country."

Anti-Semitism in Russia is not as serious as it was during the Soviet and pre-Soviet eras, she said. But anti-Semitic posters can be seen all over the country and anti-Jewish newspapers are sold openly near Red Square in Moscow.

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On Campus

Queen's U student produces his first feature film

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Sponsé is quite literally going places, and it's likely the same can be said of the recently released film's 19-year-old director Aaron Szamosi, a Queen's University student who spent more than two years on the ambitious project.

The 96-minute teen comedy will be screened at AUSFEST, the Australian Digital and Video Film Festival this October in Brisbane. Closer to home, it premiered on June 9 at Thornhill's City Playhouse.

Szamosi, who organized the event to raise funds for Unicef, followed up earlier this month with a screening at the International Teen Movie Festival at AMC 30 in Concord, Ont.

This Sunday, Aug. 25, *Sponsé* will be shown at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts in a charity event called *Suavity* at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. (also for Unicef).

Each show will also include a second, brief teen movie and performances by live bands, two of which (in the afternoon performances) were formed by Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) alumni. Tickets are available for $16 through Ticketmaster, $14 at the theatre box office, or online at www.silvertech.ca.

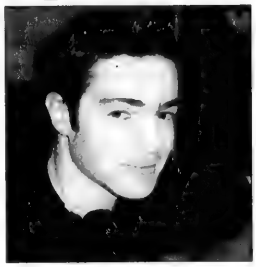
The name *Sponsé*, with its echoes of spontaneity and hint of sophistication, refers to a teen improv group with an unusual feature: the actors perform in the course of everyday life instead of on a stage. A romance, a sinister element and some comic relief are also woven into the film's plot.

"I came up with the word," said Szamosi, who is back home in Thornhill and working at a summer job as a software programmer before returning for his second year in Kingston. "[*Sponsé*] just sounded cool. I watch a lot of European movies."

He credits his Grade 10 English teacher, Tobi Bongard, with giving him the opportunity to direct school plays, and his Grade 11 drama teacher, Lori Cohen – both of CHAT – for teaching him about working with a team and learning how to react quickly in an improv situation.

"I wanted to make a movie about an improv team," he said, adding that roughly one-third of the film was ad-libbed.

Sponsé began when Szamosi was still at CHAT, before he went to Vaughan Secondary School to complete his high school studies. Although he brought together eight of his friends to work on a story concept, none of the seven lead actors were friends of his. His mother, grandfather, and an uncle all have brief appearances, however.



Aaron Szamosi

Among the seven leads are three local Jewish teens – David Attar, Jonathan Goldapple and Matt Zegman.

Szamosi handed out 400 fliers at 11 schools last year before auditioning 82 people. In all, about 50 "volunteer actors" took part in the film.

"Technically, this was a zero-budget film," he said.

Editing *Sponsé* on his computer took Szamosi eight months, working six hours at a stretch every three to four days, excluding exam time.

Szamosi – who started his own video company, Silver Tech, as a Grade 9 student and gained experience filming CHAT and UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education events – edited *Sponsé* on "just a regular PC" using digital video editing software.

In fact, until 45 minutes before the premiere, he was fine-tuning his work. Although he is "very satisfied" with the final product, Szamosi said he is also critical of things he could have done differently. "I'm a perfectionist."

His company also does recording work in a portable studio and, for *Sponsé*, he used original music by Canadian bands. Aside from individual projects, Szamosi said he is trying to co-ordinate efforts among directors and young Canadian artists to further Canada's entertainment industry.

At some point – he figures maybe in 15 years – Szamosi would like to write and produce a feature based on the life story of his paternal grandmother, a Holocaust survivor who began life anew in the Hungarian countryside and later in Canada.

"I want to give myself time to gain the proper expertise and knowledge to really give that topic its proper respect," he said.

In the meantime, the biology and film student and incoming Hillel vice-president has begun writing a drama, to be shot in 2004 and released in 2005.

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מתודיקה בתושב"ע טכניקות שונות בלימוד משניות. מרצה: יעל יצחקי. (10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon)	ספרות עברית מודרנית מרצה: חנה פנחסי	התפילה ככלי להגשמה עצמית. מרצה: הרב ה. ון-לואן	גישות בהוראת מקצועות היהדות. מרצות: י. זליגר, ס. אילת.	בעיית הרע במקורות היהדות. מרצה: הרב שטמלר.
גישות בהוראת התנ"ך המרצים: הרב ירס, הרב טסלר, הרב וויצמן. (12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.)				
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		Jewish Family Education The Midrasha will be offering workshops and seminars in Jewish Family Education throughout the year. **Dates and location to be announced.**		**Teacher Training: Supplementary Schools** Sessions in Pedagogy for supplementary school teachers **(Location: TBA)**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Ruth Silverberg at 416-633-7770 ext. 259
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Monday, Aug. 26, is deadline for Sept. 5 issue and Tuesday, Sept. 3, is deadline for Sept. 12. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Aug. 25

JEWISH MEDITATION

At the Orthodox Congregation Ohr Penimi, 51 Elgin St., Thornhill, prepare yourself for the High Holy Days with The Art of Jewish Meditation led by **Rabbi Moshe Kirsh**. Discover how Jewish meditation benefits your spiritual well-being. Seminar 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 905-889-0793.

OSTROVTZER MEMORIAL

A gathering in memory of Holocaust victims in Ostrowiec and vicinity, 11 a.m., Lambton Cemetery, Royal York Road (rain or shine). Speakers are **Rabbi Steven Schonblum** and **Israel Gurfinkel.** Information, **Al Speisman** 416-785-5688.

FESTIVAL AND CAR WASH

Tikun olam committee of the Birthright alumni committee and the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living present A Summer Festival and Car Wash, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the centre. Food, entertainment, bingo with prizes, balloon bash and family movie. Information, **Ruth Cohen** 416-225-2112, ext. 105.

Tuesday, Aug. 27

MEMORIAL EVENING

Shaarei Tefillah special memorial evening in observance of the first yahrzeit of Murray Friedberg, past president of the congregation. The evening commences with a siyum at 8:15 p.m. followed by tributes to Friedberg.

SHOP-A-THON

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO invites you to do your Rosh Hashanah shopping from noon to midnight at the Dominion store in Lawrence Plaza. Help support medical services, day care centres and schools in Israel through this shop-a-thon. For information, 416-630-8373.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

At Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., main hallway and Jerusalem Room. 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 28

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Fulfil your desire to help Israel with your own hands by volunteering to serve on an IDF supply maintenance base for a minimum of 2 weeks. To find out about the Sar-El program, attend the information session at 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. Canadian Volunteers for Israel 416-781-6089.

JEWISH HUMOUR GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group monthly meeting, all ages, fun, prizes. Call **Irv Helpert**, 416-661-2541.

Thursday, Aug. 29

ATTRIBUTES OF MERCY

Rabbi Menachem Liebtag, director of Tanach Study Centre in Israel, speaks on God's 13 Attributes of Mercy: A Magical Formula or the Consequences of Covenant, at Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz, 147 Overbrook Pl. Minchah at 7:45 p.m. followed by the lecture at 8 p.m. 416-633-5770.

And What Else Is New

SOUL RETREAT 2002

Soul Retreat 2002 is a weekend retreat Aug. 23-25 for Jewish adults in their 20s, sponsored by Reviving Eden, an initiative of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. A weekend full of relaxation, fun activities, spiritual, liberal Jewish exploration and education on the shores of UAHC Camp George in Parry Sound. All meals COR Kosher. To register or for information, 416-485-7007, ext. 0.

Continued on page 21

It's Back...
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What's New

Continued from page 20

SLICHOT PROGRAM

Join Beit Rayim Synagogue the evening of Slichot, Saturday, Aug. 31, at 9 p.m. for Beit Rayim's own version of *Fiddler on the Roof*. *Slichot* services follow. 9711 Bayview Ave., phone 905-770-7639. ext. 31.

THE CALL OF THE SHOFAR

Jewish Russian Community Centre pre-Rosh Hashanah event, The Call of the Shofar, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m. Guest speaker, dessert. RSVP 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

ROSH HASHANAH

Oraynu Congregation's secular, humanistic celebration of Rosh Hashanah, Saturday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. at Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave. Babysitting and children's program also offered. To reserve tickets or for more information, 416-385-3910.

SYNAGOGUE SURVIVAL

The Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W., offers Synagogue Survival for the High Holy Days, evening course, 8-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Aug. 27, Sept. 3 and Sept. 10; or mornings, Tuesday, Sept. 3 and 10, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For women only. Instructor **Ilana Sober**. Call **Carole** 416-784-9283.

HEBREW EDUCATION

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am presents 2002-2003 adult Hebrew education classes with Jewish educator and lecturer **Hana Werner**, Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m., starting Sept. 30. Learn basic Hebrew reading, improve Hebrew reading skills with a focus on prayers. Enhance your Jewish literacy. Register, 416-633-5500.

MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

Mel Lastman Variety Players, a group of energetic seniors, presents a musical variety show, *Nothing Can Stop Us Now*, at the Fairview Library Theatre. Matinees at 2 p.m. Aug. 25 and Sept. 1. Evening performances at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 22, 24, 29, 31. Proceeds go to local charities. For tickets and information, 416-499-8999.

ALCOHOLICS, ADDICTS

Jacs, Jewish alcoholics, drug addicts and their families – hope and help for families and addicts. Information night Thursdays at 8 p.m., 858 Sheppard Ave. W. Confidential phone line 416-410-Jacs (5227)

THE CHORALAIRS

The 41st year of the Choralairs of North York opens Tuesday, Sept. 3, at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, Room 2. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday 8:15-10 p.m. Repertoire includes pop, Broadway and folk songs. No auditions required but a love of singing is a must. Regarding membership, call **Judy Gordon** 416-221-3161 or **Fay Cohen** 416-633-7233. Contact **Rose Terrance** 416-633-0433 to book a concert for your facility (nursing home, home for the aged, seniors apartment).

BOWLING LEAGUE

Maven Bowling League, a co-ed Jewish league for bowlers in their 30s and 40s, is looking for new bowlers for the 2002-2003 season. The league meets every Thursday at a centrally located bowling alley. A pre-season barbecue is being held Saturday evening, Aug. 31. The first bowling night is Sept. 5. **Ron Caine** 905-889-8333.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave. Registration is open for fall courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Courses run Tuesday mornings Sept. 10-Dec. 10; Wednesday mornings Sept. 11-Dec. 11; Thursday mornings and evenings Sept. 12-Dec. 12; and Fridays Sept. 13-Dec. 13. Call **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

CORRECTION

An incorrect number was given last week for the Adath Israel Congregation's concert, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the synagogue or at the door. For information, 416-785-3690.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Casino Rama Aug. 28; Saturday dances Aug. 24, 31; Casino Niagara Oct. 17; Bingo every Tuesday at 1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Aug. 22, Bingo; Aug. 29, picnic. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

New Horizon Day Centre, a Hungarian speaking seniors club, meets 5 days a week at 3565 Bathurst St. Bingo on Monday afternoons. Once a month out for lunch. New members welcome. 416-256-1892.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Aug. 28 (Wednesday) Israeli Festival for Bernard Betel Centre, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 3, movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Miles Nadal JCC and Greenco Project Management present Sing-a-long Fiddler on the Roof, Thursday, Aug. 29, 8 p.m. at the outdoor screen at Harbourfront's Concert Stage, 235 Queens Quay W. Dress up as your favourite character-babushkas, beards, wedding veils or anything you can think of, or come as you are. Prizes for best costumes. Sing along with the award-winning movie musical. Host is actor, comedian, singer and Miles Nadal JCC fitness instructor **David Gale**. Tickets and information, Miles Nadal JCC or Harbourfront Centre Box Office 416-973-4000.

Registration for fall programs begins Sunday, Aug. 25. Programs for children and adults: Fitness and Recreation, Cultural Arts, Adult Jewish Education.

Living Well Health Series: Thursday, Sept. 12, 6:15-7:30 p.m. Strains and Sprains with **Dao Nguyen** looks at chronic conditions, treatments and ways to avoid injuries. Register.

Learn Hebrew at the Two-Day Hebrew Marathon, Sundays Oct. 20 and 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Study the alphabet, learn the basic skills necessary for reading and practise reading key Hebrew prayers. Instructor **Nirit Gruber**, who has taught at the Institute for Jewish Learning and the Downtown Jewish Learning Council.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Aug. 27, 28, 29, at 7 p.m.: *Lear, King of Israel* at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Shakespeare's *King Lear* set in 1973 Tel Aviv. Music, dance, puppetry and illusion. Proceeds to Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel. For tickets, 416-780-0034.

Pick up a copy of the new BJCC *Program Book*.

Fall registration is open for the Academy of Ballet and Jazz at the BJCC. Artistic director is **Nadia Veselova-Tencer**, a graduate of the Kirov Ballet School. Ext. 258.

The Royal Conservatory of Music joins the Koffler Centre of the Arts School of Music. Register now for fall classes. Ext. 228.

NCJW BIENNIAL CONVENTION: The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada launched its Jewish Genetics Awareness Program at its 31st Biennial Convention held in Montreal recently. Seen, from left, are Sharon Hampson, keynote speaker; Roz Fine and Brenlee Gurvey Gales of Toronto, national co-presidents.

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On Campus

U of T grad honoured for community work

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Elana Weintraub, 21, has spent thousands of hours working in the Jewish community trying to help other people.

This year, Weintraub, a Yeshiva University student and University of Toronto graduate, is the winner of the Stephen Cooper Award, a financial award for young adults recognizing leadership and commitment to the Jewish community.

"I was honestly shocked. I didn't expect to get it," she said while sipping a chillatte at Second Cup. "It's a really special honour. I'm grateful to the Cooper family. The family is doing a really great thing [by] helping people realize their roots."

Weintraub was selected out of many candidates because, as Adi Neuberger, chair of the Stephen Cooper Award committee, said, "she had a long and consistent involvement with the Jewish community from a very young age.

"There's something very genuine about her," Neuberger said. "She's very enthusiastic, very warm and very confident."

Highlights of Weintraub's involvement include three years with the Jewish Students' Union (JSU) at U of T, an internship at Baycrest Hospital and a summer with Jewish Campus Services. As well, she has been a Grade 1 Hebrew teacher at Holy Blossom Religious School for five years.

"I have had positive experiences," Weintraub, who is fluent in Hebrew, said. "[Working in the community] was not thrown on me or put on me. It was an individual decision I made and I progressed in it. I realized quickly that this was for me."

After graduating from U of T with a degree in criminology, Weintraub came to a crossroads.

Realizing her love for Jewish life and social work, she applied to and was accepted by Yeshiva University's Wurzweiller School of Social Work in New York.

"It was a kind of a scary decision to make," said Weintraub, who graduated from Bialik Hebrew Day School and Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

"While [we were] growing up, other girls wanted to dance. I wanted to be a cop. I always loved the inner working of the criminal mind. It was always intriguing."

For Wurzweiller's master's degree program, students take classes in New York for eight weeks each summer for three years and complete two internships in their field during the rest of the year, either inside or outside New York.

Because the school packs a full year of learning into only eight weeks, Weintraub said, "you either sink or swim, but you have to work really hard."

Weintraub's first placement brought her home to Toronto this year, where she worked full-time with Holocaust survivors in Baycrest Hospital's geriatrics department.

"The experience was great. I really grew up in one year," she said, admitting that she was "not being able to sleep the night before she met her first client."

Elana Weintraub

Now, she said, "when I walk into a room, it's almost a natural thing. It really hit me that my degree was the right one to enter. I really enjoy talking to people and being able to relate to individuals."

While at Baycrest, Weintraub continued teaching at Holy Blossom, because she "really likes young people."

She also volunteered at the Beth Shalom Synagogue's Out of the Cold Program, which provides shelter, food and clothing to homeless people.

When asked how she does so many things with her time, she quickly says that she has "a hard time relaxing."

During her undergraduate days at U of T, she was very involved with the JSU, holding the position of social chair and social action chair.

She admits at times it was difficult to get students out to events, but that she's "grateful to have had the experience and to [have] met a lot of people."

With her council, she organized a luncheon to raise money for the fight against breast cancer and frequently prepared sandwiches for the homeless.

After completing her internship next May, Weintraub will finish her final term in New York next summer and then graduate.

While she admits that "she loves New York," she said Toronto is where her family and friends are and where she plans to live when she graduates.

When asked about her future, she blushed and quickly said, "It scares me to plan the rest of my life."

But Weintraub seems secure in what she does. To other young Jewish people, she said, "It's important to make a connection [to Judaism], [but] do what you're interested in. Don't do it just for your resumé. Hopefully you'll grow to love it."

CORRECTION

The article "Serious injury teaches student importance of CARD" (*CJN*, Aug. 8) contained an incorrect phone number. To contact CARD, please call 416-667-8600. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Victoria to get its first mikvah beside shul

By KITTY HOFFMAN
Special to The CJN

VICTORIA — It's taken almost 150 years, but this city's Jewish community will soon have a mikvah.

On July 22, a small group of delighted onlookers watched as concrete was poured, under strict rabbinical supervision, into what will become the first-ever ritual bath in British Columbia's capital.

The ceremony was part of the creation of the foundation and basement for a new facility being built beside Congregation Emanu-el's historic heritage-designated synagogue building. Long a dream of the congregation, this new social and education centre will cost more than $1 million and add classroom and social hall space for the growing shul.

With almost 250 member families, and almost 100 students in its Hebrew school, the congregation has been cramped in its one-room building, which has had to serve as a combined sanctuary, school and social hall. The new building will be built over the next few months and will provide some breathing space for its community's various activities.

Victoria's Jewish community was established during the gold rush of 1858, and the first Jewish organization in western Canada was its Benevolent Society, founded in 1859. The Jewish Cemetery, which is still used today, was consecrated in 1860, and the first meeting of a congregation took place in 1862.

Congregation Emanu-El is now the oldest synagogue in continuous use in Canada, and one of the oldest in North America. But despite these early provisions for burial, tzedakah and worship, no mikvah was ever built.

"It's remarkable to me that the community built a cemetery and a synagogue, and it's taken this long to build a mikvah," says Rabbi Harry Brechner, the congregation's current spiritual leader.

"One of the first needs of a community is a mikvah, and this will be the first mikvah on Vancouver Island."

Community established in 1858

The mikvah's design and the concrete-pouring ceremony were supervised by Rabbi Avraham Feigelstock of Vancouver.

Rabbi Brechner says that while he himself is a rabbinical "general practitioner," Rabbi Feigelstock is a specialist, and one of Canada's premier halachic experts, on mikvahs. "We wanted someone, hopefully local, that the whole community can feel has helped to build a halachic mikvah."

The mikvah has been a key component of Jewish life from earliest biblical times, and the remains of mikvah sites are found at most archaeological excavations of Jewish settlements.

From the beginning, the mikvah has been used for symbolic ritual purification, for the elevation of people and things to a higher spiritual level.

Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, one of the great modern commentators on mystical practices in Judaism, called his book on mikvahs *The Waters of Eden*, referring to the teaching that the so-called "living waters" of the mikvah (the "mayim chaim") connect back to the River of Life that flowed out of the Garden of Eden.

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, the priests would ritually purify themselves before performing rites and sacrifices. As well, both men and women would immerse themselves in the mikvah at various times, including for Shabbat and holidays, a practice still followed in many observant communities.

Since the destruction of the Temple, regular use of the mikvah has focused on the laws of *niddah*, part of the laws of taharat hamish-pachah, or family purity, and Rabbi Brechner emphasizes that "the holiness and power that mikvah adds to intimacy is very important."

He adds that "the understanding of mikvah now is very different. Women now are reclaiming mikvah as a way of creating holiness in time and space together."

The presence of a mikvah in Victoria, he says, will "create a space, an opening for our community. When we have our own space, there will be the possibility to create all kinds of new rituals for spiritual cleansing."

Rabbi Brechner predicts that the community "will see a real blossoming of women who want to be involved."

He notes that there is also interest among men and women to use the mikvah "as a way of transitioning, of readying" for new phases in life.

These occasions may include preparation for a holiday or a personal simchah; renewal after the death of a loved one or other kinds of loss; immersion before a life transition such as starting a new job or after recovery from an illness.

Victoria's mikvah has been designed as a meditative, contemplative space. In keeping with the general ethos of life on Vancouver Island, it will be as natural a kind of setting as possible, replicating as closely as possible the environment of a natural spring, with many plants.

Fund-raising is in the final stretch to meet the project's budget. For further information, call 250-382-0615.

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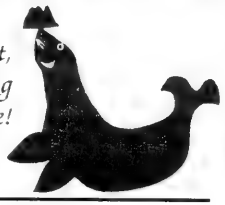
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Coast to Coast

Jewish firefighter becomes department's spokesperson

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Many people describe what they do on the job as putting out fires, but when Richard Liebmann says that is what he does, he means it literally.

Liebmann has been a firefighter since 1993, and today is the head of public affairs for the new Montreal fire department, known officially as the Service de sécurité incendie. That means he's the chief spokesperson.

He acknowledges that it is not a traditional career for a Jew, especially one who grew up in Côte St. Luc and attended Jewish day schools and graduating from Bialik.

But Liebmann, 37, wouldn't have it any other way. He says the satisfaction of knowing you are helping people during a crisis, and sometimes saving their lives, is "extraordinarily gratifying."

Liebmann acknowledges that the image of the firefighters as heroes has been enhanced since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"It is a matter of controlling risk to the extent you can," he says. "We have to assess the situation and stack the odds in our favour... But the bottom line is, we are the ones running in when everyone else is running out."

Sept. 11 has made governments realize that firefighters are "the first line of defence in a major incident, and the resources have to be there," he says.

Until Jan. 1, when the new City of Montreal was created, Liebmann served with the Côte St. Luc fire department, rising to the position of chief of emergency medical services (EMS), a rank just two rungs down from the top position of director.

Since the municipal merger, Liebmann has occupied the new position of chief of operations for the public affairs section. The new fire service combines the 22 departments that previously existed on the island.

> *'I realized the impact I could have on people's lives'*

Montreal, which has 65 stations (66 including the seasonal station at the La Ronde amusement park), has the sixth largest fire department in North America after New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto and Houston, he says.

Liebmann reports directly to fire director Alain Michaud, with whom he is working to create a more efficient way of communicating with the media and the public.

For the first time, reporters have a single, direct line for information, which Liebmann answers personally during business hours. In addition, one of 12 specially trained, bilingual district chiefs is available at all times to speak to reporters. (The requirement for these chiefs to be "reasonably bilingual" is new.)

Liebmann's own French is close to pure laine, picked up while working alongside mainly francophone firefighters.

Liebmann, who works out of headquarters on Park Avenue, is on the scene at any significant incident, which means he may be out twice a day. He is engaged in actual firefighting only when necessary, but he hopes to return to fires someday.

Coming to the rescue in emergencies has fascinated him since he was a teen. He took a CPR course when he was 15 and was inspired by his instructor, an ambulance medical technician. By 16, he was volunteering with Côte St. Luc's EMS, which supplemented what was provided by various private ambulance companies, back in the days before the city-wide ambulance service Urgences Santé.

Liebmann says he knew what he wanted to do with his life after he saved a life while working as a volunteer with an ambulance company. His ambulance was called to a home where a baby had stopped breathing. Liebmann happened to be the first through the door and immediately applied CPR to the infant.

Richard Liebmann

That intervention was critical in saving the baby.

"At the Montreal Children's Hospital, the father burst into tears when he thanked me," he says. "I realized the impact I could have on people's lives."

At 18, Liebmann went to study to be a paramedic at the Medical College of Ohio for a year. But paramedics, who are qualified to start IVs and perform other invasive procedures en route to hospital, were not and still are not recognized in Quebec and therefore cannot practise there.

Frustrated, Liebmann went to McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., where he obtained a B.Sc. in psychology and physiology instead.

Getting a degree fulfilled a vow he had made to his parents, who were very supportive of his career choice despite the Jewish community's "not holding public service in high esteem."

In Hamilton, he worked on a council that aimed to reduce road accidents, and in the summers for the Coast Guard at its inshore rescue stations.

Back in Montreal, he started a company that trained firefighters and others in rescue techniques. But he missed the hands-on action.

In 1993, he was hired by the Côte St. Luc fire department. Though he took a few courses in firefighting after he began working there, he says his first four years were on-the-job training.

His first fire while with Côte St. Luc was in a hair salon in the Cavendish Mall in the middle of the night that required breaking down the door and crawling on the floor under the smoke.

The only fire involving a Jewish institution was at the Castel Royal, a high-rise seniors' residence. Several floors had to be evacuated.

Liebmann does not recall many specific blazes, but says the more spectacular, multi-alarm fires were in older, often attached, buildings in Westmount and Outremont.

"Construction in Côte St. Luc is modern and sprinklers were mandatory, so there were few major fires," he says.

Though he was never seriously hurt, he once witnessed a colleague falling through a burning staircase, which shook him up.

The integration of EMS into the Côte St. Luc fire department a few years after he was hired was "a dream come true" for Liebmann, who had worked toward integration since he was 18.

As for the stories about firefighters being great cooks, that's an urban legend, says Liebmann. And there was no pole at the Côte St. Luc station – too many ankle injuries.

At home, Liebmann has two daughters, a six-year-old and a six-month-old. Of his older one, he says, "She has her own little firefighter's costume and is always asking if she can come to work with me. It's a great feeling when your child wants to be like you."

Coast to Coast

North American aliyah up in '02 despite conflict

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Given the number of suicide bombings in Israel since the start of the latest intifadah, few would likely guess that the number of olim from North America is actually up so far this year.

Yet it is, said Benzi Sella, who this month is leaving Montreal after a four-year term as aliyah shaliach (emissary) at the Canadian Zionist Federation's Israel Aliyah Centre.

From January through July, Canada sent 79 olim to Israel, three more than during the same period last year.

That number might seem negligible, but Sella thinks that given "the situation" in Israel, any increase at all is significant.

The U.S. numbers are even better, he said. Aliyah from there jumped 54 per cent over the same period, from 544 to 836.

The good news from North America came as Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics said last week that overall immigration fell by 27 per cent in the first six months of 2002 compared to the same period last year. About 15,000 immigrants arrived between January and June, compared to 20,500 last year.

Sella attributes the rise in Canada and the United States to the increase in the number of North American Zionist organizations that have put aliyah promotion at the top of their agendas.

These groups include Nefesh B'Nefesh (Jewish Souls United), which gives cash to North Americans who want to make aliyah, and Aloh Na'aleh, a group launched five months ago by Orthodox rabbis to encourage American Orthodox Jews to make aliyah.

Sella says these groups and others, are part of a remarkable phenomenon.

"People should remember that our aliyah office here is focused more on doing the actual work involved in preparing for aliyah. I work on the specific needs of individuals. These other groups promote the idea, the spirit of aliyah."

One of the best indicators of aliyah for the future, Sella said, is in the number of people who open files at the aliyah desk, regardless of their final decision.

Those numbers are also on the rise so far this year. Canada had one more inquiry during the first seven months of 2002 compared to the same period last year (73 versus 72), but the United States saw a 45 per cent increase – from 417 to 607. The overall increase for North American file openings was 39 per cent.

This summer has seen quite an increase in interest. There were 143 files opened in July alone, nearly double the 75 files opened in July 2001.

All in all, things are beginning to look up on the aliyah front, Sella said.

However, numbers continue to be down for the various trips and programs the aliyah office supports with groups like the Israel Experience Centre and Hillel.

In the case of Jewish high school trips, university study programs, Birthright Israel and other student summer programs, lower participation numbers and outright cancellations reflect the worries of parents who don't want to see their kids in harm's way, Sella said.

Yet, he said, there hasn't been a parallel drop in Europe, where Birthright Israel numbers have been on the rise.

"It's completely different there," Sella said. "I think young Jews in countries like France and Argentina get more support from their parents and from their communities than they do here."

That being said, Sella said there has been some renewed interest in Israel Aliyah Centre-related trips to Israel since the launch earlier this year of If Not Now – When, the Jewish Agency's volunteer-recruitment campaign.

It promotes involvement with groups such as Sar-el (with the Israel Defence Forces), Magen David Adom, kibbutzim, community service and the civil guards.

The aliyah office also continues to promote a range of short-term travel/study and programs for prospective olim.

Sella said he felt fulfilled by his four years in Montreal, which have given him great affection for a devoted Jewish community.

His son Matan, now 3½, was also born here. "The first Canadian in the family," Sella joked.

When he returns home with his wife, Grace, a teacher, and his eldest son Yossi, 4½, Sella will continue to work for the Jewish Agency.

Sella's successor, Anat Uzan, was due to arrive in Montreal this month.

It's a very good community to come to, Sella said.

"I saw how the people here react in a crisis," he said. "The people here have a strong, strong feeling for Israel. They are highly-motivated and active."

With files from JTA.

Peace Now asks Graham to press for Middle East conference

Continued from page 3

"We're pleased he's not only listening to established voices in the community – Canada-Israel-Committee, Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith – but appreciates the community's diversity."

Graham was accompanied by an assistant and a member of Foreign Affairs Canada.

The other members of the Peace Now delegation were Beverley Stern, a senior member of the advisory board; Fred Zemans, a Toronto law professor; and David Brooks, vice-chair of the Ottawa chapter.

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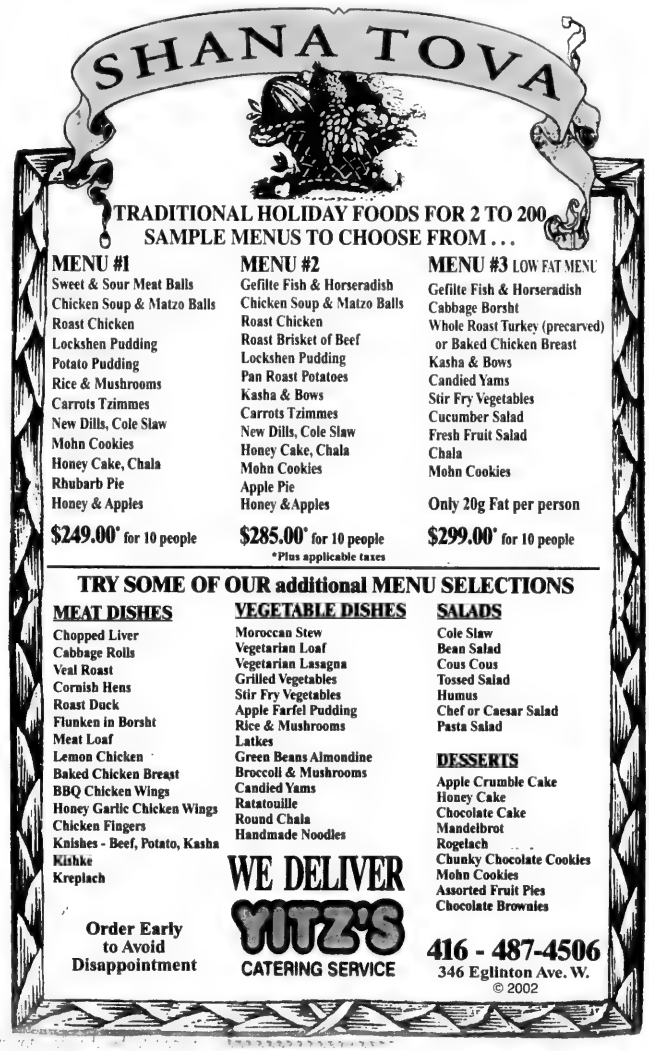

A *mea culpa* that wasn't

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Following the release of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's report exonerating Israel of the charges of a "massacre" in a Jenin refugee camp in April, the *Toronto Star*'s Rosie DiManno examined how a number of journalists – especially European writers – got it wrong.

These journalists uncritically believed the Palestinian claim of a massacre of hundreds of civilians and allegations of an assortment of war crimes. As we later learned in Annan's report, 52 Palestinians – the overwhelming majority combatants – died during days of intense fighting, along with 23 Israeli soldiers who fought door-to-door in order to avoid civilian casualties.

"But the reportage was severely flawed, probably because many reporters were (subconsciously or deliberately) prepared to accept the worst of Israel's military," writes DiManno ("Rush to Jenin judgment backfires," Aug. 9).

One the most flagrant illustrations was written by Phil Reeves of Britain's *Independent* newspaper. He compared Israel's operation in Jenin with Pol Pot's "killing fields" slaughter of one to three million Cambodians in the mid-1970s. The BBC and the *Guardian* weren't far behind in anti-Israel hysteria.

On Aug. 3, the day of Annan's report, Reeves filed what appeared to be a *mea culpa*, titled "Even journalists have to admit they're wrong sometimes." However, it soon became evident that Reeves was anything but chastened. He admitted to getting some facts wrong: "Contrary to popular belief, most journalists dislike getting it wrong and prefer to set the record straight."

But for the remainder of his piece, he basically blamed Israel for making him so "appalled and furious" that he bought into the massacre myth. He then goes on to fault the "pro-Israel lobby" for condemning journalists for an anti-Israel bias!

DiManno refers only obliquely to Reeves (politely refraining from naming him) and exposes his "non-apology 'apology'" for the sophistry that it is.

The Jenin massacre myth leads DiManno to an important question: "The media tends to sympathize with the victims, and in the Mideast conflict, circa 2002, the Palestinians are the victims-du-jour, no matter how many innocent Israelis are blown up. Why this is so, even as Hamas and other brutal organizations continue to send out suicide bombers to murder university students and children on public buses, I cannot explain."

But DiManno does try to explain this double standard and the general anti-Israel atmosphere that pervades some media circles. Pointing to anti-Semitic motivation, DiManno notes that "there is a deplorable anti-Semitic subtext in much of what is being written right now about Israel and the Palestinians." Charles Krauthammer pointed this out more than a decade ago in his now-classic piece, "Judging Israel" (*Time*, Feb. 26, 1990).

Phil Reeves and others in the British media and intellectual elite who have made their careers obsessing about alleged Israeli wrongdoing leave scant room for any other conclusion.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Israel, PA hammer out 'Gaza First' pullback plan

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The "Gaza First" security plan, based on the principle of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem in exchange for a Palestinian crackdown on militants, was set to begin with an army pullout from Bethlehem possibly as early as Monday evening, if the Palestinian Authority (PA) took measures to maintain quiet in the area.

As PA officials prepared to meet with heads of other Palestinian organizations in Bethlehem Monday, a 13-year-old Palestinian youth was killed by Israeli army tank fire in the village of Burkin near the West Bank city of Jenin. Also Monday, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) troops and Palestinians exchanged gunfire in Nablus.

The Palestinian officials meeting in Bethlehem were expected to try to find a way to reduce violence and prevent terror.

But Palestinian militant groups including Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said they rejected even a limited cessation of their 22-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation and would continue to mount attacks.

"The resistance will find ways to pursue the fight without clashing with the Palestinian Authority," senior Hamas official Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi told Reuters. "Our rifles will remain directed against the Zionist enemy and only against the Zionist enemy."

Islamic Jihad leader Abdallah al-Shami called the move a "political gamble". Both groups have led a campaign of suicide bombings which have killed scores of Israelis in the uprising.

The Gaza First agreement, reached at a Sunday night meeting between Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and PA Interior Minister Abdel Razeq Yihiye in Tel Aviv, determines that in the first stage of the plan the Palestinians will begin assuming security responsibility and Israel will ease restrictions on the Palestinian civilian population.

Quoting an unnamed PA security official, the radio said the IDF would pull out of central Bethlehem late Monday, and would take down a number of roadblocks in Gaza, easing travel between various areas of the strip.

"This is the last opportunity granted people who presume to lead the Palestinian people, whether it be Interior Minister Yihiye or Dahlan," Deputy Defence Weizman Shiri said Monday.

According to a Defence Ministry statement, the troops will gradually pull back from parts of the territories under Palestinian control (Area A), beginning with the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem in the West Bank.

"Both sides agree to start implementing the initiative [Monday] in Gaza and Bethlehem," the statement said, but it added that the withdrawal is contingent on the Palestinians taking "responsibility to calm the security situation and reduce violence."

"The defence minister agreed that Israel for its part would do everything in order to ease conditions on the Palestinian population especially for civilians and in the humanitarian area at this time," the statement read.

The Palestinians were demanding that Israel withdraw troops to positions held in September 2000, at the outbreak of the latest violence. They also demanded the plan be implemented simultaneously in Gaza and the West Bank.

The talks, which were originally held on ministerial and operative levels, broke down two weeks ago after the Palestinians accused Israel of reneging on proposals put forward by Ben-Eliezer.

Army Radio quoted Hamas as calling the plan "an attempt to silence the Palestinian street in advance of an American operation in Iraq."

Muslims draft 'hit list' of 15 Danish Jews, paper says

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

COPENHAGEN — Muslim extremists in Denmark have prepared a "hit list" of 15 prominent Jewish leaders in that country, the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* reported last week.

The names of the targeted Jews were not published, due to pressure from the Danish police. However, *Ha'aretz* has learned the list includes a former chief rabbi of Denmark, Binyamin Melchior, father of Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior.

The Danish paper reported that the "hit list" specifies cash prizes for anyone who kills someone on the list.

The paper based its report on sources in Denmark's Muslim community. It said it did not know who was responsible for drafting the list, but suspicion centres on Hizb ut Tahrir (Liberation Party), an extremist organization that has expressed support in the past for killing Jews. Due to these statements, the Danish Justice Ministry is currently considering outlawing the organization.

The head of the Danish Jewish community, Prof. Jacques Blum, told the paper that the hit list shows that "the intifadah has reached Denmark. I view it as very grave that Jews cannot walk about freely on the streets of Denmark."

Binyamin Melchior, who was chief rabbi of Denmark from 1969-96, told *Ha'aretz* that he does not know whether his name appears on the list.

He said that police representatives "spoke with various people in the community, I among them. They didn't tell me I had been personally threatened. They only told me not to be afraid, they are taking care of the situation... They said they are keeping watch over places where they fear something might happen, but I don't know whether they are watching my house."

"There is no need for any Israeli pressure on the matter, since the Danish authorities are taking the necessary steps themselves," he added.

The elder Rabbi Melchior, who recently started an association for interfaith dialogue in Denmark, said the reported hit list is no indication of the general state of Jewish-Muslim relations in Denmark.

He was to meet Monday with the heads of the interfaith association to discuss the report.

Dept. of Jewish Studies
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2H4

Birthright trips offer Israelis hope: Melchior

Continued from page 1

By focusing on our youth, the terrorists have tried to take away our future, as well as create a wedge between Israel and the Jewish people, Rabbi Melchior said.

But this is a time when it is especially important for young people to connect to their heritage because issues about Israel and the Jewish people have become complex and many students are feeling embarrassed about their Jewishness, Rabbi Melchior added.

Now in its third year, Birthright Israel was originally launched as a three-way partnership between the State of Israel, philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, and Diaspora community organizations. The program offers a free trip to Israel for young adults age 18 to 26, in order to strengthen ties between Jews around the world. Since its creation, 30,000 participants have been to Israel from 25 different countries, and $50 million (US) has been directed into the Israeli economy.

This year has seen an increase in numbers over last year, Rabbi Melchior said. However, the increase has come from countries outside of North America – such as Morocco, Bulgaria, Hungary and Greece.

"Security concerns seems to have had a bigger effect on North American parents," Rabbi Melchior noted, "which may be due to the emotional impact of Sept. 11."

Whatever the causes, he hopes registration from the United States and Canada will recover this year.

Birthright "has become a flagship of the connection between the Jewish people around the world and Israel," with benefits flowing in both directions, he said.

Israelis have a great deal to learn from the Diaspora about pluralism and the acceptance of many different identities. The program often offers Israelis their first opportunity to meet Jewish kids from the Diaspora and encounter liberal Judaism.

In addition, the *mifgashim* (gatherings) at the end of each trip allow for important relationships to develop, Rabbi Melchior said, noting that Canadians have become known for their significant positive contribution the event – they are often the loudest group there.

For further information and applications, go to www.birthrightisrael.com or call Canada Israel Experience 416-635-2883.

Canada urged to align Iraqi policy with that of U.S.

Continued from page 1

The Jewish leaders applauded a recent shift in Canada's voting posture at the United Nations, in which the Canadian delegation abstained on resolutions that attacked Israel in strong language. That marks an improvement over the situation two years ago, when Canada supported resolutions that singled out Israel for blame in the Palestinian intifadah. However, abstentions "are not good enough for us," and the minister was urged to oppose resolutions that blame Israel or advocate a "moral equivalency" between acts of terror and Israeli steps to combat it, Wilder said.

"Words count... and Canada has to be more sensitive to their impact on international debate – including the licence they give to those hostile to Israel and the Jewish people to delegitimize and demonize Jews with the 'imprimatur' of the United Nations," said meeting participant Shoel Silver, president-elect of the United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada (UIAFC).

The delegation also complained about Canadian officials working for UNRWA, the UN agency operating in Palestinian refugee camps. Instead of being neutral in the conflict, they are coming down squarely in support of the Palestinian position, "which is utterly preposterous," Wilder said.

The situation in Iraq was also discussed, and the minster was urged to align Canadian policy more closely to that of the United States. "It's preposterous to give [Saddam Hussein] another chance. The game is over as far as we're concerned. That man has to be dealt with," Wilder said.

Canadian Jewish Congress President Keith Landy, who also attended the meeting, said the minister "is of the view that [Iraq] is a tinderbox, and he does not feel Canada should throw a match into it.

"We certainly wanted Canada to recognize the danger that the regime in Iraq presented," he said.

Landy said Jewish community organizations are closer in their views "than I've seen in a long time. I think it's a general view that the community is feeling itself under pressure in the last while."

In addition to the CIC, Congress and UIAFC, B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Zionist Federation were also represented at the meeting.

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Report: Abu Nidal found dead in apparent suicide

By YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The body of Palestinian militant commander Abu Nidal was found in a Baghdad apartment, Israel Radio quoted the Palestinian daily *Al Ayyam* as reporting Monday.

According to the paper, Abu Nidal suffered from a serious disease, and gunshot wounds indicated that he had committed suicide while alone in the apartment three days earlier.

There had been reports of Abu Nidal's deteriorating health in the Arab and international media four years ago, which claimed that he had been hospitalized in Cairo under prison conditions. A decade earlier, reports were published and confirmed by intelligence agencies that he underwent treatment in an East German Hospital after being diagnosed with leukemia.

Abu Nidal, 65, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, broke off from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974, claiming that the PLO was too moderate. He is said to have been responsible for 90 terrorist attacks and the deaths of hundreds of people, including senior PLO officials.

Abu Nidal

The Abu Nidal organization is suspected of having carried out terrorist attacks in 20 countries. Targets included the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Israel, moderate Palestinians, the PLO, and various Arab countries.

His organization attempted to assassinate Israel's ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, in June 1982. The attack on Argov, which left him seriously injured, triggered then-defence minister Ariel Sharon's invasion of Lebanon, which aimed to repel Palestinian forces controlled by Yasser Arafat.

Abu Nidal's group had broken from Arafat's Fatah organization years before and had even plotted attempts on Arafat's life.

Abu Nidal is said to have lived at various times in Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya and Sudan.

Abu Nidal was tried in absentia by a Fatah military court and condemned to death. Beside terrorist operations against Jewish targets in various countries, the bulk of Abu Nidal's actions have been against the mainstream Fatah group. He is responsible for killing 16 of Arafat's men.

The Week in Israel

August 12

• Members of leading Palestinian groups meeting in Gaza City rejected the idea of ending attacks on civilians inside Israel and instead backed a continuation of their uprising. *(Tuesday, the Fatah movement of the PLO said it would "focus its struggle in the West Bank and Gaza.")*

• The death toll in the Hebrew University terrorist bombing rose to nine. Revital Barashi, 30, died of head wounds sustained in the attack.

August 13

• Iraq is the greatest threat facing Israel, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee. *(Later in the week it was reported that Sharon had sent messages to the U.S. administration saying that postponing the Iraq operation "will not create a more convenient environment for action in the future.")*

August 14

• Israel has decided to provide its citizens with an antidote against radiation from nuclear fallout. Defence officials decided to include iodine capsules in gas mask kits distributed to the public.

August 15

• Sharon announced he will attend a Los Angeles vigil on the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Sharon's plans do not include a visit to Washington.

• Haim Tzadok, one of the founders of Israel's legal system and of the Labor party, died at the age of 89.

August 16

• In an operation in the Hebron area, the IDF arrested Sudki Zaro, the Palestinian sniper who is believed to behind the killing 18 months ago of a 10-month-old baby, Shalhevet Pass.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Prague's Jews ask for help after floods

By MAGNUS BENNETT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PRAGUE — Jewish leaders in Prague have launched an international appeal for aid after floods caused an estimated $4 million in damage to Jewish holy sites.

On Sunday, President Vaclav Havel visited several historical Jewish sites that were damaged last week during the Czech Republic's worst floods in more than a century. Havel expressed sympathy for the Jewish community while touring the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue and the Pinkas Synagogue.

Both sites took in several feet of water, and experts are still examining the extent of the damage.

A spokesperson said Havel has informed Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Czech-born, former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright about the damage and hopes they will be able to help.

Volunteers worked around the clock last week sandbagging synagogues and other Jewish sites in a desperate attempt to keep the waters away.

While giant steel barriers on the banks of the Vltava River prevented flooding over land, water seeped through underground channels into the city's historic Jewish Quarter.

Jewish officials discovered Aug. 14 that the Old-New Synagogue had taken in four feet of water, covering pews and damaging the building.

The Pinkas Synagogue was also hit, with water levels inside the building reaching nearly seven feet and damaging some of the 80,000 handwritten inscriptions of the names of Czech Holocaust victims.

Jewish officials, who had moved all Jewish artifacts including Torah scrolls from the sites before the flood waters hit, were shocked by the damage.

"There has been serious damage to some of Prague's Jewish treasures," said Tomas Jelinek, the chair of the city's Jewish community. But "in a sense, we are grateful because the damage could have been much worse if the river Vltava's banks had burst."

The Jewish Museum also was badly hit by underground flooding from the city's sewers.

Officials succeeded in moving precious Jewish artifacts, including Torah shields, pointers, manuscripts and rare books to higher levels before the floods, but the building is likely to be without electricity for up to four weeks after the generator was submerged in water. The museum's air-conditioning system also has been knocked out, threatening damage to rare manuscripts and books.

"This is a very serious blow," said Leo Pavlat, the museum director. "It is hard to see seven years of work in building up the museum be affected so quickly."

The disaster could not have come at a worse time for museum officials, who have had to cancel several exhibitions across the Jewish Quarter at the peak of the tourist season. It faces losses amounting to thousands of dollars in ticket sales.

"We are suffering huge losses because August is the best month of the year for us," Pavlat said. "We are not subsidized by the state and rely on entry fees to fund our activities."

Pavlat warned that a plan to reconstruct the former Smichov Synagogue in Prague, to house archives and precious objects, now was threatened.

Czech soldiers and volunteers try to stop the mounting water of the Vltava River in Prague.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

"We are going to have to look at our budget," he said. "We had wanted to start on the Smichov project at the beginning of the new year, but I'm afraid that may not now be possible."

In Germany, the flooding that left much of Dresden under water also damaged the cellar of the city's new synagogue, according to a spokesperson for the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

However, the sanctuary remained dry and Torah scrolls had been secured.

Roman Koenig, president of the Dresden Jewish community, reported via the Berlin-based Central Council on Aug. 16 that representatives were checking daily on all elderly and disabled members of the community. However, lack of telephone and e-mail contact made it difficult to determine their status.

The Jewish community in Dresden has slightly more than 1,000 members.

Venues normally protected by alarm systems were under increased police guard, the council spokesperson said.

Jewish community officials in Prague have set up a bank account for donations in U.S. dollars. The use of funds will be publicly reported and audited, they said.

The account, number 179139212/0300 in the name of the Prague Jewish Community, known in Czech as Zidovska obec v Praze, is at the CSOB Bank in Prague 7. The SWIFT number for transfers is CEKOCZPP.

With files from JTA correspondent Toby Axelrod in Berlin.

Rosh Hashanah Food will continue in next week's issue of *The CJN*

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NYGH hires emergency room geriatric case manager

Hospital's catchment area has highest percentage of seniors in Toronto

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Nurse Fran Wolfe has been hired by North York General Hospital as its emergency room geriatric case manager in response to the increased number of seniors in its emergency department since the closing of Branson Hospital.

The catchment area of North York General Hospital has the highest percentage of seniors in Toronto, a number which is increasing, said Tim Rutledge, emergency services medical program director.

As well, hospital statistics show that since Branson Hospital switched from a regular hospital to a community care centre, the percentage of seniors at the Leslie site emergency department has gone from 21 per cent of emergency room patients in the summer of 2000 to 25 per cent this past May.

Wolfe trained as a general nurse at North York General, specialized in geriatrics and is currently completing a course to become a nurse practitioner. She assumed her position in September 2001; she now sees an average of 100 patients a month.

Wolfe said her clientele are people over 70, particularly those who have had a fall; those with declining cognition, recognized either because of a poor memory or by the triage nurse upon admission; or those living alone, with few or no community supports.

The effects of illnesses in the aged can escalate quickly, she said. For instance, a urinary tract infection can lead to a person "feeling funny," then acting strangely, developing poor short-term memory, and possibly taking the wrong medication.

Fran Wolfe

Similarly, a fall, which in a younger person may be relatively innocuous, can cause a rapid decline in the well-being of an elderly person.

Prescription medications, even when taken properly, can be a source of difficulty as well, Wolfe said. The elderly may be on many different medications whose interaction may lead to poor memory, disorientation, restlessness or delirium. Some medications cause constipation.

Wolfe said she sometimes goes to patients' homes to find containers of medication or over-the-counter or alternative drugs that may be interfering with what the doctor has prescribed. She may recommend the pharmacist send in only one week's supply at a time.

These visits may also highlight other safety needs, such as shower bars, stabalized rugs or emergency call buttons.

Clients are referred to Wolfe by hospital staff and physicians or they hear about her through word-of-mouth, she said.

When Wolfe is called to see a patient, she notes what nursing, x-rays and tests have been done, how alert he or she is, his or her appearance and what changes the patient or caregiver reports has taken place recently. She checks for depression, memory loss and substance abuse.

"It's like putting together the pieces of a puzzle," she said.

Wolfe considers her position as being an advocate for the elderly. Many don't know how to access the services they need and are frightened and overwhelmed at the prospect of losing their independence, or at having to move into an institution. Wolfe not only helps them to navigate the health care system, but provides them with emotional and psychological support.

The hospital's seniors health centre operates clinics as part of the Ministry of Health's Regional Geriatric Program, which offers such services as a day hospital and foot care, and will send consultants to a patient's home to check on concerns voiced at the hospital or by Wolfe.

Wolfe said she follows patients through their emergency room stay, makes sure they are either settled in a hospital room or helped to get home safely, and that all necessary paperwork is done and necessary precautions are in place. She provides whatever services are necessary, from meals on wheels and shopping to home care and house cleaning.

While the work is challenging, Wolfe enjoys it.

"Seniors are valuable people," she said. "It's a misnomer to call them 'elderly,' implying that they have lost their worth."

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Feature

Israeli artists invigorate Frame of Mind Gallery

By MIRIAM CHINSKY

TORONTO — Calman Shemi's paintings at Frame of Mind Gallery on the west side of Avenue Road south of Wilson sing with colour.

David Schluss, also at Frame of Mind, has created a distinctive personal style. Ignoring brush and spatula, he paints entirely with his hands.

"Using the palm of my hand I can get a play of light that I could never achieve with a brush," he says. "I start with the abstract and figures emerge."

A sculptor as well, he currently fashions bronze figures, whirling, dancing, embracing – virtually pulsing with life – which evolve from his extraordinary painting technique.

Gallery owner Ezra Ballas, originally from Ramat Gan, Israel, notes proudly that artists with strong ties to Israel comprise some 30 per cent of his comprehensive inventory. Shemi and Schluss attract an enthusiastic following.

David's Harp, bronze sculpture "pulsating with life."

Shemi, born in 1939 in Argentina, immigrated to Israel in 1961 and was a member of Kibbutz Carmia for 20 years, working in agriculture and sculpting in wood and clay. Over time he explored soft painting, developed serigraphs and created with acrylics. A recent departure sees him "reinventing" a lacquer technique reminiscent of ancient China and Japan. He paints on a wood or lacquer panel that has been covered in layers of gold and/or silver leaf. Between each layer, the surface is hand-polished to a fine finish revealing a remarkable lustre. The artist enhances each work by building a shadow box for depth – his Wood and Windows approach. Just this year, he has added new beauty by hand-carving and lacquering frames attuned to each painting.

Shemi's solo exhibitions have appeared in several countries, including Israel, France, Australia, Canada, the United States, Spain and Nigeria. He also shows at the Spertus Museum of Judaica, the Fashion Institute in Chicago and Citibank New York.

David Schluss, born 1945 in Israel, attended school in Jaffa and was deeply affected by its mystic walls and its historic places of worship. Lacking funds for adequate painting materials, he sketched in charcoal and cheap pencil, giving these studies to anyone who cared.

In his early 20s, Schluss migrated with his family to Montreal and in 1969, enrolled in the prestigious École des Beaux Arts, began teaching privately and went on to complete a fine arts degree at Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University).

Embrace. "Starting with the abstract."

Experimenting through the years, he arrived at his hands-on whimsy and joy method.

In 1983, Schluss opened a studio in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., but he travels frequently to Tel Aviv. His paintings are on view at Israel's Teffen Museum, at Fort Lauderdale's Museum of Modern Art and in private and public collections throughout the world.

At his Frame of Mind Gallery, Ezra Ballas knows what paintings, prints and sculptures appeal, selecting quality works and offering a bright oasis in the neighbourhood location, 2074½ Avenue Rd. where he has been situated for 22 years.

For information about the gallery, phone 416-485-5731.

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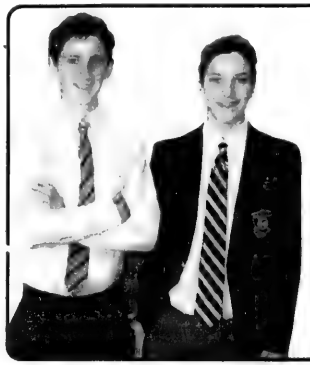

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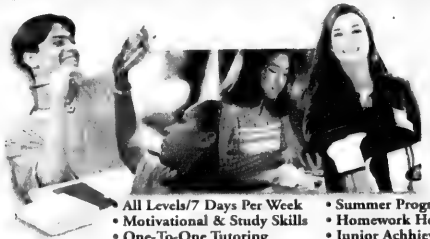

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Outreach at York

The York School has a strong history of OUTREACH, both in the local community and beyond. For the past three years, York has participated in Ooch-a-Thon, a fund raising effort which supports Camp Oochigeas, a summer programme on Lake Rosseau for children undergoing active treatment for cancer as well as those in remission. This year, The York School donated $36,000 to the camp and this amount represents the largest single donation from a school in the history of the camp, exceeding last year's total by $10,000 and providing a two-week camping experience for 24 youngsters. Over the past three years, York has raised over $75,000 for the camp and has sent more than 50 young cancer patients away for an incredible outdoor experience.

For many years, York has been active with a Montreal-based agency called "Friends for Families" which operates orphanages in Bangladesh and in India.

This past March Break, seven students from York participated in a new venture called "Jamaican Self-Help" and spent two weeks, with one of their teachers, in a variety of settings in Kingston. York students were placed at a children's home, an elementary school, and a health clinic in one of Kingston's shantytowns.

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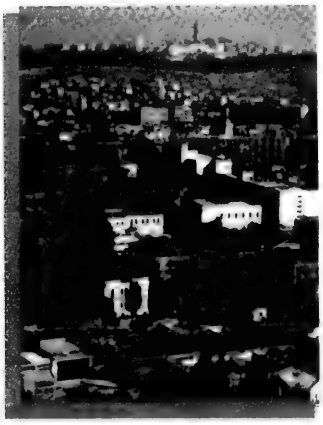

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Holiday Food Ideas

Look forward to the future

Rosh Hashanah is a joyous time when we gather our family and friends around the dinner table and revel in being together.

It is also a bittersweet time in which we remember those who are no longer with us, but whose customs and traditions often grace our holiday table.

Although customs differ slightly around the world, the holiday season is, for all of us, a time of introspection – to take stock of how we have lived our lives over the past year and to look forward to the future.

No matter where we are from, however, and no matter whose customs we follow, the holiday meal plays a central role in our celebrations.

For some, there are traditional Rosh Hashanah dishes that are reserved for that holiday. They are always prepared lovingly only once a year, and are anticipated with eagerness.

Some of these dishes are labour intensive and difficult to prepare without an actual demonstration. We have tried to give you a "taste" of a few of them.

For others, Rosh Hashanah is a time to experiment – to try new recipes or to put a new twist on a traditional meal.

In the upcoming weeks, we will attempt to give you both a flavour of the past and some ideas for your holiday meals.

Whether you are preparing to cook your first Rosh Hashanah meal or you are considering handing over the tradition to your children or grandchildren, we wish you a lot of good cooking and a lot of happy eating.

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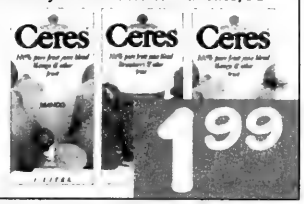

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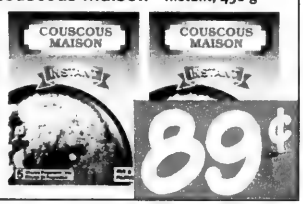

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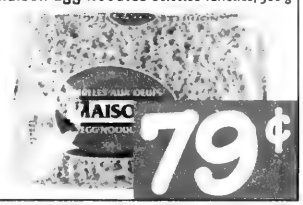

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Rosh Hashanah evokes savoury memories

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Four women reminisce about their families' High Holy Day traditions.

Sarah Taieb-Carlen, author and sociology lecturer at York University, says that 22 years after leaving her native Tunisia, she can still smell her mother and grandmother's *pkalla,* a traditional Tunisian Rosh Hashanah dish.

"They combined an enormous bunch of spinach with slivers of garlic and onion and cooked it in olive oil," she says.

"They would then add cilantro or coriander, dill, mint, parsley and finely cut celery. When that mixture was cooked, they would add beef or chicken, and then cooked beans."

She says the recipe is extremely difficult to prepare, but adds that "the dish was so fragrant, we could smell it to Haifa."

On erev Rosh Hashanah, she says, the family would dress in new clothes, and make Kiddush with *boukha*, "a delicious fig alcohol that I have yet to find here. For *Hamotzi*, we had homemade challah with sugar and honey."

In Tunisia – and in most Sephardi countries – the Rosh Hashanah meal began with a mini-seder, says Taieb-Carlen. (See related story by Rivka Tal on page 43.)

"We would pass offerings such as a sesame mix, leek and swiss chard from person to person, and on the second night, we added a fruit that we hadn't yet eaten on the holiday, such as pomegranate or fresh fig."

Spicy food was avoided throughout the holiday, she says, and sweet foods such as marzipan cigars, fried and dipped in honey, were reserved for dessert. "I still crave the manicotti – thin strips of dough shaped into a rose, deep fried and then dipped in honey.

"I can remember my mother and grandmother cooking for days before the holiday. They lived to cook, and they loved preparing long, complicated recipes."

***

When Renee Barda, an opera singer, first ate a Rosh Hashanah meal at the home of her Italian in-laws with her late husband Dino, she felt as if she was living an opera.

"The table was set elegantly, the food was presented magnificently, and everyone was happy and laughing," says Barda, an Ashkenazi Jew from Toronto.

In Italy, she says, food is the language of love. "Everything is bought fresh, and it is cooked that day. They take pride in their cooking. When food is brought to the table, the women are excited if the men take particular notice of it."

The mini-seder is a formal ritual, says Barda.

"The head of the table dishes out the food into elegant porcelain bowls kept specifically for Rosh Hashanah, and passes a bowl and a special little fork to each person."

Guests are then given a piece from each of three frittatas – one made with calves' brains, one made with spinach and one made with leeks – prepared only at Rosh Hashanah.

The frittatas, prepared fresh for each night of Rosh Hashanah, are made with four well-beaten eggs, and cooked in small, round saucepans. "They puff up, and the top, sides and bottom form into a golden brown crustiness."

The main course, which contains no heavily spiced or sweet foods, is a "laborious stew that is served over light, fluffy and airy couscous.

"The women begin preparing the stew by stuffing vegetables such as onions, eggplant and tomatoes with a meat mixture. These pieces are then coated with an egg and flour mixture, then browned and stewed in a small amount of liquid. It is a unique Sephardi dish that I have never seen in a cookbook and is too difficult to write out," she says.

There is no such thing as serving leftovers during the holiday, says Barda. For lunch, they might prepare a pasta dish with small meatballs, a penne in tomato sauce, or a cabbage roll made with garlic, cinnamon and ground veal.

"The women have a tremendous desire to please through food," she says.

***

As a child growing up in Calcutta, India, Ruby Ezekiel looked forward to the High Holy Days because she always got a new outfit and shoes.

"The holidays were a big event for all the children; we were indulged by our parents and grandparents."

"We got dressed up and our dinner table was set with my grandmother's crystal dishes. The mini-seder made the meal a truly festive event," she says.

Before Rosh Hashanah, Ezekiel would accompany her father to the market to buy a chicken. "We would take it to the schochet and then my grandmother would kasher it.

"She would always give the kids jobs such as picking the rice, which was one of our staples. It was a very hot country, so termites and ants ran rampant."

Potatoes were a delicacy, she says. "I still remember when they appeared on our Rosh Hashanah or Shabbat table. They were perfectly cooked; I still have the taste in my mouth."

The following potato recipe from *The Varied Kitchens of India* by Copeland Marks, she says, "is reminiscent of my childhood."

ALOO-M-KALLA
Golden Deep-Fried Potatoes

The proper preparation of these famous potatoes is the yardstick by which Calcutta cooks are judged. Although much of the time the potatoes are prepared by household servants, who also are careful of their reputation, the menus are planned and presented by the woman of the house. She is chief of the household and, as such, responsible for the standards kept in it.

4 lbs. firm potatoes, about 24 small
2 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. ground turmeric
about 4 cups corn or peanut oil

Peel the whole potatoes evenly. Pour enough water to cover potatoes into a large saucepan. Bring the water to a boil with the salt and turmeric. Add the potatoes. Bring the water again to a boil over high heat for 1 minute. Drain and cool the potatoes. Make certain they are dry.

Arrange the potatoes in a low, flat 12-inch pot or wok. Cover them completely with oil. Bring this to a boil over medium to high heat, then lower heat immediately to a low simmer. Continue to simmer/fry for 1 hour, until the potatoes have formed a golden crust. Do not stir. Shake the pan once or twice during this process.

At this point, turn up the heat and cook them for 5 minutes longer, until they are brown. Remove the potatoes with a slotted spoon and drain them in a metal sieve or basket.

Serve immediately. The potatoes should have a crispy, firm exterior and a soft, melting interior. Serves 6 to 8.

Continued on page 44

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Savoury memories

Continued from page 40

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One of Eliane Tobin's fondest food memories growing up in Zaire were her mother's Rosh Hashanah pastries.

"My mother came from Rhodes and my father came from Kos, which are both part of the Greek Islands. Their custom was to serve yeast pastries during Rosh Hashanah, to represent both growth and the hope for a sweet year ahead."

She offers the following recipes:

SAVOURY PHYLLO PASTRIES (Ozaldres)

Filling:
3 tbsp. oil
1 lb. minced meat
1 cup water
2 tbsp. chopped parsley
2 hard-boiled eggs
salt, freshly ground pepper to taste

Pastry:
1 lb. phyllo pastry, refrigerated (from a deli)
oil
sesame seeds

Heat oil in saucepan and brown meat. Season and add water gradually. Cook until water evaporates and meat is tender. Cool. Add parsley and chopped hard-boiled eggs. Place two sheets of phyllo on each other and cut into 2-in. strips.

Dot each double strip lightly with oil. Place 1 dessert spoon of filling at lower end of strip and fold into triangular shape; keep folding all the way to the end of the strip. Place on lightly oiled baking tray. Brush with oil and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Bake at 350 for 20 min. or until golden.

DATE SHORTBREAD (Minenas)

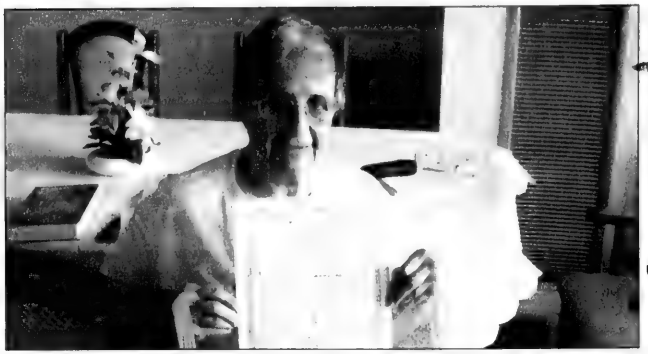
Pastry:
¼ lb. margarine
2½ tbsps. icing sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla essence
2 cups flour (approximately)
icing sugar

Filling:
½ lb. dates, chopped
¼ cup walnuts, chopped
rind of 1 lemon or orange
1½ tbsp. water
1 tsp. ground cloves and cinnamon
1 tbsp. butter

Cream margarine and sugar, add egg, vanilla essence and flour. Blend to a soft dough. Keep aside.

Mix filling ingredients together. Divide pastry into walnut-sized balls. Roll out each into a 2½-in. circle. Place a teaspoon of filling in centre of pastry circle. Lift edges of pastry on both sides. Bring together, closing the pastry over filling. Press fork lines diagonally across pastries to decorate. Line baking sheet with wax paper. Arrange pastry rolls ¾ in. apart. Bake at 350 until golden – about 20 min. Cool. Sprinkle with icing sugar.

Ruby Ezekiel holds a copy of the prayers used by her family before the Rosh Hashanah meal when she was growing up in Calcutta.



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Light ways to break the fast

By SARAH WAXMAN
Special to The CJN

Breaking the fast in most families brings everyone closer together. After a day of reflection, atonement and forgiveness, each household seems to have its own food style. For some it's herring and honey cake, for others, coffee or tea and sweet yeast buns or bagels with cream cheese and lox.

But in my family we like to sit down at the dining table and eat a light meal, which must satisfy everyone including the vegans. Here are some of our family favourites.

SEA BASS WITH SWEET PEPPERS

1½ tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium red bell pepper, cored, seeded and diced
1 medium yellow bell pepper, cored, seeded and diced
1 large garlic clove, chopped
1 green onion, chopped
4 sea bass steaks or fillets, about 1 inch thick (half pound each)
1 tsp. dried Italian herbs
2 tbsp. fresh chopped parsley
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 400. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet. Add the red and yellow peppers and sauté over medium-low heat 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the garlic and green onion.

Lightly oil a baking dish large enough to hold the fish in a single layer. Pour pepper mixture evenly over fish. Sprinkle evenly with dried herbs, salt and pepper to taste. Cover and bake 15 minutes or until fish is cooked through (do not overcook). Taste sauce and adjust seasoning.

Place fish on serving platter. With slotted spoon, arrange peppers over each piece. Spoon some of the cooking juices over fish. Sprinkle with fresh parsley. Serve fish hot or warm. Makes 4 servings.

COUSCOUS

2 lb couscous (semolina)
1 cup water
1 can chick peas, rinsed and drained
6 carrots, sliced
1 onion, chopped
1 acorn squash, peeled, cut in chunks
salt and pepper to taste
turmeric to taste
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup sugar

Prepare couscous according to package directions. In a pot, combine chick peas, vegetables and squash. Add water to cover and simmer together until tender (approx ½ hour). Add salt, pepper and turmeric. Mix together cinnamon and sugar. Set aside.

To serve, place couscous on the plate first, then pour vegetable mixture over top. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon.

CARROT KUGEL

¾ cup Crisco (or 1 cup oil)
½ cup dark brown sugar
1¼ cups flour
1 egg
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 full cup grated carrots
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda

Cream together Crisco and brown sugar. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Grease a 6-cup pan and pour mixture in. Bake at 350 for 1 hour. May be served hot or cold. Serves 8. Recipe may be doubled for 12 cup bundt pan.

LOKSHEN KUGEL

1 package medium noodles
4 eggs
½ cup sugar
4 cups buttermilk
½ tsp. salt
½ cup butter or margarine
½ cup brown sugar
2 tbsp. soft butter or margarine
1 cup corn flake crumbs

Cook and drain noodles. Beat eggs, add sugar, buttermilk and salt. Add to cooked noodles. Melt ½ cup butter or margarine in 9x13 pan in a 350-degree oven. Pour melted butter into mixture. Pour mixture back in 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 about 40 minutes. Remove from oven and top with mixture of brown sugar, corn flake crumbs and the 2 tbsp. butter or margarine. Return to oven for 20 minutes.

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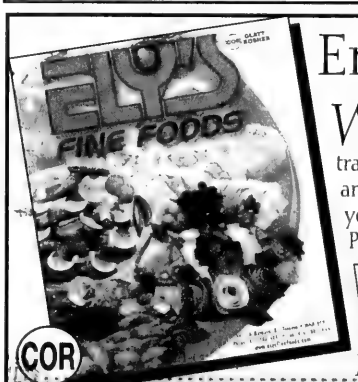

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Holiday Food Ideas

Sephardi mini-seder: an elaborate ritual

By RIVKA TAL
Special to The CJN

Jews throughout the world share the custom of dipping the first piece of challah into honey on Rosh Hashanah. This is to symbolize our prayers for a good, sweet year. Many Jews also dip apple in honey with the same goal in mind. Everyone, however, is not familiar with the additional *simanei milsa*, significant omens, eaten by many communities on this night at the festive meal.

The custom is based on a talmudic teaching. According to Rashi, some of the foods taste sweet and symbolize a sweet year, while others are chosen because they grow profusely, thereby symbolizing our prayers that the Almighty will find us to have a profusion of merits. Some symbolize an increase in mitzvah observance, while others hint at the destruction and obliteration of the Jewish people's sins, as well as its enemies. A short recitation alluding to each particular food's symbolism is made before eating a bit of each.

Preparation of the *simanim* is usually kept simple, in line with the idea that the *siman* should be recognizable. Some add honey to everything!

(Note: One must take great care to check dates, pomegranates, black-eyed peas, leeks and Swiss chard for worms and bugs.)

In our home, we place bowls of each *siman* in the centre of the table on the first night and pass each in turn. For the second night, we prepare and serve small, individual plates containing a bit of each *siman*.

The following is a list of one order of *simanim*. Of course, everyone follows family custom.

Tamar (dates): Available fresh or dried. Halve, check and eat.

Rimon (pomegranate): We beseech God that our merits be as numerous as the seeds of the rimon. Did anyone ever count to determine if there really are 613 seeds? Perhaps this would occupy the children during the busy pre-holiday time. Removing the juicy seeds can be a labour-intensive task. Here's one method: Slice off the stem. Make four cuts through the skin, each starting at the exposed stem end and meeting at the opposite end. Break the fruit into quarters. Remove the seeds from each quarter with your fingers. You may find it helpful to immerse the rimon in water to dig out the seeds – the seeds will sink.

Tapuach (apple): Red varieties are the most popular for Rosh Hashanah. If you wish to cut them prior to the meal, be sure to cover them with lemon juice.

Karti: (leeks): Leeks look like giant scallions. Their broad, flat dark green leaves wrap tightly around each leek, whose insides resemble a tightly rolled newspaper.

Cucuzza is allowed to ripen on the vine

Since the insides contain a phenomenal amount of grit, the leeks must be slit from top to bottom and the "pages" unfolded and rinsed several times and inspected for infestation.

These are delicious sautéed with a bit of oil. Buy a large amount: most people enjoy them and a large quantity quickly shrinks down during cooking. Any leftovers may be used in cooking like fried onions.

Kareh (gourd): The large gourd known as *kareh* is called cucuzza, or snake squash, by U.S. greengrocers. It is imported to the North America from Italy. Like its winter squash cousins, cucuzza is allowed to ripen on the vine and has a hard shell and lots of seeds. It has a mild, quite bland flavour and is hard to peel.

Take my advice and buy as small a quantity as possible. Two pounds untrimmed squash equals 4 servings or about 2 cups cooked squash.

Halve the kareh lengthwise and scrape out seeds. Arrange the cut side down in a baking dish containing ¼ cup of water. Bake in a pre-heated 400-degree oven, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Turn cut side up; brush with margarine and season with salt and pepper, if desired. Continue baking until fork tender, 15-30 minutes. Alternately, stew in chunks, adding honey and/or salt and pepper according to taste.

Rubiya (black-eyed peas): Rubiya is usually available fresh at Rosh Hashanah time in Israel. In Canada, look for the dried legume, also known as cowpeas. Add 3 cups of cold water to ½ lb. dry black-eyes in a pot large enough for expansion. Let stand overnight or at least 6 hours at room temperature. Drain and discard water and rinse before cooking. Place in a large saucepan with 1 tablespoon of oil, 1 teaspoon of salt and 3 cups of hot water. Boil gently until tender, adding water to keep beans covered. This will yield 2½-3 cups of cooked beans.

Silka (Swiss chard): Trim, rinse, and rinse again; drain and pat dry; check for infestation. Cut dark green leaves into bite-sized pieces. Or prepare patties: Steam chard leaves briefly. Drain very well and mince. Add eggs, bread-crumbs and seasonings to taste. Form patties and fry. Drain well. Save chard stalks for stuffing, steaming, or use like asparagus. Leftover green leaves may be used like spinach.

Rosh shel Dag (head of a fish): Ask your local fishmonger to save you a couple of heads! Thoroughly clean and rinse the fish heads. Cover them with boiling water; add salt, pepper and sugar and/or lemon juice according to taste. Simmer, covered, for about ½ hour.

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Holiday Food Ideas

Adventures in Jewish Cooking updates kosher cuisine

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR

When it comes to kosher fine dining, chef Jeffrey Nathan of New York's Abigael's Restaurants wrote the book. Now just in time for Rosh Hashanah he's written *Adventures in Jewish Cooking* (Clarkson Potter), a collection of innovative recipes that redefine kosher as a world-class cuisine.

"I want our customers to think of Abigael's, not as a kosher restaurant, but as a great restaurant that happens to be kosher," says the chef whose PBS television show *New Jewish Cuisine* garnered a James Beard nomination.

And indeed they do. Jewish and non-Jewish diners alike, including Gov. Mario Cuomo and Donald Trump, return for the adventuresome menu, outstanding service and elegant ambiance.

With *Adventures in Jewish Cooking*, Nathan brings his imaginative, updated kosher cooking to the home chef, with dishes such as Porcini-Crusted Striped Bass and Port Wine Syrup, Chicken and Veal Pate, and Rack of Veal with Wild Mushroom Farfel Dressing.

"Kosher diners are more sophisticated today," he says. "A lot of people are more comfortable with the same things for Shabbat and the holidays, but when they go out to a restaurant, they don't want Shabbat roasted chicken."

Imaginative use of fresh ingredients and exotic influences from his travels

While the recipes reflect Nathan's imaginative use of fresh ingredients and exotic influences from his travels – Thai and Vietnamese are favourites – he gives more than a nod to his ancestral roots. And rather than being restricted by the laws of kashrut, he soars to the challenge of updating and recreating traditional dishes.

"It's not all about innovation," he writes. "I can derive just as much satisfaction from taking a recipe from my heritage and making it the best it can be," like Classic Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls, Sweet Noodle and Fruit Kugel and Superb Sabbath Cholent.

Nathan grew up in a predominantly Italian neighbourhood in Queens, N.Y., and loved to watch his mom cook. "Instead of watching TV, I was always *potchking* around in the kitchen," he recalls.

As a dishwasher in an Italian restaurant, he discovered a passion for cooking by watching the chefs. "They were so fast and just looked like they were having fun, but I didn't really think of it as a career. All I knew was Julia Child on television."

In the navy, Nathan became personal chef to the captain and officers, even cooking for Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat.

"Not only did I get to travel around the world, but when we'd pull into ports, I was given money to go out and search for ingredients and could then come back and experiment."

After he left the navy, he attended the prestigious Culinary Institute of America under the GI bill. "You can't beat that. Travel the world, learn a trade, then go to school, all on Uncle Sam. That was one of the smarter things I ever did."

Nathan worked at a number of New York restaurants where he distinguished himself with unusual preparations of wild game and exotic meats, creating his now legendary Venison Chili, which later, as the only kosher entry, took first place in the James Beard National Chili Cook-Off.

"It was a blind tasting, and we were up against a lot of upscale Manhattan restaurants. When the kosher one won, no one could believe it!"

He opened Abigael's with partner Harvey Reizenman, and "[it] was my *beshert* (destiny)," he writes. "I realized that I had come home, both spiritually and professionally."

Adventures in Jewish Cooking showcases that same passion for the new and respect for the old. "I believe in modernization of everything," he says, "but then again there's tradition."

Nathan's holiday menus will inspire you to create new traditions of your own: Banana Soufganiot Pudding for Chanukah, Savory Hamantaschen with Vegetable-Cheese Stuffing for Purim, and I can't wait for Pesach to try the Matzo Napoleon with White Chocolate Mousse.

For Rosh Hashanah, we've selected Roast Duck with Apple-Golden Raisin Sauce. "I think I may be the world's number 1 duck fan," says Nathan, who divulges Abigael's double-cooking technique that guarantees a crispy skin without sacrificing moistness.

And what would Rosh Hashanah be without tzimmes? Nathan's Root Vegetable Tzimmes bursts with spices and dried fruit.

"It's very important to have something sweet for the New Year," he reminds us. "I usually keep desserts pareve, but for a dairy meal, I'll make Honey-Ginger Zabaglione Cream. It's harder to spell than to make it!"

And how will Nathan celebrate the New Year? "I always make taiglach at home with the kids," Chad, 13, and Jaclyn, 10, who appear in *Adventures in Jewish Cooking* clad in chef's coats, helping their dad prepare Chocolate Mousse Flowerpots.

"We make these little taiglach balls, dip them in honey and decorate them with chips or rainbow sprinkles or chopped pecans."

Some traditions never change.

ROOT VEGETABLE TZIMMES

2 tbsp. margarine
1 medium onion, chopped
1 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 3/4-inch dice
4 medium carrots, sliced into 1/2-inch rounds
2 medium parsnips, sliced into 1/2-inch rounds

Continued on page 48

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Sample the wonders of Sephardi Israeli food

BY NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Since biblical times Jews in Israel have eaten the foods of the land, many of which were mentioned in the Bible. After their expulsion from Spain, Jews came to the Holy Land and brought their cultural and dietary influences, as did other Jews from Greece, Italy, Morocco, Persia, Yemen, Ethiopia, and other countries. Today, Israel has developed an authentic food culture, which offers a wealth of colourful, rich and delicious choices, including foods that came from neighbouring Arab cultures. — Sheilah Kaufman, from her introduction to her latest cookbook, *Sephardi Israeli Cuisine: A Mediterranean Mosaic*.

According to American cookbook author and cooking teacher Sheilah Kaufman, Israeli cooking is like a giant, colourful mosaic or puzzle. The cuisine reflects the various communities and their diverse geographical and cultural origins.

Her 24th and latest cookbook, *Sephardi Israeli Cuisine: A Mediterranean Mosaic* (Hippocrene Books, $24.95 US), is a combination of her two favourite topics, cooking and history. It contains 120 wonderful kosher recipes that celebrate the flavours of Israeli cuisine, including a chapter of Ashkenazi recipes.

Sephardi ingredients include cinnamon, cloves, sumac, cardamom, hot chili, cumin, fenugreek, turmeric, saffron, almond essence, rose and orange flower water, coriander, tahini, artichokes, fava beans, olives, fennel, couscous, semolina and bulgur. You will learn how to make your own condiments and spices, including baharat and za'atar (Middle Eastern spice mixtures), preserved lemons and yogurt cheese (labaneh). I can't wait to try Tamar's Yemenite Chicken Soup, Chicken Pie (Bisteeya) and Tishpishti (Nut Cake with Sugar Syrup). The price of this book is far less expensive than a trip to the Middle East!

For the upcoming High Holy Days, bring the flavour of the Middle East to your table with this scrumptious sampling of Sephardi Israeli cuisine.

MEDITERRANEAN CHICKEN

This dish is sweet, salty, pungent and delicious. The prunes and olives make a sensational flavour combination. This is a perfect recipe for company, and can be easily doubled or even tripled. It tastes even better the next day.

Marinade:

1 cup pitted prunes
½ cup chopped green olives
4 bay leaves
8 large garlic cloves, minced
3 tbsp. dried oregano
½ cup red wine vinegar
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
juice of 1 lime

10 to 14 pieces of chicken (1 to 2 per person)

For Baking:
1 cup white wine (something fairly sweet)
½ cup chopped fresh parsley or cilantro

Mix ingredients for the marinade. Place chicken in a non-reactive bowl (e.g., clay, copper, enamel, glass, plastic or stainless steel) or plastic storage bag, then add the marinade. Refrigerate covered (if using bowl), overnight.

Preheat oven to 350. Place the chicken in a single layer, skin side up, in a shallow roasting pan. Pour marinade on top and pour the wine around it. Bake about 1 hour, basting from time to time.

Sprinkle with parsley or cilantro before serving. Pass pan juices separately. Serves eight. Freezes and reheats well.

MOROCCAN SWEET CARROTS

A family recipe from Judith Amrani. Orange flower water is a fragrant liquid distilled from orange blossoms and used as a flavouring in dishes, and especially in desserts. It is available at Middle Eastern groceries.

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Flavour of the Middle East

Continued from page 46

orange flower water gives this dish its special taste.)

1/3 cup honey
1/4 cup lemon juice
8 to 10 carrots, peeled and shredded
1/2 cup raisins (optional)
1 tbsp. orange flower water

Dissolve the honey in the lemon juice. Add the carrots and raisins, if desired, and mix well.

Sprinkle with orange flower water and let carrots sit an hour or longer before serving, or cover and refrigerate until serving. The longer it marinates, the better it gets. Serves 4. Recipe can be doubled or tripled easily for a crowd.

EGGPLANTS WITH TOMATO SAUCE (IMAN BAYALDI)

The story says that a famous Turkish priest or Iman was so delighted with his wife's eggplant creation that he passed out or fainted from pure pleasure, hence the name iman bayaldi, meaning "the priest has fainted."

Sometimes this dish is referred to as "sultan's swoon." There are many versions of this dish and some include meat. If possible, prepare this a day or two ahead so the flavours can mellow.

6 Asian (long, narrow) eggplants or 6 small (6 to 7 inches each) baby eggplants
salt
4 tbsp. olive oil
3 medium onions, peeled and sliced thin
6 garlic cloves, finely chopped
3 large tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
1 tsp. salt
freshly ground pepper
1 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 cup plus 3 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
3 to 4 tbsp. pine nuts (optional)
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
juice of 1/2 lemon

Preheat oven to 350. Wash the eggplants, cut off the stem ends and slice them in half lengthwise. With a sharp knife, peel off 1/2-inch strips of skin lengthwise at intervals for a striped effect.

On the pulp (or cut) side, make at least 3 lengthwise slashes, being careful not to pierce the skin on the opposite side. Sprinkle the eggplants with salt and let them stand for 30 minutes. Rinse with cold water, dry, and turn them over on paper towel to drain well.

Heat 2 tbsp. of the oil and sauté the onions and garlic. Add the tomatoes and cook another 2 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste, sugar, cinnamon, and 1/4 cup parsley, mixing well. Cook for a minute, then remove the pan from the heat and set aside. Stir in nuts if desired.

Heat the remaining 2 tbsp. of oil and saute eggplants (in batches if necessary) until tender. Turn eggplants several times while sautéing. A little more heated oil may be needed. Remove eggplants from pan and place in a shallow baking dish.

Drain the onion mixture and stuff the slashes of the eggplant with it, allowing some of the filling to cover the top of the eggplants. Grind some pepper over the top of each eggplant and sprinkle with the remaining 3 tbsp. of parsley.

Whisk together the extra-virgin olive oil, lemon juice, and 1 cup of water. Pour over and around the eggplants. Cover with aluminum foil or a lid. Bake until eggplants are tender until pierced with a fork, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove the cover for the last 10 minutes of baking.

Remove the pan from the oven and transfer eggplants onto a serving platter. Let them cool to room temperature. Serves 6.

SWEET CHALLAH: A traditional part of every Rosh Hashanah meal.

CHOCOLATE SALAMI

This interesting no-bake cookie is so named because the slices resemble salami. They are very rich. The recipe is also called Chocolate Mosaic in Jewish homes in Istanbul.

1 lb. vanilla wafers
1 cup sweet red wine
1 1/4 cups sugar
1/4 cup cocoa or 5 ounces European bittersweet chocolate
1 cup margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups chopped pecans
8 marshmallows, cut into small pieces (optional)

Break the wafers into small pieces. Combine the wine, sugar, cocoa (or chocolate) and margarine in a pot over medium heat. Stir and cook, mixing well, until the margarine is melted.

Stir in vanilla, nuts, cookies and marshmallows (if desired).

Form candy mixture into rolls or logs about 2 inches wide and wrap tightly in foil. Freeze until ready to serve, then slice and keep refrigerated. Makes about 36 pieces. Serves 10.

BIBLE FOODS: Galit Ziegman cooks food from recipes she created by referring to the Bible, the Mishnah, a 2,800-year-old Mesopotamian cookbook, and a recipe book by Roman gastronomist Apicius.

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Holiday Food Ideas

Author brings imaginative cooking to home chef

Continued from page 45

¼ cup (½-inch dice) dried apricots
¼ cup (½-inch dice) pitted dried plums (prunes)
2 cups fresh orange juice
⅓ cup honey
grated zest of ½ orange
grated zest of ½ lemon
1 tsp. kosher salt
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
¼ tsp. ground allspice
¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Melt the margarine in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden, about 5 minutes. Stir in the sweet potatoes, carrots, parsnips, apricots, prunes, orange juice, honey, orange and lemon zest, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice and pepper, and bring to a boil.

Cover and reduce the heat to medium-low. Simmer, stirring frequently, until the vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes. If necessary, uncover and cook until the orange juice has evaporated, about 3 minutes.

Transfer to a bowl and serve immediately. (The tzimmes can be made up to two days ahead, cooled, covered and refrigerated. Reheat before serving.) Makes 8 servings.

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ROAST DUCK WITH APPLE-GOLDEN RAISIN SAUCE

Roast Duck
1 Granny Smith apple, unpeeled, cut into quarters
1 seedless orange, cut into quarters
2 5-lb. ducklings, rinsed and patted dry
½ tsp. coarsely cracked (butcher-grind) black pepper

Apple-Raisin Sauce
¼ cup cider vinegar
¼ cup sugar
1 whole star anise pod
2 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, and chopped into ½-inch dice
½ cup apple cider
¼ cup golden raisins
⅛ tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ cup brandy
1 tsp. cornstarch

Position a rack in the centre of the oven and preheat to 450.

Stuff 2 each of the apple and orange quarters in the cavity of each duck. Season the duck with the pepper. Using the upturned tines of a meat fork, prick the duck skin all over, especially in the fatty thigh and breast areas, being careful not to pierce the flesh. Place them, breast side up, on a large roasting rack set in a large roasting pan (if you don't have a rack large enough, fashion a rack from foil).

Roast the ducks for 1 hour. Reduce the heat to 400 and roast until the ducks are deep golden brown and an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the thigh reads 180, about 30 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, being careful not to spill the rendered fat in the pan, and allow to cool completely.

Using poultry shears, cut each duck in half lengthwise. Pull off and discard the carcass and thigh bone from each duck, leaving four semiboneless duck halves with the wings attached. (It's amazing how flexible the duck is and how easily this is accomplished. Your hands will get a little greasy, but that's the only drawback.) Cover and refrigerate for up to one day.

To make the sauce, combine the vinegar, sugar and star anise in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat, swirling the pan occasionally by the handle to combine the ingredients until they melt into a syrup and it turns golden brown, about 3 times. Stir in the apples, cider, raisins and cinnamon. Bring to a simmer. Cook until the apples are tender but hold their shape, about 10 minutes. Pour the brandy into a small bowl, sprinkle the cornstarch over it, and whisk to dissolve. Whisk the mixture into the simmering sauce to thicken, and cover to keep warm.

When ready to serve, heat the oven to 450. Place the duck halves, skin side up, on a baking sheet with sides. Add 1 cup hot water to the pan (this is just enough to create some steam). Bake until the skin is crisp and sizzling and the meat is heated through, about 15 minutes. Serve the duck with the sauce passed on the side. Makes 4 servings.

HONEY-GINGER ZABAGLIONE CREAM WITH FRESH BERRIES

Berries
4 cups assorted fresh berries, such as blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, and sliced strawberries
2 tbsp. sparkling sweet wine
2 tbsp. sugar

Zabaglione Cream
6 large egg yolks
¼ cup sparkling sweet wine, such as Moscato d'Asti
¼ cup sugar
2 tbsp. honey
1 tsp. finely minced fresh ginger, peeled, shredded on the large holes of a box grater, then minced
1 star anise (5 or 6 points)
¼ cup heavy cream

To prepare the berries, mix the berries, sparkling wine and sugar in a medium bowl. Cover and refrigerate to chill and allow the berries to give off some juices, at least 2 and up to 8 hours.

To make the zabaglione cream, use a large balloon whisk to beat the yolks, sparkling wine, sugar, honey and ginger in a medium stainless-steel bowl. Add the star anise and place over a saucepan of steadily simmering, but not boiling, water (the bottom of the bowl should not touch the water). Whisk constantly (or beat with a hand-held electric mixer on high speed) until the mixture is pale yellow and fluffy, about 7 minutes. When the whisk is lifted an inch or so above the zabaglione, the mixture should be thick enough to hold its shape on the surface for a few seconds before sinking.

Remove from the heat and place the bowl in a larger bowl of ice water. Let stand until the zabaglione is completely cooled. Discard the star anise.

Whip the heavy cream in a chilled medium bowl until stiff peaks form. Fold the whipped cream into the zabaglione. (The mixture can be prepared up to 4 hours ahead, covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated.)

When ready to serve, spoon the berries and their juices into 6 large martini glasses. Spoon the zabaglione over the berries. If desired, using a propane torch, pass the flame over the zabaglione until very lightly browned. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

Pareve Variation: Substitute 1½ cups nondairy whipped topping for the whipped cream.

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Arts & Travel

An Israeli spin on Shakespeare's King Lear

By JEFF BERCUSON
Special to The CJN

There are few literary images as powerful as that of the frenzied King Lear raging against the wind and rain in William Shakespeare's play.

Having conceded his land and power to his two scheming daughters, and lost the love of Cordelia, his only faithful daughter, Lear is forced to wander his former kingdom, descending further and further into madness.

When York University theatre student Antony Nesling, 22, decided to make William Shakespeare's *King Lear* his directorial debut, the last thing he wanted was another conventional production.

Recognizing the parallels of war and survival between Lear's England and the Yom Kippur War of 1973, Nesling decided to put a contemporary spin on what he calls the playwright's "literary masterpiece."

"I looked all around the world to find the endurance exhibited by Lear in his search for Cordelia," he says. "The only place I could find [a parallel to] Lear's refusal to give up was in Israel. The Israeli people have made it quite clear that no matter what happens, they're just going to carry on."

For Nesling, literature's greatest tragedy seemed to pair naturally with the ongoing situation in Israel, the "world's biggest tragedy."

"Like Lear, it is obvious that you're not going to get an ideal, utopian vision of Israel without a certain amount of tragedy. Unfortunately, it takes a certain amount of pain before we can learn and progress."

Disaffected young people: The cast of Lear, King of Israel

In this modern adaptation, called *Lear, King of Israel*, France and England are no longer the two feuding nations. Gone, too, are the feuding dukes Albany and Cornwall. Instead, there's Egypt and Israel and the dukes Zion and Gaza.

The play, which is performed by a group of sabras, takes place in Tel Aviv on the eve of the Yom Kippur War.

"Changing the setting makes the tragedy immediately accessible to a modern day Jewish audience," says the director, who also plays the doomed monarch.

The inclusion of the sabras touches on an important theme prevalent in both Lear and prewar Israel: a younger generation in conflict with its predecessors.

"The story is centred around a group of very disaffected young people, who had this feeling of invincibility after the Israeli victory of 1967," says Nesling, who spent two years researching and preparing his adaptation.

It is these "disaffected" young people that Nesling believes will ultimately be responsible for finding a resolution to the enduring Middle East conflict.

"It was, and continues to be, the younger generation that takes a more realistic approach to the conflict, promoting the notion of equality. They are the ones promoting the idea that if everyone came at the problem with the same objective, we could find a middle ground."

Although the production is told from a Jewish-Israeli perspective, Nesling, who is Jewish , stresses that it does not approach the conflict from a strictly Jewish point of view.

"The play has no political agenda and comes from a humanist perspective," he says. "Not only is it a celebration of Jewish and Israeli culture and heritage, it will also be a piece of hope for the future in the Middle East, regardless of race or religion."

The play's succession of terrible events, eerily similar to the seemingly endless wave of suicide bombings, raises another important question that pervades all of Shakespeare's work: is there any possibility of finding peace in the world?

"Of course there is hope for peace," he says. "There wouldn't be any point to doing the play if we didn't have hope for peace in the future."

In fact, Nesling doesn't even consider *King Lear* to be a tragedy.

"We look at this as a play about love and family, two things that are extremely important to Jewish culture. We don't see *Lear* as a play about nihilism and death and tragedy," he says. "Every time we approach a scene, the one question we ask ourselves is, 'Where's the love?'"

Lear, King of Israel will be performed Aug. 27 to 29 at the Leah Posluns Theatre at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. The proceeds of the play, which is being produced by the Toronto Art Theatre, will be donated to Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel. For tickets, call the box office at 416-780-0034.

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The golden age of radio

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

If you are old enough to remember listening to radio shows such as *The Lone Ranger and Tonto*, *The Shadow*, *Inner Sanctum* and *The Lux Theatre*, you will enjoy a trip down memory lane with The Blue Coal Trio.

The golden age of radio, from 1930 to the mid-1950s, comes back to life in an entertaining presentation for live audiences by these three Toronto men who have each been involved in media for more than half a century.

Carl Banas, a well-known broadcaster, Sam Levene, a prolific radio and television writer and producer, and Ken Borden, a multi-talented adman, artist and broadcaster, collect anything and everything related to the radio of yesteryear.

They formed the Blue Coal Trio (named for the company that sponsored *The Shadow*) seven years ago when they were invited by the Friends of Old Time Radio of Newark, N.J., to create a program for the group's annual convention.

The subject was What Canada Contributed to the Golden Age of Radio.

Borden told *The CJN* that their program included *Wayne and Shuster*, and *The Happy Gang*, as well as the first broadcast by legendary *Hockey Night in Canada* announcer Foster Hewitt.

"This program was super well-received," said Borden.

It led the three to combine their talents and resources and form The Blue Coal Trio, which has performed in Canada and the United States.

Their program is filled with nostalgia, humour, music, suspense and brings back many memories for people over 50.

"We try to tickle and tease your memory," Borden said. "We love doing it and we get turned on by the audience's involvement."

As they play their audio golden oldies and present a running dialogue and commentary, members of the audience spontaneously sing along with the theme songs from the old shows and commercials and shout out references to their own favourites.

Avid radio listeners might remember Banas as one of the broadcasters on CKEY's *Make Believe Ballroom* and the host of CKFM's *All Night Show* for 23 years, as well as for his acting work on the CBC series *Wojeck*, among others.

Levene has been involved in both radio and television and was producer and writer of CBC television's *Man Alive*.

Borden, who attended Harbord Collegiate and went on to study art and design, was successful in advertising and marketing.

He said it requires imagination to write for radio, which once brought families together.

"I remember as a child being in the living room with our entire family on Sunday evening to listen to Jack Benny and *Amos 'n Andy*. We listened together, we talked together and laughed together. This does not happen with television," he said with regret."

For more information on The Blue Coal Trio, or for booking information, call Borden at 416-224-8184, fax 416-224-0558.

Eye on Arts

BY Bill Gladstone

ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL CELEBRATES NEW YIDDISH CULTURE

Ashkenaz, Toronto's huge three-day festival of new Yiddish culture, returns to Harbourfront Centre Aug. 31 through Sept. 2. Presented in partnership with the Miles Nadal JCC, the festival offers a wealth of klezmer music, theatre, dance, storytelling, comedy, poetry, film and visual arts.

So many worthy events are crammed into the three days that only a brief summary can be presented here. While some require paid admission, many are free. Some times and ticket prices are shown below.

Karen Kaeja (top) and Allen Kaeja (below) perform Sarah and two other pieces at Ashkenaz.

Musical artists include **Anthony Coleman's Los Professionales**, who fuse jazz and Sephardi music; the **Cracow Klezmer Band** making a Canadian debut; **Di Naye Kapelye**, a central European band that specializes in historically accurate music from Hungary and Romania; Toronto's **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**; and **Khevrisa** and other klezmer talents.

Theatrical offerings include the play *Kafka & Son*, directed by **Mark Cassidy** and featuring actor **Alon Nashman**; and the musical *Seder*, a Michael Rubinoff production that blends traditional Yiddish and klezmer tunes with rocking beats.

The Miles Nadal JCC presents a sing-along version of **Norman Jewison's** 1971 film musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, sponsored by Greenco Property Management Inc. Audience members are invited to don babushkas, beards, wedding veils and other accoutrements during the film, whose cast includes **Topol**, **Molly Picon** and **Leonard Frey**.

Toronto actor-singer **David Gale** leads the vocal warm-up and all participants receive an interactive pack. Harbourfront Concert Stage. Tickets $10. Thursday, Aug. 29, 8 p.m. 416-973-4000.

Another cinematic offering is *Jewish Luck*, a classic Soviet silent film and a funny adaptation of the **Sholom Aleichem** story, *Mendel the Matchmaker*. The film features **Solomon Mikhoels**, the Yiddish State Art Theatre actor making a Chaplinesque cinematic debut. Two screenings feature musical accompaniment by the Cracow Klezmer Band and Anthony Coleman, respectively. Tickets $10.

Two Canadian dance companies are presenting five new dance works. Kaeja d'Dance performs *Sarah*, the story of a woman who vanished during the Holocaust, and two other pieces; while the Yukon dance troupe **Link** performs two pieces, including *This Too Shall Pass*, a re-creation of the Passover seder.

Other highly anticipated Ashkenaz events include a performance of **Milton Barnes'** *Dos Naye Lid* by the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir** with a six-piece female orchestra; and **David Buchbinder's** *Shurum Burum*, featuring eight musicians, multiple compositions, two circus performer/clowns and audience participation.

The festival also features a lively pageant, with revellers, singers, dancers, stiltwalkers and clowns. It closes with the Ashkenaz Finale, described as a "hot klezmer jam session... that promises to leave everyone dancing" in the aisles.

For full times and ticket information, contact the Harbourfront Info Hotline at 416-973-3000 or visit the Web site, www.ashkenazfestival.com.

* * *

Names in the News: Eighteen-year-old **Sarah Moussadji** plays the title role in the Civic Light Opera Company's upcoming production of *Gigi*, the musical by **Lerner and Loewe**. A drama major at the Claude Watson School, Moussadji appeared last year as the young **Liza Minnelli** in HBO's acclaimed *Me and My Shadows: Life with Judy Garland*, starring **Judy Davis** and **Victor Garber**.

Gigi runs Oct 10 to 19 at the Fairview Library Theatre, North York. 416-469-8450.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Author **James Dieter Guinter-Saginario** has produced a science fiction fantasy novel in which some high-level Nazis are transplanted from Earth and establish a Hitlerian fourth reich in a distant galaxy. The book, *Second Chances*, was published by 1stBooks Library as the first release in its Homeland Series. www.1stbooks.com.

• Two Artists, One Goat is an exhibition of works by abstract artist **Frank Stella** and Israeli painter **Nira Savir** that explores the hidden allegory in the traditional Passover folksong *Chad Gadya*. Spertus Museum, Chicago. Sept. 30 through Feb. 28, 2003. www.spertus.edu.

***

Adath Israel Concert: Accomplished musicians and teachers **Judith** and **Joseph Peleg**, who play piano and violin respectively, perform a benefit concert in memory of **Jennie Kernkraut**, a teacher, writer, raconteur and Holocaust survivor who died one year ago.

The public is invited; refreshments to follow. Tickets are $15, $10 for seniors and students, available in advance at Adath Israel or at the door. Proceeds go to the Canadian Magen David Adom. Adath Israel Congregation, 37 Southbourne Ave., Toronto. Wed. August 28, 8 p.m.

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

CHINA THROUGH JEWISH EYES

The fascinating history of the Jews in China is the focus of two travel adventures being offered by Toronto travel professional Harriet Morton in 2003.

Morton conducted her first Jewish tour to China in April. First stop was Shanghai, where Jews were accepted as "stateless refugees" during World War II when most other places refused to admit them. Points of interest included the Ohel Moishe Synagogue and the historic Hongkou ghetto, which sheltered 18,000 Jews during the period.

Next came a cruise on the Yangtze River to the Three Gorges area and a visit to Kaifeng, once the centre of an ancient and flourishing Jewish community. In Xian, the group viewed thousands of life-sized terra cotta warriors at the tomb of the first emperor Qin Shi Huang. Also included were a Sabbath service and dinner with the Jewish community of Beijing, and visits to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City.

Morton conducted her "Jewish China" tour last April; a second, scheduled for October, was almost fully booked soon after the first had concluded. The 2003 tours are 14 days long and scheduled to depart April 30 and Oct. 13. Contact Morton at Tour East Holidays, 1033 Bay St., Suite 302, Toronto. 416-929-8017. Web site: www.toureast.ca.

* * *

Canyon Ranch in Arizona: Toronto travel pros Bonnie Horowitz and Vivien Rethazy present a group visit to the famous Canyon Ranch Health Resort in Tucson, Ariz. The seven-night package includes gourmet meals, use of the spa and resort facilities, unlimited fitness classes and activities and much more.

Horowitz and Rethazy are also hosting another of their popular Budapest, Vienna and Prague trips in June 2003 and a Spanish adventure departing May 3, 2003. Both trips focus on Jewish culture and heritage. Contact them at The Travel Network, 1920 Avenue Rd., 416-789-3271. Web site, www.thetravelnetwork.com.

* * *

Israel's Fall Migration: Twice each year, in spring and in fall, millions of birds pass through Israel while migrating between Asia and Europe. In the fall, birds fly from Africa over Eilat, north through the Negev Desert or over the Dead Sea in the Arava and Jordan Valleys, and up through the Galilee.

The Hula Valley in northeastern Israel is one of the most important bird-watching sites in the Middle East. Enormous flocks of about 390 species fly through an area of about 32 square miles. Pelican, cranes and many other species concentrate in large flocks in the valley. Last year about 30 raptor species were observed.

Last January, volunteers counted well over 1,000 black storks, mainly in the Beit Shean Valley and along the coast, as well as many great black-headed gulls and pygmy cormorants in the same regions. The Gamla Nature Reserve has become known for the griffon, bearded and black vultures that nest there, as well as many other types of vulture that have been sighted soaring aloft.

Further east, at Kibbutz Kfar Ruppin in the Jordan Valley, some 90 species of songbirds have been banded in the last five years. The ringing station welcomes visitors and offers educational explanations of the ringing process and the great migrations.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel organizes bird-watching tours with professional guides. Their Web site is www.spni.org.il. For further information on travel to Israel, visit the Web site www.goisrael.com.

* * *

Heroic Diplomats: Violating the policies of their own governments, 100 diplomats from 27 countries issued life-saving visas to more than 250,000 people fleeing the Nazi regime before and during World War II. An upcoming exhibit in Boston commemorates these righteous gentiles with photographs, oral histories, videos and other materials. Boston University Art Gallery. Admission free. Sept. 19 thru Nov. 6. 617-457-8700.

* * *

Travel News & Notes

- The children's exhibit, Camels and Caravans: Daily Life in Ancient Israel, continues at the Jewish Museum in New York to next June.
- Prints and drawings of California artist Milton Hirschl are on view thru Sept. 22 at the Skirball Cultural Center and Museum in Los Angeles. Author-illustrator Maurice Sendak is the focus of an exhibit that runs from Sept. 20 to Jan. 6, 2003.
- Tourism Ireland's latest *Walking in Ireland Guide* is hot off the press. Guides to golfing and horseback riding in Ireland are also available. 800-223-6470.
- Connection Tours offers walking tours in Switzerland this fall and skiing tours this winter. Call 416-449-4652 or visit www.connectiontours.com for details.

Movie mogul's rise and fall

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Movie producer Robert Evans was the quintessential Hollywood player. A perennial cigar clenched in his mouth, his handsome Mediterranean face framed by oversize glasses, he was a larger-than-life figure in the American film industry in the 1970s.

As senior vice-president of Paramount Pictures, Evans churned out a remarkable string of commercial and critical successes, from *Love Story* and *Rosemary's Baby* to *Chinatown* and *The Godfather*.

Not bad for a guy who was once a womenswear manufacturer in New York City.

Evans' saga, the rise and fall of a movie mogul, is the subject of *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, now playing at the Varsity theatre. Based on his ribald 1994 biography, it is a superb, hugely entertaining documentary.

The directors/producers, Brett Morgan and Nanette Burstein, let Evans do the talking. Although he has a tendency to slur his words, as if he has marbles in his mouth, Evans' tale is so compelling that a viewer can ignore this problem.

Evans, whose family history is unfortunately glossed over in this otherwise excellent film, was an accidental producer.

A principal of a garment company that popularized ladies' pants as a fashion accessory, Evans was discovered by the actress Norma Shearer, a star of the 1930s, while he was lounging around the swimming pool of a posh Beverly Hills hotel.

Impressed by his handsome looks and his personable manner, Shearer asked Evans if he wanted to be in the movies. Evans, a thespian at heart, jumped at the opportunity.

The film he was to star in, as a dashing bullfighter, was *The Sun Also Rises*, based on Ernest Hemingway's great 1920s novel. Evans spent three months in Mexico preparing for the role, but when he showed up, everyone on the set, including Hemingway, wanted him fired.

Darryl Zanuck, the legendary producer, would not hear of it. "The kid stays in the picture," he declared in no uncertain terms.

As it happened, Evans' detractors were right. Evans had the smouldering appearance of a Spanish bullfighter, but he was no actor. Nonetheless, his career was launched.

In short order, Evans made a succession of movies, virtually all execrable. Taking stock, he decided that his only chance of succeeding in Hollywood would be as a producer.

Teaming up with Peter Bart, the former Hollywood reporter of *The New York Times*, Evans bought the rights to a novel and convinced a studio to convert it into a movie. He never looked back.

By the age of 34, in a Horatio Alger-like transformation, Evans was running Paramount, a lacklustre studio that had teetered on the brink of bankruptcy.

Evans, an engaging raconteur, tells how he convinced Mia Farrow, the lead in *Rosemary's Baby*, to finish the movie on schedule despite the bullying protests of her strong-willed husband, Frank Sinatra.

And Evans' relationship with, and subsequent marriage to, the star of *Love Story*, Ali McGraw, is truly the stuff of melodrama.

Love Story, a blockbuster hit, saved Evans from the breadline. The directors of Paramount, for reasons never really explained, wanted to dump Evans. But when he showed them excerpts of *Love Story*, they immediately changed their minds.

Evans' decision to hire Francis Ford Coppola to direct *The Godfather* was a brilliant move. Jewish directors had usually been assigned to gangster films. But in this instance, an Italian American was given the nod. Evans and Coppola had monumental fights, on and off set, but their partnership produced an iconic series of films.

No less a personage than Henry Kissinger, president Richard Nixon's extremely busy and preoccupied national security advisor, appeared at the film's premiere. Such was Evans' clout.

For Evans, the 1980s were lost years. His wife left him, taking up with actor Steve McQueen, and he got hooked on drugs. He was also a suspect in a tawdry murder case. His career plummeted, and, in the process, he lost his exquisite Hollywood mansion-cum haven.

Thanks to loyal friends like Jack Nicholson, Evans bounced back with such films as *Sliver* and *The Saint*. Evans is still around, but he is no longer a mover and shaker.

As the credits for *The Kid Stays in the Picture* roll, an outtake from *Wag the Dog*, starring Dustin Hoffman, comes on screen. Hoffman, in an inspired turn, satirizes Evans brilliantly. It's a fitting end to an accomplished movie.

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330 OBITUARIES

LAUFER, Shlomo – on Aug. 2, 2002, late of 153 Arnold Ave.
SAVENKO, Gregory – on Aug. 4, 2002, late of 73 Green Bush Rd.
HOCK, Solomon Sidney – on Aug. 4, 2002.
GROISMAN, Ernest – on Aug. 5, 2002.
HOFSTADTER, Elizabeth – on Aug. 5, 2002.
GIDDENS, Hilda – on Aug. 5, 2002
SHORE, Arrel – on Aug. 4, 2002.
TURNHEIM, Eva – on Aug. 4, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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Sunday, August 25th, 2002 at 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Linitzer - Section 22
Bathurst St., South of Steeles, East side
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SUZANNE FAJNKUCHEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th at 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue - Palmerston Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NADIA CHROSCICKI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Tikvah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HERMAN FREEDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 25th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St., So. of Steeles
Piotrokov Belechtov North Road (e-W)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
WOLF JASKOLKA ז"ל
will take place
Monday, Sept. 2nd, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashover Section #7
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MAX LASTOFSKY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 25th, 12:00 noon
Roselawn Cemetery
Mizrier Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MARYLA LIEBERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 25th, 2:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin, N. of Major Mackenzie
Community Section 'EEE'
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NELLIE MAJEROVITS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, 10:15 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Maramoresher Society of Toronto Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FRANCES MANILLA ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth David Ezra, Israel Beth Am Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS FOGEL ז"ל
loving husband, father, grandfather & brother
will take place
Sunday, August 25th at 2:45 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Family and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ISRAEL KLACZKOWSKI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Farband of Lithuanian Jews of Toronto Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARAH NEUBERGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 1st, at 2:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section, Section II
Family and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RAFAL (PHILLIP) NOSAK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th at 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Centre Congregation Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID SINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, at 11:30 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section #9
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument
to the memory of the late
DAVID NEWMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, 2002
at 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Independant Friendly Workers Circle Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
POLA PETROFF ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Aug. 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Section #10
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
KATALIN ROSA ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 25th, 10:15 a.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Beth Jacob Section
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Sports & Leisure

Argos owner honoured by Chabad Lubavitch

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Faced with declining attendance figures, Toronto Argonauts owner Sherwood Schwarz hired former entertainment mogul Garth Drabinsky to serve as the club's marketing consultant.

"We have made a 180-degree turn under Garth Drabinsky, really planning out all our entertainment and off-the-field moves," Schwarz said in a telephone interview from his Park Avenue office in New York. "He and [president] Michael [Pinball] Clemons I think have done a yeoman's job in increasing our ticket sales. I think we're going to have a very successful off-the-football-field season."

The team is hoping the allure of family packs and kosher Krispy Kreme donuts, along with half-time concerts and an Austin Powers bobblehead doll giveaway may help sell more tickets.

The highly-successful life insurance salesman encouraged more Jews to come out and cheer the Argos when he was honoured by the Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad at its 14th annual fundraising gala, A Celebration of Jewish Song and Spirit, held at the Sheraton Centre. Schwarz is a devoted member of the Cheder Chabad family despite only being involved with the school for a few months.

Students at Cheder Chabad, a Jewish day school, study in an environment imparting the values, lifestyle, and warmth of the Lubavitch movement.

"Sherwood is known to be a charitable person, a person who cares for kids," said Rabbi Yona Shur, the school's executive director. "He values the importance of helping children and very much admires the work of Chabad. The combination of the two was what inspired him to put his name to this event.

"Sherwood was willing to accept this honour thereby helping our school raise the necessary funds to give the proper education that children that need scholarships can receive," Rabbi Shur said.

Schwarz also serves on the board of directors for Chai Lifeline, an international non-profit organization that provides vital services to seriously ill Jewish children and their families. It is set to open its first Canadian office in Toronto.

Schwarz, who was born in 1930 in the Lower East Side of New York, purchased the team in December 1999 and expects the next person to run the franchise will be his 14-year-old grandson.

He says he's with the Argos for the long haul and still has every reason to believe that things will turn around for the team. But he remains puzzled by the poor fan turnout in recent years.

"Here's a franchise that's more than 125 years old, would it be better to have it someplace else?" pondered Schwarz. "I don't understand how people don't support a franchise like that."

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♀ women seeking men

FUN LOVING
Fun loving, professional lady who likes the finer things in life, but down to earth in personality. I'm attractive, blonde, likes to travel, enjoys theatre & learning new things. She's hard working, with no children and seeks intelligent, active, easy going gentleman 45-55 yrs with a balanced life **AD#1357**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship **AD#1037**

♀ men seeking women

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands **AD#1368**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message **AD#1442**

KILLER SMILE!
Hi, my name is Debbie I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead Little bit overweight but working on it diligently I love the outdoors **AD#1038**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more **AD#1443**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life **AD#1151**

THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE
I'm a fun loving, down to earth personality, attractive, blonde, enjoy travel, theatre, learning new things, very hard working I have no kids and seek an intelligent, active, easy going male, between 45-53 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1211**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk **AD#1055**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. **AD#1239**

SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old **AD#1136**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. Please call and leave a message **AD#1204**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail **AD#1070**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1186**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. Have a great one **AD#1132**

LET'S MEET
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, single parent w/ 12yr old son. A vivacious, lively, ambitious, hard working woman, she enjoys life, country walks, hiking, swimming, dancing, dining out, please respond **AD#1421**

FUN & COMPASSION
Single female from Montreal, 60's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservadox She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach Seeking a male between 51-66 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel **AD#1360**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call **AD#1318**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message **AD#1158**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship **AD#1457**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call **AD#1260**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male **AD#1146**

MR WONDERFUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", with brown hair & eyes. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun Seeking a Jewish traditionalist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams. **AD#1248**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this hits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1081**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise, please leave a message **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests & this is you, leave him a message. **AD#1063**

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Israeli pole vaulter wins gold in Munich

By RAMI HIPSH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Alex Averbukh last week became the first Israeli to win a major athletics title, taking the gold medal in the pole vault event at the European Championships in Athletics in Munich.

Coming a day before a memorial service for the victims of the Sept. 5 attack by Palestinians at the 1972 Olympics that resulted in the death of 11 Israeli athletes, Averbukh's triumph was highly emotional. Afterwards, the 27-year-old athlete, draped in the Israeli flag, fought back tears as Hatikvah was played to a packed house.

"Of course I know about the tragic events from 1972, but I think sometimes you need to put the past behind you and think of the future," said the Russian-born Averbukh, who has been through hard times after the death of his father, who was also his coach, last December.

"I would like to dedicate this medal to him," he said.

"I also dedicate this medal to the people of Israel," said Averbukh, who received a congratulatory call from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "I want to give a little present to the Israeli people because the news from there is not so good."

All 17 Israeli athletes competing at the 2002 European championships, as well as relatives of victims of the 1972 killings, took part in a memorial ceremony at a monument erected outside the stadium.

Averbukh, who was flanked by three security guards at the championship when he wasn't on the field, cleared the bar on his first attempt at 5.85 metres, smashing his season's best of 5.72. He then made a single attempt at 5.95 metres, four centimetres higher than his own Israeli record, but after failing once, he chose instead to celebrate his medal with a series of somersaults on the track.

Though he has only been competing in Israel for the past four years, Averbukh says he already feels strongly about his adopted country. "I feel 50 per cent Israeli, 50 per cent Russian," said Averbukh, who lives in Tel Aviv with his wife, Natasha, and seven-year-old daughter, Tanya, when he is not training abroad.

Averbukh, who had never jumped over 5.70 metres before moving to Israel, rarely delivers during the season but has a reputation for coming through at big events. He won the bronze at the 1999 World Championships in Seville three days after receiving his Israeli citizenship, and won the 2000 European indoor title before clinching silver at the last World Championships in Edmonton.

Averbukh's personal best is a jump of 5.91 metres. The world outdoor record of 6.14 metres is held by Ukrainian Sergei Bubka, now retired.

With his new coach Valery Kogan – who used to train Rodion Gataulin, one of the few six-metre pole-vaulters – Averbukh doesn't train much in Israel because it is too hot.

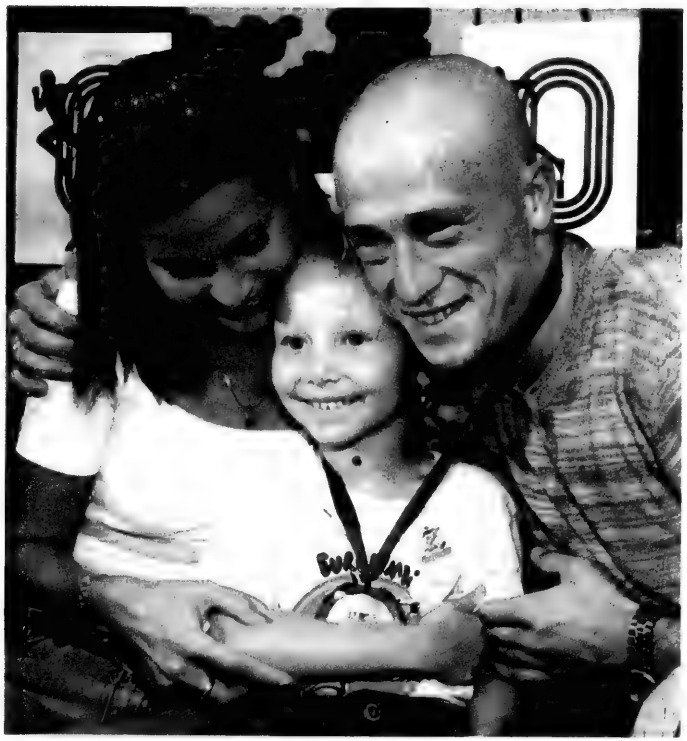
"Alex is the most talented of all the vaulters I have trained," Kogan said. "I am very happy that we have managed to achieve our goal and win the gold medal. The fact that we did it in Munich was of great symbolic importance."

On Averbukh's return to Israel, Sports Minister Matan Vilnai awarded him a prize of NIS 70,000 (about $23,300 Cdn). Kogan received NIS 30,000 from Israel's Elite Sports Unit.

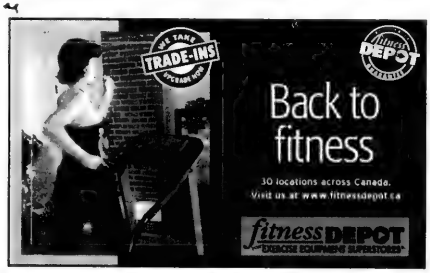
Sporting a new, shaved-head look, Averbukh said "I am very pleased and very proud of what I have achieved."

He shaved his head, he added, on a bet with a fellow competitor that he would do so if he won the gold medal.

"It was a bet, but it also symbolizes the end of an era and the beginning of another because I now want to concentrate my efforts on achieving even greater things," he said.



Alex Averbukh, along with his wife Natasha and daughter Tanya, celebrate Alex's gold medal at the European Championships. [Israel Sun photo]



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High Holy Day call to arms

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

The Jewish world is suffering. Many of our people are weary and heartbroken. They have been worn down by the stabbing screams of mourners, harmonizing with the relentless tears, flowing like a hideous blackened stream, at the funerals of our sons and daughters.

Van Gogh painted a picture called *La Siesta*. In it, a husband and wife lie together on the ground, at one against a sheaf of wheat, tired from the day's harvest. Unlike the sleepy workers, it is too early for our children to be called back to the earth, to be at one with God. So we are tired.

The tired should sleep. They should gather their strength and soon rejoin the others in the Jewish struggle we have accepted with honour and obstinacy.

Then there are the rested ones, those who have the strength of a lion and the fortitude of a bricklayer. It is their turn to accept the job of maintaining, protecting, fortifying and enriching the Jewish people.

We ask those who are rested to repair the broken nose of our parched, valiant and lonely State of Israel and to actualize the words of *Hatikvah*... to be a free nation, in our own land.

Stand up proudly – courageously – on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as you walk by the guard defending your synagogue. Don't cower at anti-Semitism. Battle it. Pace yourself. Be sensible. But be a warrior.

We need those who are rested to accept the yoke of responsibility to assist the Jews of Argentina – a community that has gone through a metamorphosis, ending in great poverty and melancholy.

The Jewish community of Argentina is collapsing. They need us, like we might need them one day.

If Toronto were experiencing what Buenos Aires is, CHAT, Bialik, Eitz Chaim, Leo Baeck and Netivot would all be closed. Thirty-six thousand families would be at Jewish Family & Child Service's door. Jews in Forest Hill might be living in tin houses.

Those who are rested cannot fail the first post-war western Jewish community to collapse under the weight of economic hideousness. They cannot forfeit the number one challenge in Judaism – loving your neighbour. Speak to your rabbi. Speak to your federation and to B'nai Brith. Speak to your social activism committee. Help them. They are Jews in dire distress.

This is a High Holy Day call to arms. Those who have fought relentlessly for decades, ensuring the continuity of the Jewish people – be they individuals or organizations – can no longer do it on their own. The battle has grown.

To be a Jew is to fight. To be a Jew is to learn and grow. To be a Jew is to spread decency. To be a Jew is to open your home and your heart to anyone in need, regardless of their demeanour, place of birth or quirkiness. We were once strangers in a strange land.

Activism and leadership are difficult. Initially, Moses turned them down.

In 5763, commit to emulating the warriors in our neighbourhood who refused to go home, even when the war is seemingly ending. To be a Jew is to sleep restlessly. To be a Jew is to receive back our souls, with God's faith, upon wakening. That is our lot. That is what we must accept. *L'shana Tovah*. Happy New Year.

If the community is in trouble, a person must not say, "I will go home, and eat and drink, and my soul will be at peace." A person must share in the concerns of the community as Moses did. Those who share in the community's troubles are worthy to see its consolation. – Talmud, Ta'anit

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1/2 tsp. coarsely chopped pepper
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2 medium zucchini
1 large head radicchio
8 small plum tomatoes
2 medium heads Belgian endive
1 lb. jumbo mushrooms

In small bowl, mix lemonade concentrate, salt, thyme, pepper & 2 tblsp. oil. Set aside. Cut zucchini and endive lengthwise in halves. Cut radicchio into 6 wedges. Trim stems from mushrooms. Toss all vegetables in 1/4 cup oil. Cook vegetables on med. to low heat, turning occasionally in oven at 425°F. (radicchio, zucchini and endive about 20 mins., tomatoes about 15 mins., mushrooms about 10 mins.) Arrange vegetables on platter. Pour lemonade mixture over hot vegetables.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

Janice and I have been friends for as long as I can remember. She is a wonderful person with a heart of gold.

Though she is very bubbly and loves to talk, unfortunately, she also has a big mouth. She repeats almost any and all secrets. She gossips and doesn't even realize she is doing it. It is almost like she can't help herself.

Last week, when she was over at the house, she overheard a phone conversation I was having. I didn't think in my wildest dreams that she would repeat the information she heard, but she did. I was devastated. I never thought she would breach my confidence. I was very hurt and told her so but she dismissed the whole conversation and said I was making too much of the incident. I don't want to have to watch everything I say around her. What do I do?

Gossip Gloom

Dear Gossip Gloom,

It's very sad that Janice has hurt you. She has betrayed your confidence and lost your trust.

It seems Janice has no idea how damaging gossip can be. It may be fun for her at the time because she may get a rise from the person she is gossiping to, but think of what happens when the deed is done. It begins to spread like a disease. It is painful and there are no pills to help. It is verbal violence, and by the time the victim has realized the attack, the damage is done and there is seldom a cure.

Gossip hurts. It is designed that way. An innocent story snowballs and becomes a spreading rumour and often ends up as a vicious lie that damages the reputation of others who have no chance to defend themselves.

Janice has to stop. She is not doing herself any favours by gossiping and it serves no constructive purpose. Explain to her you can't speak freely around her anymore. Give her examples and be firm. She can't be a good friend to you if you can't confide in her. Gossip has been known to ruin relationships and I hope yours can overcome this nasty disease. Janice needs to realize she has a problem and want to fix it.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

Crossword Puzzle

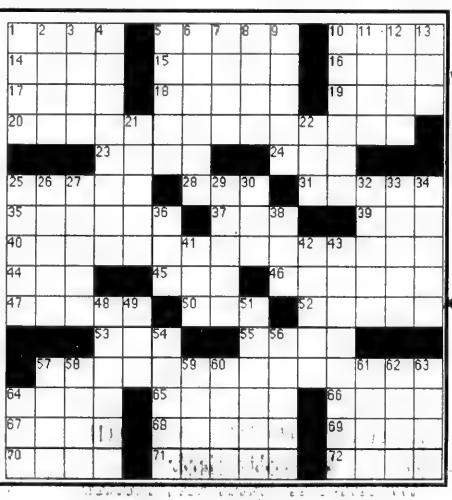
(Answers to the crossword are on page 50.)

Stars of Stage and Screen

© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Sobs
5. Drills
10. Singer-guitarist Cheryl
14. Siamese king's teacher
15. 'Welcome to Sarajevo' actress Nusevic
16. One-fourth, in Afula
17. Cache away
18. Stand-up Bruce
19. Relating to the ear
20. Star of 'Private Benjamin', directed 'The Apartment', Star of 'Star Wars'
23. Former U.N. Secretary-General
24. Poetic contraction
25. Blasé feeling
28. Could be outpouring in a bar
31. Fur czar
35. Anne Bronte poem
37. Actress Sandra
39. Meter leader
40. Starred in 'Forum', starred in 'Opera', starred in 'Banana'
44. '___ Slow Boat to China'
45. Goes well with 49 Down
46. Inferior Levantine carpet
47. Ait
50. Followed by line makes this tasty
52. In the thick of
53. Saint, Portugese style
55. Popular deli sandwich, for short
57. Starred in 'Russians', directed 'The Duel'
64. Healing plant
65. "You're ____!" ("You're history!")
66. Drug or Internet
67. Reputation, Shakespeare style
68. "____ as a mad hen", malaprop-wise
69. Boston Post Road's hwy. sign
70. They may add a shine to 72 Across
71. Chase group
72. They may smile at 70 Across, or not

Down
1. Bad cut
2. Pier or pilaster type
3. Enough, Coleridge style
4. Small garden statue?
5. Show to be false
6. Breakfast dish
7. Lemon or lime peel
8. Sea eagle
9. Pennsylvania city
10. Emulates Bing
11. In front of "o", this means going back
12. Roman poet
13. Air Force auxil.
21. Demand crankily
22. Sible starter makes it possible
25. "And me", Miss Piggy-speak
26. Middays
27. Infatuation or drip
29. Legendary Robin of Scots' song
30. ___ annum
32. Hauled
33. Norse god and namesakes
34. Color used by painters
36. Stately tree
38. Alibi, abbrev.
41. Chart
42. Thin layer (var.)
43. Old World capital
48. Glacial depositions
49. Goes very well with 45 Across
51. Gets up
54. In store
56. Starred in'Gypsy'
57. M*A*S*H* actor
58. Five and a half yards, old English
59. Kakha-kakha, in English
60. Animal parts
61. This, in Spanish
62. Part of a movie!
63. Dumas' cardinal was "I'eminence ___"



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This Week

National

New kippah: Benjamin Lax was one of thousands drawn to the Israel Mall.
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Ashkenaz returns to Harbourfront with a *klapp*.
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Netanyahu to help launch Winnipeg CJA campaign.
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On Campus

Many changes in store for U of T students this fall.
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MONTREAL MACCABI: Young athletes from around the world participated in the JCC Maccabi games last week in Montreal. *Full coverage next week.* *[Ryan Blau photos]*

German pensions extended

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canada and Germany were set to sign a treaty earlier this week that will give eastern European Jews of German ancestry the right to German government pensions.

The agreement, which will not be implemented until early 2003, will likely affect only a handful of Jews living in Canada, but it will right a wrong that has seen similarly situated Jews in Israel and the United States receive German pensions, say community officials who pushed for its adoption.

> ***'Moral issue that transcends numbers'***

"We know this agreement will only benefit a few people in this country," said Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy. "But for us this is a moral issue that transcends numbers."

The Supplementary Pension Agreement was to be signed Tuesday in Toronto by Jane Stewart, minister of Human Resources and Development Canada, and German Ambassador to Canada Christian Pauls. Under the agreement, Germany will pay pensions to people who were driven out of their homelands in eastern Europe in the 1930s and 1940s.

Following World War II, Germany agreed to pay pensions to ethnic Germans who had been forced from their homes and to include their time in their previous homelands in pension calculations. To qualify, applicants had to be ethnic Germans and residing in Germany.

Continued on page 34

Greater Toronto Area

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Israel's chief of staff assesses security situation — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Advisory Renewed

OTTAWA — The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade earlier this month reissued a travel report advising Canadians to defer all tourist travel to Israel "due to the risk of terrorist activity." In March, the department upgraded its advisory to its current level from a previous warning to Canadians to consider deferring tourist travel. A spokesperson said the situation in Israel since March "hasn't improved, so the level of advice hasn't changed." The department advises Canadians in Israel "to avoid crowded places and not use public surface transport."

ISRAEL

Shoes Make Aliyah

JERUSALEM — Israeli Chief Rabbi Meir Lau and cabinet minister Danny Naveh were among those welcoming U.S. shoemaker Florsheim Shoes at the opening of its first Israeli outlet in Jerusalem's Center One mall earlier this month. "It is important... to recognize those companies who, despite the situation, continue to believe in the strength of our economy and the spirit of our people," Naveh said at the opening.

Immigration Worries

JERUSALEM — Some two-thirds of immigrants who have arrived in Israel from the former Soviet Union (FSU) this year are not Jewish, according to figures released last week by the Interior Ministry. From January 2002 to July 2002, 9,367 immigrants arrived from the FSU, of whom 5,508 were non-Jews. From 1989 until 2002, 859,502 immigrants arrived from the FSU, of whom 239,682 were not Jewish. Interior Minister Eli Yishai said the figures point to the need for an immediate change to the Law of Return, or else "by the end of 2010, the State of Israel will lose its Jewish identity."

Egged to Sue Arafat

JERUSALEM — Egged, Israel's national bus company, plans to sue Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for damages from bombing attacks. An Egged official said last week the company has lost $86 million (US) since the latest intifadah began in September 2000. More than 100 passengers have been killed and 600 wounded in attacks on its buses since then, Egged said.

Human Shield Ruling

JERUSALEM — Israel's High Court issued a temporary injunction last week barring the army from using "human shields" to tell terrorists to come out of hiding. The court gave the army one week to explain the tactic. The court was responding to petitions filed by human rights groups protesting the practice of sending a Palestinian into a building where a suspect is believed to be hiding to relay a surrender request. A petition was filed after an incident in the West Bank in which a 19-year-old Palestinian was allegedly forced to summon a wanted Hamas member, who was killed by gunfire.

WORLD

Agunah *Get* Day

NEW YORK — The Brooklyn based group L'Maan Bnos Yisrael International, which helps agunot and their children, is holding its fourth annual Agunah *Get* Day on Sept. 10. "Jews all over the world are challenged to encourage recalcitrant husbands to do tshuvah and give their agunah wives a get before Yom Kippur." The group is also encouraging Jews worldwide to pray for agunot on Erev Rosh Hashanah.

Supremacists Rally

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The neo-Nazi National Alliance was scheduled to hold a large demonstration and a "Rock Against Israel" white power music concert this past Saturday outside the U.S. Capitol. Hundreds were expected to attend, and a counter-demonstration by anti-racist skinheads and others was also planned. The National Alliance has staged several anti-Semitic demonstrations outside the Israeli Embassy in the past year.

Supremacists Shunned

BERLIN — Fewer young Germans are joining neo-Nazi groups, says an expert on the subject. The decrease in support comes as young Germans are showing decreased interest in politics generally, says Klaus Hurrelman, who conducted a recent survey of 2,500 Germans aged 12 to 25.

Comic book character 'The Thing' is Jewish

NEW YORK — A famous Marvel Comics superhero has finally revealed his Jewish roots.

In a recent issue of the Fantastic Four comic book series, Benjamin "The Thing" Grimm returned to his Lower East Side neighbourhood in New York City to return a Jewish Star he stole from a Jewish shopkeeper.

After The Thing recites the *Shema*, the shopkeeper asks him whether he had been ashamed of his Jewishness all these years.

"I don't talk it up, is all," The Thing replies. "Figure there's enough trouble in this world without people thinkin' Jews are all monsters like me."

Marvel founder Stan Lee and the other creators of the character, who themselves are Jewish, made The Thing Jewish when they created him in 1961, a Marvel Comics spokesperson said.

In the final panels of the comic book, a villain tells The Thing, who is orange and rock-like, that he doesn't look Jewish.

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Israel Mall draws thousands of shoppers

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For hours people lined up in the hot summer sun, standing in a queue four or five across that snaked its way from the doorway of a north Toronto plaza for a couple of hundred metres all the way to Finch Avenue.

On Finch, latecomers found themselves in traffic jams resembling a mid-week rush hour, while early birds waited patiently to enter the 7,000-square-foot premises of the former Seneca College campus and purchase made-in-Israel items from visiting Israeli merchants.

Altogether, 10,000 Torontonians are believed to have filed into the Israel Mall on opening day on Sunday last week, with thousands more visiting the temporary shopping site on subsequent days.

The Israel Mall, one of a dozen similar Israeli shopping experiences set up in North American cities this summer, was, by any measure, a success. Thousands plunked down hard cash to purchase Israeli-made merchandise – much of which was not otherwise available in Toronto – while cash-strapped Israeli vendors racked up sales to help keep their businesses afloat.

The mall nourished both body and soul, organizers suggested. Besides helping Israeli businesses experiencing financial difficulties, it provided relief to Canadian Jews who are concerned about the welfare of ordinary Israelis and looking for a way to come to their aid.

Above: People lined up to get into the Israel Mall on opening day and then checked out the merchandise. Left: Benjamin Lax shows off his new kippah. [Jacob El-Baz photos]

The Israeli economy has been hit hard by the Palestinian uprising, now nearing the end of its second year. Tourist traffic has dried up and even Israelis are staying home, afraid to venture out to crowded markets and to spend money in uncertain economic times.

The inevitable results have been layoffs, business closures and scaled-back activities.

Izzy Kaplan is a frequent visitor to Israel. As owner of Israel's Judaica Centre, he travels there often on buying trips. In the last six months, he's seen the mood among merchants deteriorate.

"It's sickening to watch people with healthy businesses get depressed. People are not even coming in to say hello anymore."

As a self-described "do-er," Kaplan decided to take action. He had heard of Israel Fairs in some U.S. cities and decided if Canadians are no longer travelling to Israel as they once did, Israeli merchants should bring their wares to Canadians.

For the past few months, Kaplan has been pulling the project together, helped by a small cadre of volunteers led by Eli Poch. Eventually the Toronto Zionist Council, UJA Federation and B'nai Brith Canada came on board.

The response in Israel was also positive. "There was a lot of interest and a lot of people wanted to come," Kaplan said. "Before we knew it, we had something going."

In the end, some 25 Israeli merchants shipped their wares to Toronto. Another 30 or more were eager to participate but couldn't be accommodated.

Continued on page 16

Our Mission is Israel

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October 13-20 & November 3-10, 2002 – Heart to Heart Missions – B'nai Brith Canada and Christians for Israel: strategic assessment of border areas; meet IDF personnel and senior government officials. Families welcome. Contact: Uniworld Travel & Tours: 416-493-3322 ext. 356 or Sunworld Tours: 403-245-9181

October 20-November 3, 2002 – Sar-El (Volunteers for Israel) – A volunteer program hosted by IDF. Contact: 416.781.6089

November 10-21, 2002 – Community Solidarity Mission – Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation – An independent solidarity community mission, including Eilat. Contact: Peerless Travel, 905.886.5610

November 19-28, 2002 – Hadassah-Wizo Mission. Contact: Lily Frank at 514.937.9431

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Welcome Sephardi music

From the editor's desk

King David was described as the "sweet singer of Israel." He was not, of course, the first of Israel's singers, only the most famous of the "early" ones.

The first recorded song in the Bible, no pun intended, was the exultant, cathartic Song of the Sea, led by Moses' sister, Miriam, a celebration of God's miracle in the splitting of the Sea of Reeds.

Song, melody and harmony are part of the deep structure of Jewish prayer and soulfulness. They are also a faithful chamber of Jewish history, in which the myriad echoes of diverse Jewish experience, wherever lived, glorious and melancholy, reverberate for succeeding generations to hear and from which to be moved and to learn.

It is thus too important a development not to mention the imminent arrival of three new additions to the growing corpus of recorded music of the Sephardi tradition.

* * *

The debut album of *The Sons of Sepharad* is about to be released. The "sons" are Aaron Bensoussan, Gerard Edery and Albert Mizrahi. Along with oudist George Mgrdichian, percussionist Rex Benincasa and clarinetist Francois Houle, they comprise one of the most exciting new groups and stylists of Jewish music.

Born in Morocco, Bensoussan, the cantor of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue in Toronto, has a lyrical tenor voice that often soars enthusiastically and evocatively to emotional heights.

Edery, also Moroccan, is the vocal anchor of the trio. His classically trained baritone voice provides the weighty ballast to the harmonies.

And Mizrahi, born in Greece, brings to the group a lusty tenor voice of great power and sensitivity.

Together, the three "sons" entertain and inspire with an history-tugging repertoire that encompasses Ladino, Greek, Turkish, Arabic, Hebrew and even English renditions of age-old, traditional melodies and the occasional modern creation.

In good "ecumenical" and "cross-cultural" example, the group will be featured in Toronto at the upcoming Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture on Sept. 2, at 235 Queens Quay West.

* * *

The renowned teacher, composer, chazzan, musician and researcher Solly Levy is co-ordinating the production of a three-volume anthology of northern Morroccan liturgy. The first volume, entitled *The Yamim Noraim Cantata*, was released this week just ahead of this year's Yamim Noraim.

Collaborating with Levy on the second and third volumes is singer/songwriter, teacher and ethnomusicologist Judith Cohen.

Levy's project is an ambitious effort to document not only music and liturgy, but the heritage of an entire distinct culture of the Jews who once inhabited northern Morocco. He undertook the project in honour of the late father of the chief rabbi of the Sephardi Rabbinate of Ontario, Rabbi Amram Assayag, who passed away two years ago and was one of the few individuals of his generation in this part of the world who retained personal knowledge of the countless colourful melodies that comprised the rich fabric of devout Jewish life in Morocco.

As the many Diaspora Jewish traditions lose their distinctiveness and meld at the edges, if not also at the cores, into a melange of integrated, modern Jewish culture, the Levy project assumes even greater importance.

The *Yamim Noraim Cantata* is available through the Sephardi Educational Foundation of Canada. Call 905-669-7654, ext. 247.

* * *

The Jewish community of Italy in the 15th-17th centuries was not Sephardi, though it included Sephardi Jews. There was, however, a vibrant Jewish community there at the time. Some were known as *Italkim*, or Italian Jews, many of whom could trace their lineage to the Jews who settled in Rome during the Hasmonean rule of Eretz Yisrael, or who arrived as slaves in the second century AD. Jews also settled in Italy after the expulsions from Spain and Portugal and as a result of migrations from central and eastern Europe and from the Levant further east.

Lady Take a Lover Now, produced by Benjamin Wolff of Endpin Records, is an innovative, ambitious undertaking that reproduces a sampling of the music and poetry of the Jews of the ghettos of Italy during the period of the Renaissance. It features the music and poetry of the most famous artists of the Jewish community of that time: Salamone Rossi, Leone de Modena, Joseph Tzarfati, Jacob Frances, Moshe ben Joab and Immanuel of Rome.

The CD's title is taken from the last line of the first poem recited on it, *Octavas to Felicia*, by Joseph Tzarfati, the talented 16th-century physician, philosopher and mathematician.

The publicists describe the CD as a "time capsule in sound, revealing the words and melodies of a Jewish community living in a vibrant culture and unparalleled age." It is an apt description.

—*MBD*

SeeJN

SMILING SAR-EL VOLUNTEERS:

Gord Garshowitz, (left) Sheila Weinberg and Jerry Weinberg take a minute from their duties as volunteers on the IDF army Base Batzap, just south of Ramle. They were part of a group of volunteers from Canada in the Sar-El program, which offers North Americans the opportuntiy to help out, in various ways, on an IDF base in Israel.

Israeli journalist outlines a nightmare scenario

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In Israel's nightmare scenario, events unfold something like this: The United States launches its long-anticipated war in Iraq to unseat Saddam Hussein. Saddam reacts by firing Scud missiles against Israeli population centres, but unlike during the 1991 Gulf War, this time they are armed with chemical or biological warheads.

At the same time, a Palestinian suicide bomber straps explosives to his waist. Like dozens of aspiring "shaheeds" (Islamic martyrs) before him, he finds a densely populated civilian target and detonates the bomb. But instead of merely strewing deadly shards of metal and iron bolts in all directions, this time the explosives spread chemical or biological agents, supplied by Iraq. The result is a health catastrophe.

Unable to withstand that level of attack, Israel retaliates with nuclear weapons – just as it has threatened to do in recent weeks. Iraq is devastated.

Bad enough to be sure, but things could get worse.

On Israel's northern border, Syria opens a second front. Hezbollah, armed with a variety of missiles able to reach as far as Haifa, launches a barrage against population centres. Israel retaliates, and a regional war is ignited.

Dan Diker has been observing the Israeli scene quite closely and believes Israeli military strategists are planning for just such eventualities.

A correspondent and analyst for Channel 1 News on Israeli television as well as a columnist and Internet radio host (on www.jpost radio.com), Diker said his contacts in the military and intelligence establishment tell him Iran and Syria are co-operating to arm Hezbollah with chemical weapons.

Given the 150 missile warheads that can reach as far as Haifa and the 8,500 warheads, including Katyushas, that Hezbollah has in its arsenal, the chance of a wider war is quite real, he said.

Dan Diker

Israel, he continued, is not without defences. Israeli experts believe their Arrow anti-missile system can intercept Iraqi warheads in mid-flight. As well, concern over a massive Israeli retaliation could well deter Syria from embarking on a military adventure. And a Palestinian "mega-attack," long anticipated by Israeli security forces, has not yet occurred.

But Diker said Iraq is certainly involved in arming Palestinian terrorists.

"The relationship of Iraq to the Palestinian Authority is very clear. [Saddam] is the father saint of suicide bombers," he said, adding that Palestinians danced on rooftops during the Gulf War when Iraq hit Israel with Scud missiles.

Diker, who was in Toronto recently as a guest of UJA Federation, said if Israel experiences a nightmare scenario, the regional status quo will likely not hold.

"There is the possibility of a population shift, like in 1948. If the Palestinian Authority proves to be involved [in a mega-attack], it's possible hundreds if not thousands of people will be deported," he said.

"Israeli society is at the end of its rope," he continued. It has experienced an unprecedented wave of terrorist attacks. Eight hundred and sixty people have been killed and more than 5,000 wounded since the Oslo agreement was signed in 1993, more than all the terror victims in the 35 years prior to Oslo, he said.

Putting that number in perspective, Diker said it would be as if 48,000 Americans had been killed in the last nine years.

Diker, who addressed a variety of audiences during his brief Toronto visit, said the U.S.-Israeli relationship is as strong as it's ever been. Part of that is due to the fact U.S. President George W. Bush is a deeply devout Christian and draws important support from a strongly pro-Israel Christian constituency.

In addition, he said, an influential "Republican Jewish leadership" is emerging, paralleling a dramatic shift in the U.S. Jewish community away from the Democratic Party to the Republicans.

Much of that shift has occurred since Sept. 11, when many Jewish community leaders recognized "the failure of the Clinton administration to address militant Islam."

Based on his discussions in Canada, Diker believes Canadian Jews have likewise come to the "absolute understanding that Oslo was a catastrophic failure."

Since Oslo was the brainchild of "hard-core left-wing ideologues," such as Yossi Beilin and Shimon Peres, Israel's Labour Party has suffered a dramatic loss of support, he said.

Meanwhile, Diker's political sources in Likud tell him that if Shas leaves the current coalition government over fiscal cuts to its pet projects, Israel could see elections as soon as January. His sources in Labour tell him that party could leave the coalition by November.

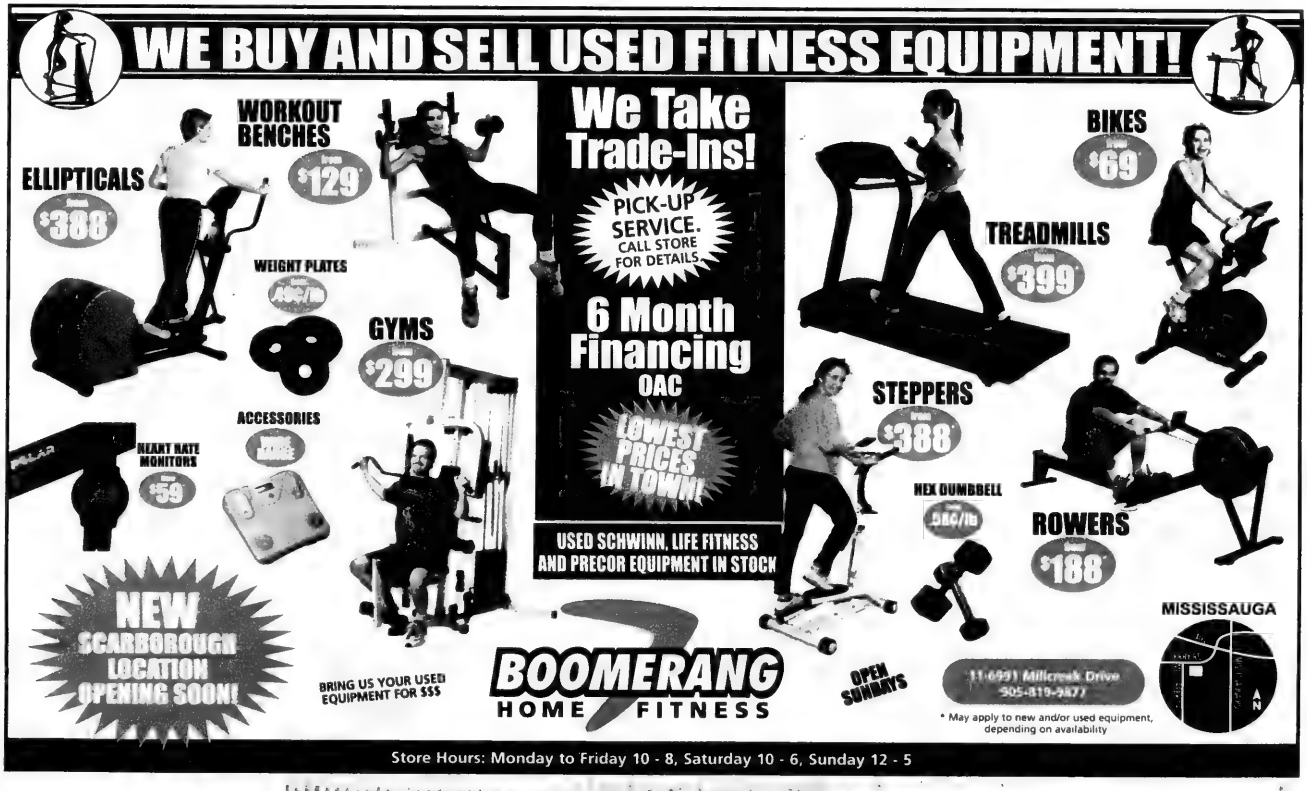
Turning to what he calls "the new media warfare," Diker said the Palestinian political class has become adept at manipulating the media.

"They have made a strategic decision to use the media in their own society to glorify children blowing themselves up in the name of God… and that has become a TV event."

The result is one society mobilizing to destroy a neighbour's civil society.

Diker rejected suggestions suicide killers are driven by frustration over their socio-economic conditions. On the contrary, he said, suicide bombers are largely drawn from middle class families and are well educated and multi-lingual, just like the Sept. 11 terrorists.

They turn into human bombs for the "glorification of being a shaheed."



Ashkenaz returns to Harbourfront with a *klapp*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture is back.

After a three-year hiatus, it returns to Harbourfront on Aug. 31 for a three-day extravaganza of music, dance, film, theatre, storytelling, visual arts, literature and lectures.

Advertised as the world's largest festival of its kind, the fourth Ashkenaz Festival, presented by the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, is inspired by the wisdom of the past and the creativity of the present.

Most of the performances will be free.

More than 70,000 people attended the last Ashkenaz in 1999.

This year's festival, which is funded by private and public organizations as well as various levels of government, is expected to draw more people than ever before, said artistic director Mitchell Leonard Smolkin.

Although the upcoming edition will be shorter by five days, "it will be just as intense artistically," he promised.

Smolkin said the festival will offer "the most unique and comprehensive look at contemporary Yiddish and Jewish culture in Canada and North America."

The acts include Di Naye Kapelye, a klezmer band from Hungary; *Letter to My Father*, a play by Alon Nashman about Czech novelist Franz Kafka, and a series of dance pieces by choreographer Allen Kaeja.

The lineup of performers:

Adrienne Cooper, a Yiddish vocalist, has 20 recordings to her credit, including *Partisans of Vilna*, the only Yiddish song ever nominated for a Grammy.

Anthony Coleman, a pianist, straddles the divide between heavy jazz and soulful klezmer.

The Cracow Klezmer Band from Poland blends traditional Jewish and Balkan music with contemporary jazz.

David Krakauer, a clarinetist, is a major klezmer musician.

Yale Strom, a filmmaker, writer and violinist, presents a movie – *The Last Klezmer* – and reads from his latest book.

Josh Dolgin, an accordionist and pianist, merges the rhythms of hip-hop with traditional Jewish music to create a post-modern style of klezmer.

Khevrisa – the Old Jewish Klezmer Ensemble – swings to the beat of a fiddle, kontra fiddle, cymbal and bass.

Klezmer En Buenos Aires combines elements of Argentine folk music, jazz, contemporary music and tango.

Susan Sandler and **Elaine Hoffman Watts** form a mother-daughter klezmer band.

Mitchell Leonard Smolkin

Klezperanto's repertoire blends zydeco, rockabilly, New Orleans funk, samba, Yiddish tunes and jazz standards.

Kurt Bjorling, the lead clarinet in the Chicago Klezmer Ensemble, reaches back to klezmer traditions.

The Songs of Sepharad features Aaron Bensoussan, Gerard Edery and Alberto Mizrahi and draws on Ladino, Greek, Turkish, Arabic and Hebrew melodies.

Zalmen Mlotek, an authority on Yiddish folk and theatre music, appears in *Yiddishland*, an exploration of Yiddish music.

Beyond the Pale, a Toronto-based klezmer band, released the CD *Routes*, which was nominated for a Canadian Independent Music Award as world album of the year in 2001.

Finjan, a classical/klezmer ensemble from Winnipeg, marks its 20th anniversary this year.

Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, established by David Buchbinder in 1987, has four CDs to its credit, notably *Tsirkus* and *Fire*.

From Both Ends of the Earth mixes traditional Yiddish and Ukrainian genres.

Judith Cohen, an authority on Sephardi music, performs on bowed vielle, 'ud and dulcimer.

Mitchell Leonard Smolkin, Ashkenaz's artistic director, presents an array of Yiddish music from early Yiddish theatre in New York City.

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir draws on composers who reflect the spirit of the modern Jew.

Theresa Tova, a Canadian actress and playwright, starred in the Stratford Festival production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and in the Lincoln Center's *An Evening of Yiddish Divas*.

Dos Naye Lid, by composer Milton Barnes, is a piece of music in five parts.

Jewish Luck, a 1925 classic of Soviet silent film, is based on a Shalom Aleichem story and stars Yiddish State Art Theatre actor Solomon Mikhoels.

Alter explores the Diaspora through film, slide projection and live sound.

The Trials of John Demjanjuk, a play by Jonathan Garfinkel, probes the nature of guilt and retribution.

The White Challah, by Lamed Shapiro, is about a Christian soldier and the trials he endures.

Seder, written and directed by Rebecca Brown, is an epic musical that uses Exodus as a thematic setting.

2001: A Space Mishegas, by Joanne Borts, Michael Fox and Zalmen Mlotek, is geared to kids.

Anna Shternshis, a professor of Yiddish and Yiddish literature at the University of Toronto, delivers a lecture on Yiddish folksongs in the Soviet Union during the 1930s.

Sylwia Szymanska, a professor of Yiddish language at the University of Warsaw, gives a lecture on Poland and the Holocaust.

Chava Rosenfarb, a poet, playwright and novelist, lectures on Yiddish literature.

This year's Ashkenaz parade, created by Shadowland Theatre and Ashkenaz artists, will be led by David Buchbinder and Toronto's Samba Squad.

"The parade will encompass pageant elements – static plots and driven segments – and will circle Harbourfront," said Smolkin.

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Back to school

Irrespective of era, place or generation, *talmud* Torah, studying Torah, was always one of the highest community priorities. Indeed, following the destruction of the Temple, when Jews were forced to contend with life in exile, compulsory education of our children was introduced by the wise leaders of the community.

Over time and the millennia of Jewish existence and custom, the importance of talmud Torah, inculcated into the Jewish soul and psyche from the earliest days of our peoplehood, evolved into a wide reverence for learning and studying in general. Whether it was for its own sake, or for the sake of doing good deeds, the pursuit and advancement of knowledge – studying, learning – were always accorded great deference and respect in the Jewish world.

Learning at any age and at all ages was encouraged. But there was always a keen recognition that the most meaningful learning occurred during the younger ages. Thus, Abayé, the ancient sage of mishnaic times, said: "The lessons of youth are not easily forgotten." And about a thousand years later, the Andalusian scholar Ibn Gvirol, colourfully expanded on Abayé's dictum: "Learning in old age is like writing on sand; learning in youth is like engraving on stone."

Next week, our youngsters bring out their chisels and hammers and once again start engraving new lessons into the stone of their lifelong learning. School is back.

But it is not only to wish our children well in the academic year ahead that these words are written, though that is also our purpose. Rather, it is to remind the older generation – we, their parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts – that the challenges our children face are many, whether in elementary, middle, secondary or post-secondary school, and that with our support, their chances of success improve immeasurably. That support, of course, must be multi-faceted: material, emotional, communal, individual, comprehensive and unstinting.

But it is in relation to one challenge in particular that we write today: the anti-Israel, sometimes even anti-Semitic, atmosphere that some of our children face on campus.

Reports have already surfaced about potential problems. At the University of Toronto, the Arts & Science Student Union dedicated its annual Anti-Calendar this year to murdered "innocents" in Afghanistan and Palestine. At Concordia University, the administration has been asked by B'nai Brith to investigate the abuse of the university's own Internet server by the Student Association for Muslim Awareness, which is allegedly posting Holocaust denial and pro-jihadist Web sites on the university's network.

With the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority still roiling, with the Allied Forces still patrolling the desert and mountain ranges of Afghanistan, with the anticipation of a strike against Saddam Hussein increasing each week, there is every reason to expect another year of vile, anti-Israel agitation and propaganda on campus.

As a community and as parents, we must therefore ensure that our children have adequate resources and back-up – human, educational and financial – to respond to whatever storms may lie ahead.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones

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Remember Iranian prisoners

The article by Marlene Fine, "A Visit to Iran" (*CJN*, Aug. 8), tweaked my memory about the plight of the arrest and conviction of Iranian Jews in 1999 on trumped-up charges of spying for Israel.

At the foot of your editorial every week, you remind us of these prisoners and list their names under the plaintive headline, "Let Our People Go." I recall a well-attended rally in front of Toronto's old city hall urging participants to never forget the prisoners and remain active in calling for their release. I have written to the Iranian ambassador to Canada, but predictably, I did not receive a response. Our own foreign minister told me that Canada was monitoring the situation carefully. It will be recalled that the trials were held in secret and the accused parties were not given the choice of counsel. I urge your readers en masse to write to the Canadian foreign minister demanding the release of these wrongly imprisoned Iranian Jews.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

The power of hope

After spending five weeks in Israel, I believe it is essential that Jews throughout the world visit the Jewish State for a number of reasons: to boost its economy, to show our family there that they are not alone, and to be present at this very critical moment in Jewish history. I venture to add another equally important reason: to learn about the power of hope.

I met many extraordinary people during my stay: people like Sherri Mandell, whose son, Kobi, was killed by terrorists in May 2001. She and her husband, Seth, have recently initiated the Koby Mandell Foundation's Healing Retreat, a therapeutic program for bereaved mothers and widows of families struck by terror. I met her on the day after the opening of her special summer camp, Camp Koby, for children who have lost siblings to terrorism. She told me that it was a "beautiful thing to see." I was just amazed that she and her family had the strength to give others hope.

Just by interacting with people on the street in Israel today, one can learn from these ordinary heroes the true meaning of courage in the face of adversity. This, in turn, can give us, Jews living in the Diaspora, more strength and pride. The people whom I met, both young and old, veterans and new olim, were obviously concerned about the situation, but were determined and deeply committed to Israel. They inspired me greatly.

Janine Muller
Toronto

* * *

Can we deepen our humanity?

Some 78 years ago, in 1924, Hebrew University president J. L. Magnas was quoted as saying: "The purpose of the Hebrew University is not our assimilation among the peoples, but the absorption into Judaism of mankind's spiritual treasures, in so far as the law of the Jewish soul permits this. We want to look out upon humanity through our own eyes, unblended by a civilization that seems doomed to destruction by reason of its bondage to machinery. True to ourselves, we want to absorb and work over in our own way what humanity has to give us. We want the Jewish spiritual view of life to be deepened and broadened, so that it may help broaden and deepen the spiritual life of humanity."

After the recent bombing there, I wonder how much more humanity we have to take.

Alan Simons
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

* * *

If consulate closes

If the Israeli consulate closes, the "Jewish alliance" against the occupation will be in a quandary. They will have to decide where they will hold their shameful and downright disgusting weekly spectacles that denigrate Israel.

May I suggest a few alternative locations. How about in front of the Cavendish Mall in Cote St. Luc, or maybe the Satmar yeshiva where at least they can be among friends and supporters. Better yet, why not in a Jewish cemetery – a most fitting place to demonstrate, for if, God forbid, their dastardly ideas ever came to fruition, that's where most or all of Israel's Jews would end up.

Malcolm Barry
Montreal

* * *

Blame on both sides

If only things were so simple! In "The Mythology of Jerusalem and Oslo's Failure" (*CJN*, July 25), Gerald Steinberg lays blame for the present situation on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's failure to acknowledge the Jewish history of Jerusalem. Steinberg claims that once the Jewish connection to Jerusalem has been accepted, "the rest will be easy."

While the issue of Jerusalem cannot be overlooked, its resolution will not provide an end to the conflict. An end to the conflict will arise only when two secure states with defined and recognized borders have been established. To place so much of the blame on the issue of Jerusalem is to be dangerously naive.

The Israeli occupation, and recent re-occupation, is not alone responsible for the misery facing the Palestinian people. The corruption among Arafat and his cohorts is equally to blame. Yet in his attempt to destroy the "Palestinian terrorist infrastructure," Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is also destroying legitimate Palestinian bodies with whom he should be working to create a new Palestinian leadership. There is no easy solution. But to pinpoint Jerusalem as the cause, and therefore the solution, allows us to ignore the reality of the situation and to absolve "our side" of any responsibility.

Andrea Kwavnick
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

A simple and clear agenda for the new year

By GIL TROY

Our sages teach us that on Rosh Hashanah we celebrate the creation of the world. We dip apples in honey to symbolize both hope and thanksgiving – hope for good tidings in the coming year and thanksgiving for the wonders of the world, the blessings of creation.

This Rosh Hashanah, even as we continue to celebrate, as Jews have done throughout the ages no matter how bleak the times, we will also mark three more recent, and more sobering, anniversaries. We, along with the rest of the civilized world, will prepare to observe the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 massacres, the mass murders of thousands of innocent commuters and secretaries, computer programmers and stock brokers, in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.

We also will have just finished marking the first anniversary of the Durban debacle, last August's United Nations conference in South Africa that was supposed to be a forum against racism, but which degenerated into an orgy of anti-Semitism.

And we will prepare to observe the second anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian jihad against Israel, the deliberate decision made by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and his followers to turn away from negotiations and toward violence, a strategy that has brought great misery to Jews and Palestinians.

Tragically, these three anniversaries are interrelated. They are three manifestations of a hydra-headed monster that threatens the civilized world. Even as we acknowledge that no one in the West, Israel, the United States or even Canada, is perfect, for we are all human; and even as we recognize that all religions, including Islam, can be forces for good, we must identify the evil force of Islamism behind all three modern tragedies: the emergence of catastrophic terrorism, the resurgence of anti-Semitism, and the reversion of so many Palestinians to the crudest of methods in the Arab world's decades-long effort to destroy Israel.

It remains shocking that certain self-evident truths need to be explained again and again – that suicide bombings and other such attempts to advance political goals by targeting innocent civilians are unacceptable and must be rejected, no matter what the cause; that without that X factor – the extremist and reactionary Islamist movement – Al Qaeda and the Taliban, Hezbollah and Hamas would not have destroyed the lives of thousands of innocents over the last few years; that it is no coincidence that one of the principal Palestinian terrorist groups is called "Islamic Jihad," or that Palestinian Christians have not turned themselves into walking weapons of mass destruction – no matter how enraged they might be with Israeli policies.

This Rosh Hashanah, we must dedicate ourselves to speaking the truth, to separating legitimate political concerns from immoral terrorist methods. We must, at the start of this school year, consecrate our lives to learning the facts, to mastering the complexities, so that we can see this crazy world clearly and share our understandings with our friends and colleagues.

But in addition to learning, we need to act. We as Canadian Jews need to be purposeful, aggressive, and strategic. We need to develop an action agenda that is both effective and realistic. Hand-wringing is not enough. We have had more wake-up calls than any of us should need. All of us, young and old, rich and poor, insiders and outsiders, should unite around the following simple and clear agenda items:

• The Canadian government must revise its "list of terrorist entities" to include all branches and wings of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah.

Canadian Jews have been remarkably ineffectual in influencing the Chrétien government's Middle East policy. This is partially due to the excessive timidity of the Canadian Jewish community and partially due to the paradoxical, contradictory, herky-jerky, one-day-left, one-day-right mishmash that masquerades as the Chrétien government's policy on the Middle East. Amid this confusion, one thing is clear: If the government cannot even identify Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah as terrorist entities, despite these groups' avowed commitments to suicide bombings, let alone their professed desire to destroy the Jewish State, the government cannot honestly claim to be fighting terrorism or supporting Israel.

Focusing on this one issue, in all interactions with the Chrétien government, should make it clear that we are not fooled and that we will not be passive in the face of an outrageous deviation from the government's claim to be serious about disrupting the worldwide network of terrorism that both abuses and threatens the freedoms we enjoy in this country.

• The Canadian government should use its standing as an honest broker to push for a resolution of the Israeli hostage issue.

On Oct. 7, we will celebrate another sober anniversary: Hezbollah's kidnapping of three young Israeli soldiers on the supposedly peaceful, and UN-supervised Lebanese border. Shortly thereafter, a fourth Israeli was apparently lured to Beirut and kidnapped as well.

For almost two years, these four families – the Avrahams, the Avitans, the Souads, and the Tenenbaums – have endured the most painful of purgatories, caught in a web of rumours, clues, half-truths, and lies. There are four other families of Israeli MiAs that have endured these tortures for over a decade – the Arads, the Baumels, the Katzes and the Feldmans.

At the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., in July to launch the second printing of his book, *Why I Am A Zionist*, Gil Troy, third from left, stands with family members of Israeli MIAs. Standing, from left, are Esther Tenenbaum, Haim Avraham, Troy, Edna Avraham, Kassem Souad, a representative from the Israel Defence Forces and Hadera Souad. Seated, from left, are Ori Tenenbaum, Ziporah Avitan and Yakov Avitan.

It is hard for good people to conceive of entities such as Hezbollah that embrace cruelty as a strategy. Even if Canadian diplomats do not succeed in freeing any hostages, even if none are still alive, the simple act of raising the issue will send a message to these tortured families that they are not alone in their quest for justice, that their beloved sons are not forgotten.

• The victims of terrorism should not be forgotten.

The last two years of bombings and shootings has devastated so many individuals, families and friendship circles. We need to act, as individuals, as families, as organizations, to adopt the families of victims, or adopt recovering victims themselves. We must bomb these Israelis with love, with donations, with art work from our children, with cards, with caring, with visits – if they are inclined to receive visitors.

Each of us, either individually or as part of some functional collective, should adopt one of the unfortunates whose great crime was being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and we should do what we can for their survivors, or for them, depending on what happened when the bomb went off, the bullet flew, the mortar shell landed.

• There must be zero tolerance for anti-Semitism (as well as all forms of racism and bigotry).

This Rosh Hashanah, as we contemplate the guards in our shuls and the guards in our schools, we must turn to our neighbours and tell them: "This is not acceptable!" Our community has been threatened and we need help from fellow Christians and Muslims, from citizens and government officials. All must stand with us and be vigilant.

Imagine how powerful a statement would be made if rather than being forced to strain limited Jewish community budgets to hire security guards, we were overwhelmed by citizen patrols from mosques and from churches, from fire departments and corporations, all committed to making sure that the promise of freedom of worship and of association for all truly was fulfilled throughout this great nation.

Imagine how confusing it might be for our enemies if they knew that in contemplating Jewish targets, non-Jews would be there as well. And imagine how bonding it would be if we were to respond to such an act of friendship by reciprocating, standing by mosques and churches where Muslims or Christians might feel threatened, or figuring out another way to strike a blow against bigotry.

These four agenda items must, of course, be part of a broader effort to deepen, intensify, and actualize our support for Israel in her time of need. And while reacting, defending and responding, we must also do what we can to build, develop and envision a new and mutual friendship with Israel. Just because we are under attack does not mean that we can stop attacking other problems in our community – we must in fact redouble our efforts to renew, rebuild and transform Judaism, and to make this year not only a year of community solidarity but of communal renewal.

With our efforts, perhaps next year our prayers of hope and thanksgiving will lack this year's melancholy tinge. And regardless of what happens, if we rise to the challenges of today, at least each of us will know that somehow, in some way, despite the many troubles, we helped make things a little better, if not for the world, at least for some of its victims.

Gil Troy is professor of history at McGill University. His latest book, Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today, *has just been released in a second printing.*

A Palestinian people?

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

About a generation ago, Golda Meir, the former prime minister of Israel, made a statement that earned her derision and many enemies. She said: "There is no such thing as a Palestinian people."

She meant that there was no distinct Palestinian cultural or national identity.

Her remarks were well publicized. But what is less well-known is that way back in 1977, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organization said: "The Palestinian people does not exist. The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the State of Israel for our Arab unity."

Which is to say that the idea of a "Palestinian people" is a creation of public relations and not a historical fact.

We Jews ought to know that fiction of this kind often plays an important political role. After all, for centuries Jews have been the target of oodles of ascriptions, most of them propaganda and outright fiction, depicting us as devils incarnate or simply casting us in a negative light.

Other fiction may be somewhat less harmful, but it is still fiction. Thus, it ought to be repeated that there is really no difference between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. Only for political and tactical reasons do people – that is, mainly Arabs – speak today about the existence of a Palestinian people, since Arab national interests demand that they posit the existence of a distinct "Palestinian people" to oppose Zionism.

In a recent article, U.S. journalist Joseph Farah, a Christian Arab, had this to say: "Golda Meir was right. Her statement is validated by the truth of history and by the candid, but not widely circulated pronouncements of [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat and his lieutenants. Israel and the West must not surrender to terrorism by granting the killers just what they want – a public relations triumph and a strategic victory. It's not too late to say 'no' to terrorism. It's not too late to say 'no' to another Arab terror state. It's not too late to tell the truth about Palestine."

Again, this is a statement by a Christian Arab.

I suggest that we give this fact wide publicity. My readers can start with a mouth-to-mouth campaign: just talk about it when an opportunity presents itself – after all, that is what I am doing with this column.

Keeping silent on this issue is not helpful to the cause of truth, which is and must be our firm harness.

What I did on my summer vacation

I am a fortunate person. Over the years I have been privileged to travel to many places, to countries and cities I never thought I would see when I was a girl growing up in Bethlehem, Pa. And in every place, I have sought to see how the Jews of that city or country live – or, if they were no longer there, how they had lived their lives.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Many of these communities were in the twilight of their existence. In Isfahan, Iran, the community seemed to be living on borrowed time, the synagogue actually located below street level. Who knows what has happened to its members? In Prague, the synagogues are beautifully restored but haunted by ghosts and visited only by tourists. Baghdad, Diyarbakir (in Turkey) and so many other ancient communities are now long dispersed.

So it is with delight that one travels in North America, where communities flourish, despite the gloom of those who predict the end of the Jewish people.

I found my recent trip to Toronto a totally uplifting experience. Here is a community bursting with Jewish life in all its multiplicity. We were blessed with an invitation to a wedding of two wonderful young people at a vibrant Orthodox congregation. We davened in a Reform synagogue that has opened its doors to the homeless, giving them shelter for the night. We toured the (Conservative) Beth Tzedec Judaica Museum, a treasure for that congregation and for Toronto. We saw institutions rising in neighbourhoods both old and new.

We visited Portland, Ore., where we stopped at Beth Israel, a Reform congregation since 1858 that has a historic and magnificent heritage building, surrounded with school and family centres, and staffed by enthusiastic young people who take their Judaism seriously and practice it joyously.

Finally, we spent a week in the growing community of Ashland, Ore., where a young Reconstructionist congregation has great plans. By the time of our next visit, they will be housed in a new building, with a sanctuary, classrooms, and auditorium.

What do these communities have in common (note that I modestly kept silent about British Columbia's growing communities)? They have passion. They have commitment and strength. They have self-assurance in their Jewishness and in their place in North American society. They give to each other, and they give to the larger community through their professions, their volunteer time, and their belief in the power of Judaism to edify and transform society.

I needed to see these communities this year. The situation in Israel, which seems so intractable, stays with me night and day. Being in Israel this year was vital to me, yet at the same time painful in the extreme as we saw the empty stores and closed restaurants and the despair of Israelis who also see no end to the violence. So, to see communities in the bloom and flower of their youth was to once again realize the resilience of our people. Not only do we survive, we thrive.

I emphasize this thriving in part to offset the pain I felt at the only response I received to the letters I wrote several months ago to the heads of the United and Anglican churches in Canada in response to their biased and one-sided view of the Middle East and their failure to condemn the attacks on Israel.

I received nothing from the United Church moderator. As promised, I reprint here the only response I got, from the Anglican Primate Michael G. Peers.

He wrote: "Thank you for your letter … It is quite obvious that you and I take different perspectives on the issues underlying current events in Israel and the occupied territories. At the same time, I am grateful for your response. I hope that the conversation that was brought to an end by the decision of the Canadian Jewish Congress to withdraw from the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation will begin again, and that along with Christians and Jews of good faith, you will have an opportunity to speak and listen in true dialogue. In the meantime, I hope that, however we may disagree on degrees of responsibility, we might agree to pray for an end to violence on all sides and to act within our communities as agents of mutual understanding."

Right now, this much-sought-after dialogue seems to be a dialogue of the deaf.

CORRECTION

In Jean Gerber's column, "It's deja vu all over again" (*CJN*, Aug. 1), it was inaccurately stated that Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel has had its charitable status revoked. In fact, the organization retains its charitable status while it appeals a ruling by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Lessons from cottage country

I'm writing this from the screened-in porch of a cottage in Gimli, Man. There are a few crickets chirping outside, the gusty breeze hints at a thunderstorm and, like most Manitoba August nights, there's a slight chill in the air that dares you to make it through the evening sockless.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

Gimli is located about 50 miles north of Winnipeg (yes, there are places north of Winnipeg). The town has a thriving arts community, a strong economy bolstered by farming and fishing, an eclectic population of 1,700 or so, and spectacular scenery. It is no wonder my wife's late grandparents chose to buy this cottage here about 50 years ago.

We feel very blessed to have access to this place. My wife and I feel the stress of the city melt away as soon as we open the screen door (even though it's one of those doors that tends to close too quickly, often colliding with your heel or rear end). More importantly, our three-year-old and one-year-old love it here. They practically live outside. They get lots of backyard play time, not to mention sandcastle building and swimming at the beach and plenty of walking. This year, daughter Cari conquered the red slide at the play structure.

Earlier this summer, we also had the pleasure of visiting our aunt and uncle Gary and Ella Diamond at their summer retreat near Haliburton, Ont. Same thing. The adult stress disappeared and the kids sprang to life. Cari rode in a pedal boat and imitated the loons and her little brother Noah spent hours gleefully throwing handfuls of silt back into Lake Wenona.

A quick aside about Lake Wenona—our adult stress didn't really disappear on schedule. We discovered on the way from Pearson International Airport that highways 12 and 48 didn't just meet, they actually carried on a relationship for a few miles. When they finally broke up, we chose to stay friendly with the wrong one and ended up far out of the way in Orillia (where, if I recall correctly from the old TV commercial, an astonishingly high number of people use Anacin).

What I'm re-learning this summer is something I tend to forget as soon as I return to the nine-to-five routine. Summer tends to rekindle my passion for nature. Spending 10 minutes looking for the perfect skipping rock reminds me of how awe-inspiring, yet fragile, the planet is. The bird songs I hear in the clean air of the country awaken me to the fact there is so much more to this world than schedules, deadlines and meetings.

Our Tanach celebrates nature and heralds the beauty and wonder of all of creation. But how often as an organized community do we talk about our physical environment? When was the last time you heard a rabbi or synagogue leader encourage you to recycle? Or to take a bus to work instead of driving? Has your shul or community centre or Jewish school ever run programs on global warming, water security or pollution? I'm not suggesting these conversations never happen in a Jewish milieu; I'm just not convinced that the environment is on the A-list of topics.

With Rosh Hashanah just around the corner, we will once again be taking stock of our relationship with our fellow men and women. Have we acted morally? Have we acted honestly? How have we measured up as Jews? This year, might I also suggest that we consider our relationship with our environment. Moral behaviour and adherence to halachah are more meaningful on a healthy planet.

This year, I resolve to pay more attention to my physical surroundings—even during the stressful, overscheduled, hurry-up-and-get-inside-before-your-tongue-freezes-to-something Winnipeg winter. I begin tomorrow morning when I will wake Cari at six so that we can feed the gulls and watch the sun rise over massive Lake Winnipeg. If I forget to pay attention to nature over the winter, I'm hoping my daughter will remind me.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Iran's quest for nuclear arms alarms Israel

For more than a decade now, the United States, encouraged by Israel, has tried to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Washington's non-proliferation efforts focus on persuading Russia to desist from building a nuclear reactor for Iran in the Persian Gulf city of Bushehr. They also hinge on convincing the Russians not to sell the Iranians conventional offensive military equipment, including long-range missiles.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Bushehr, in fact, has emerged as an irritant in the United States' warming relationship with Russia.

Last February, U.S. and Russian officials ended a two-day meeting in Moscow sharply at odds over Russia's co-operation with Iran on nuclear – and missile – technology.

Then, in May, at a Moscow summit, U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin failed yet again to resolve the issue – prompting Russia's foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, to remark, "Unfortunately, Iran is a sore point in our relations."

On July 26, the simmering dispute came to a boil when Washington learned that Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov had approved plans to build three more reactors in Bushehr and an additional two reactors in Ahwaz, a town north of Bushehr.

The disclosure angered U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham. As he put it on Aug. 1, on the eve of a meeting with his Russian counterpart: "We have long been concerned that Iran's only interest in nuclear civil power, given its vast domestic energy resources, is to support its nuclear weapons program. For these reasons, we have insistently urged Russia to cease all nuclear co-operation with Iran, including its assistance to the reactor in Bushehr."

Chastened by Washington's reaction, Russia announced that it would reconsider its plans and would take "political factors" into account before expanding its assistance to Iran – a nation whose Islamic fundamentalist regime is not only unfriendly to the United States but is extremely hostile to Israel.

In the meantime, however, Russia is finishing the $800 million (US) 1,000-megawatt reactor in Bushehr. More than 1,000 Russian engineers and technicians work on the site. They are expected to install the reactor's main turbine this month.

By all accounts, Bushehr will be ready in 15 months and operational some 18 months later. Germany began building Bushehr in 1974, when Iran was governed by the pro-Western Pahlavi monarchy, which maintained a panoply of diplomatic, commercial and intelligence ties with Israel.

Germany dropped out in 1979, the year the shah was deposed by the Islamic revolution. Russia, eager to upgrade Soviet-era relations with Iran – a country rich in oil and natural gas – took over the project in 1995.

In essence, the low-grade conflict between the United States and Russia over Bushehr turns on the question of Iranian intentions.

Russia claims that Bushehr is a purely civilian plant designed to develop new energy sources, not nuclear weapons. Putin has assured Bush that Russia has no intention of undermining the process of nuclear non-proliferation. In an interview with Barbara Walters on *20/20*, he denied that Russia was helping Iran develop a nuclear capacity.

Besides, Moscow adds, Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has allowed inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit the Bushehr reactor. After their last meeting several months ago, Putin assured Bush that Russia would press Iran to allow extensive international inspection of the plant.

The United States, which has labelled Iran part of an "axis of evil" nations that seek atomic arms, fears that Tehran will use Russian equipment and expertise to pursue a secret program to produce nuclear weapons that could threaten America and its allies in Europe and the Middle East.

According to experts, neither the technology nor the spent fuel from Bushehr could be used to manufacture a nuclear device. But the same technology can theoretically be utilized to make enriched fuel for nuclear weapons. Furthermore, weapons-grade plutonium could be extracted from the spent fuel to make a nuclear bomb.

In short, Washington wants Russia to ban the export to Iran of potentially dangerous dual-use technology and to penalize private Russian companies that allegedly engage in such commerce. This has been a prime objective of American diplomacy since the days of the Clinton administration.

Russian officials, from Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev on down, have promised the United States that they will not permit Iran to gain access to spent fuel. Indeed, Russia passed legislation in 2001 requiring Iran to return spent radioactive material.

According to *The Christian Science Monitor*, Russia rejected an Iranian request to build a more robust heavy-water reactor in Bushehr. In addition, the newspaper reports, Russia turned down another Iranian request for gas centrifuges, which would have enabled Iran to produce weapons-grade material.

But the United States remains skeptical and considers Russian assistance to Iran as the single most dangerous proliferation threat.

In a monograph published by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Chen Zak, a former official in Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, claims that Iran is, in fact, developing a clandestine nuclear weapons program. She writes that the intelligence agencies of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Israel have unanimously concluded that Iran, its heated denials notwithstanding, is actively working toward that objective.

In the July 29 edition of *The Jerusalem Report*, Yiftah Shapir, a scholar who monitors the Middle East military balance for the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, argues that Bushehr will not be used for nuclear weapons programs beyond the training of a cadre of nuclear scientists. Shapir, however, suspects that Iran is constructing a secret reactor to enrich uranium for weapons use.

Israel, which itself is a nuclear power, has warned Iran that it regards Bushehr – bombed three times by Iraq during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War – as a threat to its national security.

Ha'aretz, the Tel Aviv daily, reported recently that Israel's National Security Council warned that "everything must be done... to prevent Tehran from achieving nuclear weapons capability."

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency estimates that Iran is seven years away from attaining a nuclear bomb. Israel's estimate is five years. John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a non-partisan U.S. military and intelligence research centre, believes that the moment of truth is on the horizon.

"Within the next year, either the United States or Israel is going to either attack Iran's (nuclear sites), or acquiesce to Iran being a nuclear state."

The United States and Israel are also worried that Iran, thanks to Russian and Chinese help, is acquiring the delivery systems – long-range missiles – to launch nuclear weapons. In recent years, Iran has tested the Shihab missile, which Israel regards ominously.

In the late 1990s, under American pressure, Russia cancelled three key missile technology deals. Yet Russia apparently continues to play a pivotal role in Iran's missile program.

Viewing Tehran as a crucial partner in the Middle East, Russia cemented relations with Iran in 1989 following the visit to Moscow of President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Unable to buy arms from the West as a result of U.S. sanctions, which were imposed after Iran's takeover of the American embassy in Tehran in 1979, Iran purchased MiG-29 and Su-24 combat aircraft, and three Kilo-class submarines, from Russia.

In 1995, then U.S. vice-president Al Gore and then Russian prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an agreement ending all Russian sales of conventional weapons to Iran by December 1999. The accord allowed Russia to fulfill existing sales contracts. Russia withdrew from the agreement two years ago.

Vladimir Putin

Iran's current president, Mohammed Khatami, visited Moscow last March. After Khatami's talks with Putin, Russia agreed to intensify military and technical co-operation with Iran and to supply Iran with a new batch of weaponry: BTR-80 armoured vehicles, T-62 and T-72 tanks and Su-24, Su-25 and MiG 29 combat jets. Putin, somewhat disingenuously, claimed that they were not offensive weapons.

In the wake of his meeting with Khatami, Putin told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that Russia would be careful about the kind of arms it would sell to Iran.

"Putin said they would not sell weapons that would endanger Israel," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chair of the Conference of Presidents. Yet it remains to be seen whether Putin's assurances are genuine and sincere.

In the meantime, much to Israel's distress, Iran appears to be growing stronger militarily.

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An open letter of thanks

By CHAVI ROSENZWEIG

We would like to express our tremendous gratitude to all the Jewish organizations of Toronto who in one capacity or another assisted us most capably in our time of need. Your professionalism, warmth and dedication ensured that every detail was handled with respect, dignity and precision. Your actions were truly a Kiddush Hashem. Thank you so much.

Guest Voice

Thank you to Zaka for your courageous and difficult, yet extremely holy work. Your presence in Toronto at the time of David's z"t"l (*zichrono tzaddik l'vrachah*) passing was obviously pre-ordained and for this we feel privileged and grateful.

Thank you to the dignitaries/ politicians of the Israeli government who have called us and visited us during our time of pain. Your message is clear – our pain is your pain, our grief and anguish is your grief and anguish, our loss is your loss – we are one people. We are with you. Your message and your presence have provided us with tremendous strength and comfort. Thank you. May we as a nation know of no more pain.

Thank you to Toronto City Council for the moment of silence that was observed in memory of David and for the special tribute you paid to David at meetings held on July 30, 31 and Aug. 1. The notice of condolence was deeply moving and touching. Thank you to those members of Parliament who attended the funeral and/or visited with family members at the shivah and/or sent letters of condolence.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to our rabbanim who have provided us with so much strength and direction in our darkest times. Your *hespadim* (eulogies), your advice, your knowledge and wisdom, your compassion and concern and your availability to us are most appreciated. Thank you so much.

Thank you to our cherished and beloved family and friends whose immeasurable acts of kindness, compassion, generosity, support and love have surpassed and exceeded what one may consider normal acts of familial kindness and goodness and normal acts of friendship. Words do not do justice to our feelings of appreciation for you – our dear family and friends. Your thoughtfulness and generosity of spirit in so many different ways helped us survive the darkest days of our lives. Your words of comfort, guidance, prayers, your presence at Sunnybrook Hospital, your charitable donations, community relations work, loving care of the younger children, delicious meals and comfort foods, the flowers, phone calls, letters and notes, the books you have given us, your listening ear, your hand to hold and your shoulder to cry on, your warm embrace, your presence (which in many cases involved long-distance travelling), and the security you provide for us – for all this and yet more we humbly and gratefully say thank you.

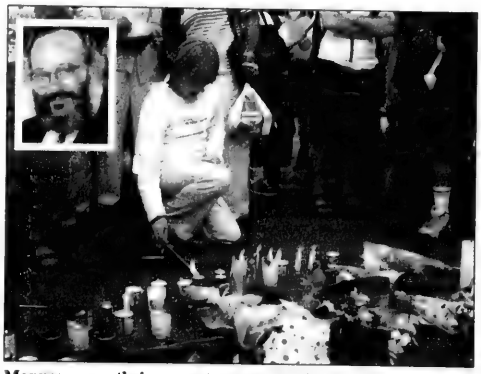
May God grant comfort and strength to all mourners and to all who endure pain and suffering and loss.

May we the Jewish people be blessed with a year of health, happiness, unity and harmony, wisdom and understanding, goodness and peace, and may we be blessed with the coming of Moshiach speedily in our days.

May David's legacy of boundless love of parents and family, goodness, kindness, gentleness, honesty, dignity and integrity, happiness and joy, Jewish pride and religious commitment, respect and love of a fellow Jew, faith and trust and hope in God live on and endure in each of us in some measure.

May David's life be an inspiration to us all and may his memory live within those of us who loved him so dearly from now until eternity.

On behalf of Chavi Rosenzweig's family, Faye Rosenzweig, Arthur and Marcee Rosenzweig and Shloimie and Miriam Rosenzweig.



Mourners pay their respect at a memorial after the slaying of David Rosenzweig (inset).

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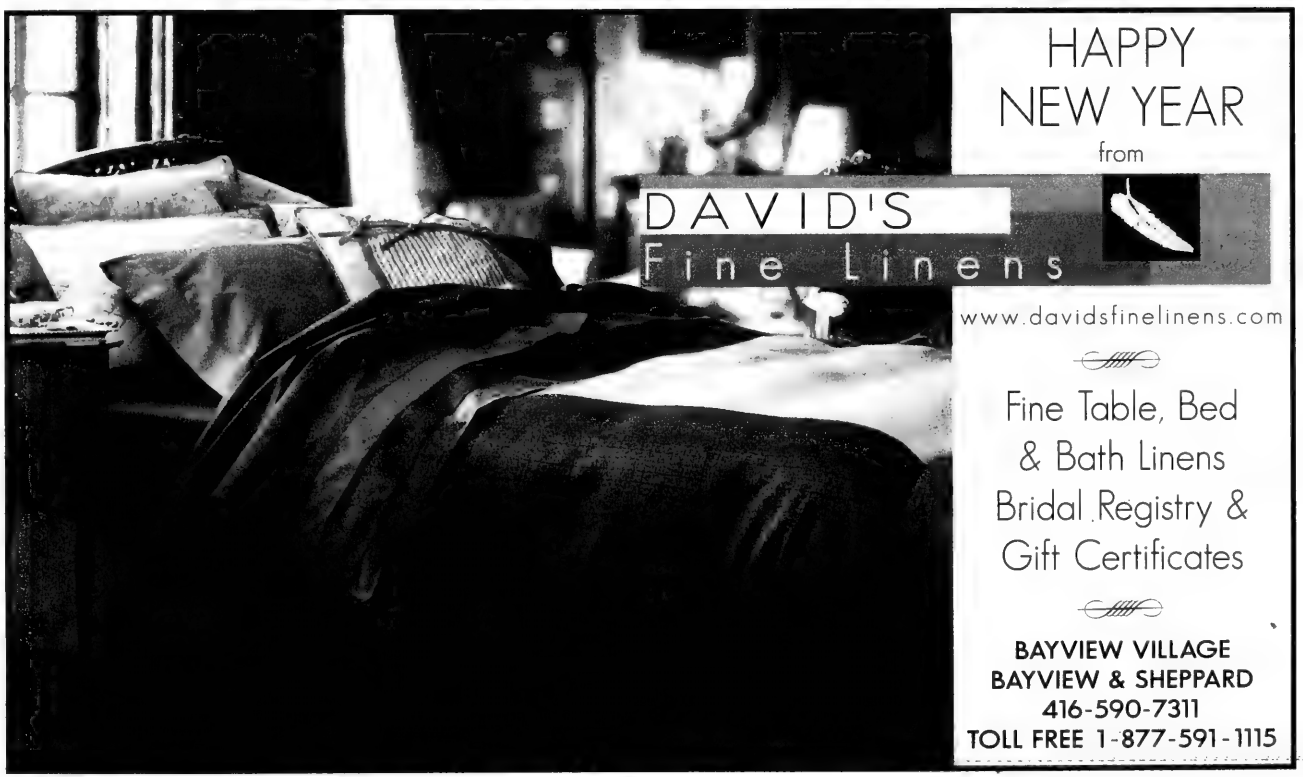
Canadian Jewish soldiers remembered

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

General Wingate Branch 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion, along with the Jewish War Veterans Post of Canada, recently held their annual memorial service at the Canadian Veterans' War Memorial at Mount Sinai Cemetery. The service is held each year before the High Holy Days in honour of Canadian Jewish soldiers who died on active duty during World War II and Israel's War of Independence, and of the partisans who fought the Nazis.

[Carolyn Blackman photo]



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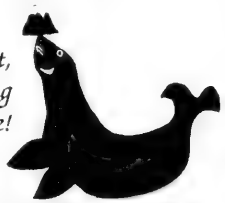

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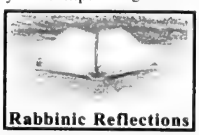
L'Shanah Tovah

Jewish Life

It takes a village to make a minyan

By RABBI YECHIEL M. GOLDREICH



Rabbinic Reflections

"You are standing today, all of you before God. Your leaders, your tribes, your elders, your officers, every man of Israel. Your wives, your children, the stranger in the midst of your camp. From the hewers of your wood to the drawers of your water, to pass united into the covenant with God." (Deuteronomy 29:9-11)

These words, received by Moses on the last day of his life, during his farewell address to the Jewish people, are read annually on the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah. The High Holy Days, when synagogues often open a back wall to make extra room, are in many ways a re-enactment of this final day. We all collectively reaffirm our core values as Jews, to pass united into the covenant with God. It's a nice reason to get together.

There is another reason why all Jews gather for High Holy Day services. Our rabbis tell us that prayers, communal as well as individual, are more likely to be met with divine favour when recited by a community.

The Talmud (Kerisus 6a) illustrates the importance of full communal involvement by stating that a prayer service not involving sinners is not acceptable before God. Somehow, these people provide an irreplaceable component to the services. According to the midrash, the hewers of wood and drawers of water were known to lack religious sincerity. Still, their presence was noted and needed.

Apparently, prayers work like a good financial portfolio. Diversification, the involvement of Jews of diverse merit, increases the chances of overall success. Insincerity and sinfulness somehow bring something to the group.

Praying alone has value and may at times feel more natural, but frankly, it is not as effective. We moderns understand very little about prayer's potency and force. We need to rely on the expertise of the ancient prayer masters who wrote our traditional services. They knew the physics of effective praying.

A few years ago, medical researchers conducted a study on the effects of prayer on a random sampling of people in hospitals suffering from a variety of ailments. The names of one group of sick people was given to worshippers. Another list of sick people were not prayed for. Significantly, the prayer recipients were not told that they were being prayed for, discounting any placebo effect.

The results found what traditional religion has long affirmed. Prayer works. The prayer recipients recovered at a significantly greater rate. One of the doctors involved in the study commented that if prayer was a medicine, we would, without hesitation, administer it. No similar all-purpose remedy works so well with so few side effects.

We may not understand the metaphysical properties of all Jews standing together, or appreciate the incomprehensible effect of words whispered, but we all know it works.

A religious intuition draws us onto buses to attend rallies for Israel, to stand in the sun, taking up a few square feet of space, expecting to be undercounted by the media. That same intuition will inexplicably draw us, even our modern wood-hewers and water-drawers, to a High Holy Day service. No matter what our stated position, we all sense and respond to the great spiritual pull that we can never completely unlearn.

During this annual time of greater religious sensitivity, may we all merit to be written and sealed in the Book of Life, and may the coming year be one of redemption.

Rabbi Goldreich is assistant rabbi at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue in Toronto.

'Jews have loved Jerusalem the most'

MYTH:

Jerusalem need not be the capital of Israel.

FACT:

Ever since King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel more than 3,000 years ago, the city has played a central role in Jewish existence. The Western Wall in the Old City — the last remaining wall of the ancient Jewish Temple, the holiest site in Judaism — is the object of Jewish veneration and the focus of Jewish prayer. Three times a day, for thousands of years, Jews have prayed "To Jerusalem, thy city, shall we return with joy," and have repeated the Psalmist's oath: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."

Jerusalem "has known only two periods of true greatness, and these have been separated by 2,000 years. Greatness has only happened under Jewish rule," Leon and Jill Uris wrote in Jerusalem. "This is so because the Jews have loved her the most, and have remained constant in that love throughout the centuries of their dispersion... It is the longest, deepest love affair in history."

"For 3,000 years, Jerusalem has been the centre of Jewish hope and longing. No other city has played such a dominant role in the history, culture, religion and consciousness of a people as has Jerusalem in the life of Jewry and Judaism," former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has written. "Throughout centuries of exile, Jerusalem remained alive in the hearts of Jews everywhere as the focal point of Jewish history, the symbol of ancient glory, spiritual fulfillment and modern renewal. This heart and soul of the Jewish people engenders the thought that if you want one simple word to symbolize all of Jewish history, that word would be 'Jerusalem.'"

MYTH:

Israel has no right to be in the West Bank. Israeli settlements are illegal.

FACT:

Jews have lived in Judea and Samaria – the West Bank – since ancient times. The only time Jews have been prohibited from living in the territories in recent decades was during Jordan's rule from 1948 to 1967. This prohibition was contrary to the Mandate for Palestine adopted by the League of Nations, which provided for the establishment of a Jewish state, and specifically encouraged "close settlement by Jews on the land."

Numerous legal authorities dispute the charge that settlements are "illegal." International law scholar Stephen Schwebel notes that a country acting in self-defence may seize and occupy territory when necessary to protect itself. Schwebel also observes that a state may require, as a condition for its withdrawal, security measures designed to ensure its citizens are not menaced again from that territory (*American Journal of International Law*, April 1970).

According to Eugene Rostow, a former undersecretary of state for political affairs in the administration of the later U.S. president Lyndon Johnson, Resolution 242 gives Israel a legal right to be in the West Bank. The resolution "allows Israel to administer the territories" it won in 1967 "until 'a just and lasting peace in the Middle East' is achieved," Rostow wrote (*New Republic*, Oct. 21, 1991).

Source: Myths & Facts online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict, *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.*

Jewish Life

Klezmer & the Internet – pt. 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at some great places to read about Klezmer online. This week, we look at ways to sample some of the world's best niggunim (tunes) right at your computer.

One of the finest online assortments of Klezmer music that I have come across is at the Ashkenaz site. There are lengthy excerpts from Ashkenaz '97, including performances by the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, the Israeli quartet Esta, Holland's Salomon Klezmorim, Boston's Naftule's Dream and much more. **[http://www.ivritype.com/ashkenaz/sounds.html]** Also, don't miss Jewishmusic.com, which offers complete selections of the best performers anywhere. Go to **[http://www.jewishmusic.com/]**, click on "Audio Library" and then "Klezmer."

Two wonderful Klezmer CD's are Itzhak Perlman's award-winning *In the Fiddler's House* and his *Live in the Fiddler's House*, which Perlman recorded with some of the best groups around, such as Brave Old World, the Klezmatics and the Klezmer Conservatory Band. (It takes a bit of work to find these links but it's worth it. You can listen to all of Perlman's first CD online and a third of the second CD. To find them, click on **[http://shlk.com/144]**, then go to the bottom of the page and click on "All Recordings".)

The Israeli-Jewish-Yiddish-Hebrew-Folk-Cultural Music Midi Free Library **[http://members.aol.com/israelmidi/index.html#FOLK]** doesn't specialize in Klezmer, but you can find a few Yiddish tunes there like *Frailakh* and *Im Zer Kotzim Koev*. Take a listen to excerpts from the Brookline, Mass., radio show, the *Yiddish Voice*. **[http://www.yv.org]** And you can hear 20 minutes of the lively fiddling of Steve Greenman online. **[http://www.klezmershack.com/demos/980822.greenfidl.am]** Steve has played with several bands in Cleveland and New York.

If you prefer to watch some Klezmer masters in the comfort of your home, rent the video *A Tickle in the Heart* (1996). The documentary profiles veteran Klezmer performers Julie, Willie and Max Epstein. Just when the eighty-something brothers tried to retire to Florida, Klezmer music enjoyed a resurgence and the Epstein brothers were stars again. The *Gazette* in Montreal called *Tickle* "one part musical history, one part *Seinfeld*, and totally enthralling." **[http://us.imdb.com/Title? 0117907]**

Less well-known is the documentary *The Last Klezmer: Leopold Kozlowski* (1995). **[http://us.imdb.com/TUrls?COM+0113610]** It follows the gifted Jewish musician on a journey through the Yiddish musical traditions of Eastern Europe. Kozlowski is a Holocaust survivor who still lives in Poland. The *San Francisco Chronicle* called the film as "soulful and elegiac as it is sweetly humorous." Another film, *A Jumpin' Time in the Garden of Eden* (1988). **[http://www.jclla.org/videoh.htm]** also looks at the early greats of Klezmer music, but then focuses on its resurgence with such bands as the Klezmer Conservatory Band and Kapelye.

Zemerl is a site that not only has a great selection of songs but also includes lyrics so that you can sing along. **[http://www.princeton.edu/zemerl/]** You can read up (and listen to) *Mekhuteneste Mayne*, which tells the story "half-joking and half-begging of a mother who is giving away a bride who wants her daughter to be treated well in the in-laws' home." And if you know the lyrics to *Momele* (as sung by Connie Francis) or to *Fiddler on the Roof*, the folks at Zemerl want to hear from you.

If all these sites whet your appetite for more and you're in the Toronto area, you can visit the Ashkenaz Festival, being held over the Labour Day weekend at Harbourfront **[http://www.ashkenazfestival.org/]**.

Klezmer music is never boring and neither are the names of Klezmer groups. I leave you with some of my favourite names: there's Yiddishe Cup **[http://www.klezmershack.com/bands/ycup/klez/ycup.klez.html]**, the Jews Brothers **[http://www.jewsbrothers.com/]**, the Klez Dispensers **[http://www.princeton.edu/~klez/]** and, of course, Tennessee Schmaltz **[http://techno-info.com/TennesseeSchmaltz/]**.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Some New Year thoughts on books and reading

Among your resolutions for the year, how about several concerned with books, reading and study?

Judah Bar Ilai, a second-century sage, once deeply impressed a pagan in the marketplace with his radiant face. "This man," said the pagan, "must either be intoxicated or he has just discovered a hidden treasure." Rabbi Judah overheard him and said, "Friend, I do not drink except when I must for ritual purposes. Neither have I found any treasure. I am a poor man." "Then what makes your face shine so?" asked the man. "That is quite simple," Rabi Judah answered. "I study all the time, and the quest for knowledge makes the face of a man shine."

Long before the creation of the modern science of education and the founding of the adult education movement, Jews discovered the basic truths that adults are teachable, that study is enjoyable, and that learning is a lifelong process.

How does one find time for books? One finds time for books by taking it. Even in our computer age, books are still the best way to preserve and transmit ideas. The printed book is a neat, compact, well-behaved invention; it waits for you, for centuries sometimes. It is there when you want it. You need no apparatus to deal with a book. It slips into your pocket; it fits your hand; it yields to your eye. A book asks no questions of your colour or creed or college degree.

Encomia, words of praise for books and reading, are widespread and eloquent.

American author Clarence Day once wrote that "[t]he world of books is the most remarkable creation of man. Nothing else that he builds ever lasts. Monuments fall; nations perish; civilizations grow old and die out; and, after an era of darkness, new races build on others. But in the world of books are volumes that have seen this happen again and again, and yet live on, still young, still as fresh as the day they were written, still telling men's hearts of the hearts of men centuries dead."

Solomon Schechter, the Cambridge University scholar who discovered the treasures of the Cairo Genizah, made clear the inextricable relationship between Jews and the Bible, the Book of Books, which has kept Judaism alive through the ages.

"Our great claim to the gratitude of mankind is that we gave to the world the word of God, the Bible," Shechter once wrote. "We stormed heaven to snatch down this heavenly gift; we threw ourselves into the breach and covered it with our bodies against every attack; we allowed ourselves to be slain by hundreds and thousands rather than become unfaithful to it; and bore witness to its truth and watched over its purity in the face of a hostile world."

Finally, there is much to consider in the following two selections from the midrash. The first teaches that the sword and the Book came down from heaven wrapped together. The Holy One said: "Keep what is written in the Book, or be delivered to the sword." The other midrash maintains that a learned bastard stands higher on the social scale then an ignorant high priest.

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel Mall proves a success

Continued from page 3

Arrangements were complex and Kaplan was assisted in that by a close Israeli friend, Yossi Landau. Landau, who is in the shipping business, helped facilitated the transport of the merchandise at much reduced freight rates.

In Canada, Commerce Custom Brokers waived their usual brokerage fees and Humboldt Properties, landlords of the building that hosted the Israel Mall, donated the space. Print Three produced 30,000 black and white advertising flyers at no cost while local families agreed to billet visiting Israeli merchants during their stay. At the Israel Mall itself, more than 100 volunteers helped staff the vendor displays.

Aharon Shahar was taken aback by the outpouring of support from the Toronto Jewish community. The owner of Kakadu, a firm that produces painted wooden objects, Shahar said that by day three of the Israel Mall he was almost sold out.

Shahar said Kakadu, which has three of its own stores in Israel, will net $20,000 (US) from the Israel Mall. The money is important for the company's cash flow and will go to pay suppliers, who have extended their deadlines far beyond what is considered prudent. He has also felt a cash crunch from retailers of his products.

"People pay 150 days after delivery and you say 'thank you,'" he said. "We put more energy into collecting the money than into marketing."

Beyond the business benefits of the Israel Mall, Shahar said "the energy we got and the sympathy from the community was unbelievable. When I come to Israel, it's hard for me to explain that Israel is not alone. I think Israelis don't realize that they're not alone.

> ***'We are really grateful for what is happening here'***

"We are really grateful for what is happening here. I'm not sentimental, but if if Israelis knew how the Canadian and American Jews are connected to Israel, they'd feel different. They don't know."

Amir Kitron is general manager of Kedem, a seven-year-old company that manufactures therapeutic products made with herbs from the Judean Desert.

Kedem has been particularly affected by the drop in tourism to the Dead Sea and Eilat and has experienced a 30 to 35 per cent fall-off in its Israeli sales. Kitron was hoping the Israel Mall would boost the company's profile and help him establish local contacts who would market Kedem's products to local pharmacies and health food stores.

Eli Rottenberg, a salesperson for Hadad silver merchants, said sales in Israel have dropped 50 to 60 per cent. "Our exports, thank God, have held up."

Rottenberg said Hadad was expected to generate $40,000 to $50,000 (US) in gross sales in Toronto. "If we have one of these every few months, it would inject new cash that could keep the whole operation afloat, so we don't have to lay off workers."

Yossi Winter, president of the Toronto Zionist Council, said merchants have been happy with the response from the community, which he said was expressing "a feeling of solidarity with the people of Israel. They want to help. Not too many can afford to travel to Israel... They find this is an easy way to show their support."

Others in the Jewish community have fashioned different responses to Israel's difficult economic situation. Earlier this summer, the Chabad Israeli Centre distributed 30,000 flyers encouraging the purchase of Israeli products.

"The feedback was unbelievable," said Rabbi Israel Landa, who noted people are willing to spend more for an imported product than an equivalent domestic one if it helps an Israeli company.

Rabbi Landa said Chabad is planning a second phase in its campaign that will "encourage people participating in a simchah to buy something Israeli."

In other developments, the Israel Now consortium, which includes more than 100 Jewish organizations as well as the Israeli Consulate, announced it too is launching a "Buy Israeli" project in which it encourages consumers to look for a "made in Israel" label.

"It is the most frequent and least expensive way for all members of the community to support Israel," said Joe Fox, who proposed the idea to the consortium.

"Our goal is to make it easier to buy Israeli products," said Howard English, a spokesperson for UJA Federation, a key player in the consortium. The consortium plans to begin publicizing its Buy Israeli efforts in an advertising campaign that will likely kick off in September, he added.

Meanwhile in the United States, the first Israeli Fair debuted June 2 in Riverdale, N.Y. Toronto marked the 15th such fair – though the first in Canada – and it was followed by a two-day event in Montreal.

Meredith Weiss, national director of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns – Amcha, said the activist organization conceived of the Israel fairs as a way of aiding merchants from Ben Yehuda Street in downtown Jerusalem. They have been especially affected by terrorist bombings, often right in front of their shops. Three quarters of the vendors at the first fair were from Ben Yehuda, with the remaining merchants from other areas affected by terror attacks.

Since then, a rolling list of vendors from across the country has been developed "to spread the wealth," she said.

With the success of the first round of Israel fairs, Amcha's plans are to expand to 35 different communities in October and November, to take advantage of the pre-Chanukah shopping season. Fairs are slated for California, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Delaware, Chicago and even London, England.

The rationale for the fairs is simple and goes beyond quantifiable factors. "It's really connected the two countries and Israelis don't feel isolated," Weiss said.

'Situation' has no solution, Israeli news editor says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Israel is in the midst of its most troubling period in recent history, says the senior news editor of IBA News, Israel's only English language television newscast.

"I have lived there since 1974, and I can't remember a time as troubling as now," Steve Leibowitz told a recent meeting of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region's public policy and Israel affairs committee.

A native of New York City, Leibowitz is a former reporter with the *Jerusalem Post* and a former deputy director of the Government Press Office. He was in Toronto for Flag Bowl 2002, the world flag football championships, as manager of Israel's national team.

In the past, he said, Israel usually knew what its goals were, what it was trying to accomplish and how to solve the problem.

"It seems now, however, that we are in a situation in which there is no solution. We have tried the 'Barak' method of giving up almost everything – even more than the Israelis would agree to give – and that didn't work.

"Now we are in the process of trying overwhelming force, and it too is not working successfully," he said.

Israel has caught more than 90 per cent of potential suicide bombers "and has knocked off the entire most-wanted list, but they keep coming.

"[There are always more] terrorists who are willing to die for the cause and who are willing to cause intolerable suffering to their own people."

In an attempt to block terrorists, Leibowitz said, Israel has allocated millions of dollars to build a security fence between Israel and the West Bank.

"The idea is to create obstacles. We are saying that we can't live with them or make peace with them so we are creating a physical separation.

"This separation will cause tremendous anguish for Israeli Arabs who want to maintain trade and family contacts inside the West Bank."

Leibowitz said that Haim Ramon, who is running for the leadership of the Labor Party, wants complete physical separation, and foresees giving up most of the settlements.

"He has no interest in holding their territories or administering to their people. Many Israelis on the left are exasperated after Camp David. They saw that [former prime minister Ehud] Barak was willing to go so far, yet [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat was not willing to meet him."

Arafat's position has not changed at all, Leibowitz said. "He is not willing to compromise, except for [allowing] a narrow path to the Western Wall."

Many Israelis wonder what Jewish people today are doing in the Gaza Strip, he said. "These are not idealists. They are people who saw inexpensive land on which to build a house and do some farming. People ask what the future is for residents of such an area. Will their children ever know peace?"

He acknowledged that the majority of Palestinian Arabs would like to live in peace with Israel and do not think that their leadership is leading them well or bringing them any closer to it.

"For all the damage that has been done to us, their damage has been worse. They are malnourished and starving; their situation is intolerable. There is a level of hatred and incitement, and they blame their leadership as much as ours."

What is needed, said Leibowitz, is a Palestinian who is willing to negotiate – someone who envisions justice for both sides.

"There is a reign of terror, however, and no one will rise up and challenge it."

Kolel offering unique unservice

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning is offering a unique unservice for the upcoming High Holy Days.

The unservice is an egalitarian, interactive exploration of the High Holy Days through readings, text study and discussion.

Gail Gould, executive director of Kolel, says the new program is for people who want an opportunity to discover the High Holy Days through discussion of text.

"There will be no sermons, but ample opportunity for interaction.

"It will appeal to those individuals looking for a non-traditional High Holy Day experience. This smaller, less formal environment will allow participants an opportunity to explore in more depth, contemporary and traditional texts and readings," she said.

The unservice, to be held at the Kolel building, 151 Eglinton Ave. W., on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre evening and Yom Kippur, will be led by Greg Beiles, a Judaic educator and co-ordinator of Toronto Heschel School's junior high. Child care will not be available.

For information, call Kolel at 416-485-7007 ext. 0.

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Israel's emergency is far from over. That's why we need your commitment to complete this historic UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. A campaign of hope.

Through your extraordinary generosity, we have already raised $53 million. Over $18 million represents new and additional donations to help thousands of Israelis rebuild their shattered lives.

As a community, we should be proud of our strong contribution to a remarkable North American campaign through which several hundred thousand Jews have contributed $310 million U.S. on Israel's behalf. However, we have a significant challenge ahead.

We have to reach over 7,000 community members here in Toronto who have yet to make a gift. If you are among them, your participation in this crucial campaign is vital to help ease Israel's painful burden and to demonstrate strength in the face of a brutal trail of violence against Israel.

Because we are truly stronger together.

We wish you, your families and the entire Jewish people a New Year of peace, health and happiness.

Ronnie Appleby Howard Sokolowski

Chairs, UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003

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Shaar Shalom's new cantor aims for greater outreach

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

At age 27 and with four years of experience under his belt at Beth Jacob Synagogue in Hamilton, Ont., Cantor Ben Silverberg can no longer say he's the youngest congregational cantor in the country.

But the newly appointed chazzan at Thornhill's Shaar Shalom Congregation feels a special responsibility – partly because of his age – to reach out to his own 20-to-30-year-old age group as well as to younger people like high schoolers in United Synagogue Youth (USY), "to show that [the synagogue] is a fun place to be, and a meaningful place to be."

Silverberg, a Toronto native whose father Michael was also a cantor, realized that the synagogue was where he wanted to build his career when he was 15 or 16, leading the davening on a substitute basis at the Bernard Betel Centre. His efforts were appreciated by the seniors who attended services there, he recalls.

"I really loved the fact that they seemed to enjoy what I was doing. I liked the sociability aspect...the socializing, the kibbitzing. I liked the dynamic."

And he loves having the opportunity to sing, although until his bar mitzvah he was too shy to seek the limelight. He used to turn down offers of solos in the youth choir at Adath Israel Congregation, he recalled in an interview in his new office.

Ben Silverberg

The idea of making a career out of something he enjoyed appealed to Silverberg. As a student at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute, he began studying voice privately and served as ba'al musaf for family services on the High Holy Days at Adath Israel Congregation.

Longtime friends from his days at United Synagogue Day School were supportive of his career choice, although they were not necessarily regular shul-goers.

And Silverberg's father encouraged him too, although he himself had left the cantorate. "But he said, 'If you're going to do it, you have to do it right. You need a solid musical foundation.'" The two worked on sight-singing every night after dinner until Silverberg mastered the concept.

While he was working on his BA in Judaic studies at York University, Silverberg, a lyric baritone, studied chazzanut with Cantor Benjamin Maissner for three years. At the same time, he sang in Beth Tzedec Congregation's professional choir.

He later honed his interpretation and liturgy skills with Cantor David Bagley, and now works with Cantor David Nemtzov on nuances like "colouring" and shading of the voice.

Although he describes his style as traditional, Silverberg sometimes introduces secular melodies – a show tune, for example – into the liturgical setting. "I do this to engage people. If I can make people sit up in their chairs and bring them into the service and elicit some sort of excitement, then I think I'm doing my job."

Although he only took on his position at Shaar Shalom Aug. 1, he is already impressed by the participation level of congregants at the 550-family shul, he said.

"They sing the melodies they know with gusto, but when I introduce something new, they have very acute musicality and can pick up on it very quickly and join me."

The cantor's own musicality reflects an eclectic background that includes outings to the opera and the *Nutcracker Suite* when he was a youngster.

These days, his non-cantorial music tastes range from opera to rap.

"I love the ability to express yourself with the voice. You can speak a phrase but it doesn't have the same impact as when you sing a phrase."

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Coast to Coast

North Bay: A new gang of kids in town

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

NORTH BAY, Ont. — Marty Brown forces open a wooden door and steps carefully down the rotting, cobweb-filled stairs leading to the dark cellar. Inside, a pungent smell fills the low, concrete room. Brown coughs as an animal quickly escapes through a crack. He stops, smiles broadly and points to a stained dirty bath-like structure built into the corner of the small room.

It's a mikvah, built in the '60s but never used. The look – and smell – of the ritual bath in the cellar of the historic Sons of Jacob synagogue tell of the fate that awaited the North Bay Jewish community.

A community once young and vibrant was quickly aging.

But something unusual happened. The downward trend reversed and now, unlike most small communities around Ontario, many in the Jewish population here are no longer bubbies and zaides – they're children still years away from their bar and bat mitzvahs.

"[It's] the start of a new renaissance of people," said Brown's father, Herb Brown, who was born in North Bay in the early '20s and is still the president of Sons of Jacob.

While Jewish life in North Bay thrived at mid-century, booming to 60 families, the '70s and '80s were low points, as young people moved away, leaving behind a community that slowly dwindled.

But people are starting to come back. The population has stopped decreasing and is now stable at 20 families, and the new young Jews in town are wondering why they didn't come sooner.

"I started my day today by dragging my boats to shore and bailing out the water with my kids," said Dr. Les Rosoph at an Italian restaurant down the street from his dermatology practice. "[Living here] is the whole camp experience all over again.

"I don't make appointments to go to the beach. I make appointments to go to the city," the father of three added. "You have to like the outdoors. You're not spending your entire life in traffic or worrying about your mortgage."

Rosoph has three kids under the age of six. His good friend Dr. Bernie Goldfarb has four children all under 10 years old. Together this group makes up a large portion of the 17 students who now attend the local Hebrew school in the historic shul, built at the turn of the century.

Goldfarb, a urologist from Toronto, planned to spend two years in North Bay when he moved to the town in 1995, but as his wife Lisa says, "By our first year, we forgot we would give it two. We liked it so much."

The Goldfarb's, with their four children, are pumping new life into the North Bay Jewish community. Seen here (bottom-left going clockwise) Ronen, Lisa, Rose, Bernie, Jacob and Eli. **[Jeff Bercuson photos]**

"It's the best place in the world to live. It's the best kept secret out there," Bernie Goldfarb said from the kitchen table of their rustic cottage on Lake Talon 30 minutes outside of North Bay. "It's a good place to practise and raise kids. I enjoy it. It's outdoors and easy to get around."

Lisa Goldfarb, who taught the Hebrew school for a year when the couple first arrived, said the community is warm.

"It's nice [that on] Yom Kippur everyone comes together for the breaking of the fast at the shul. Everyone makes food together, everyone has to be responsible," the Toronto native said.

Both the Rosophs and the Goldfarbs grew up in large cities surrounded almost entirely by other Jews. They admit that being in North Bay has increased their feeling of responsibility in being Jewish.

"In Toronto it's easy to be Jewish," Lisa Goldfarb said.

"I can't hide behind others," Rosoph said. "As a kid, I rallied around everyone else. I didn't have the same sense of belonging. Here everything matters."

Marty Brown agreed, but admitted that he was surrounded by more Jewish children when he grew up here in the '50s and '60s. He remembers the breaking of the fast tradition that always brought the community together after Yom Kippur. When he was at the Hebrew school, there were 40 students, but as the young people graduated, many slowly started going to seek bigger, richer dreams in Toronto.

Brown joined them and moved to there in the mid-'70s, managing one of two family businesses. Shortly after arriving, he married and started his family.

But something was missing.

After only eight years in Toronto, he sold the business and returned to North Bay with his family.

"I realized what was good and came back here," said the father of two university-aged children "[It was a] great thing for my kids to grow up in North Bay. They learned to swim on the beach and instantly took up skiing."

Continued on page 24

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, Sept. 3, is deadline for Sept. 12 issue and Monday, Sept. 9, is deadline for Sept. 19. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Saturday, August 31

PRE-SLICHOT CINE-FORUM

The Pearl Gertrude Brody Annual memorial lecture at Beth Tzedec Congregation features a panel with **Prof. Marty Lockshin**, **Rabbi John Moscowitz** and **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl**. Moderator is **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**. Social, 10 p.m.; program 10:30 p.m.; Slichot service, midnight. For information, call 416-781-3514, ext. 14.

ANSHEI MINSK SLICHOT

A special pre-Slichot talk is followed by Slichot at the Anshei Minsk Congregation, 10 St. Andrew St., beginning 11:59 p.m. Call 416-595-5723.

Sunday, Sept. 1

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network will discuss *No Great Mischief* by **Alistair MacLeod**, 1:45 p.m. at the North York Community Centre, 505 Lawrence Ave. W. (basement). Call **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

Tuesday, Sept. 3

CHAI DANCERS

The opening program for Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am sisterhood features the Chai Dancers. Everyone welcome, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Non-members $3. Call **Rochelle Kerzner**, 416-630-9500.

ROMANIAN LODGE

The B'nai Brith Dr. W. Filderman lodge for Romanian speaking people invites all members and friends of the lodge to the monthly meeting at the B'nai Brith building, 15 Hove. St. Program features **Herman Manu** who will speak on Moses, Mendelssohn and Haskalah. Call **Ichil Leib**, 905-771-1351.

And What Else Is New

TANACH CLASS

The Weekly Bible, Tanach class, which meets Thursdays 9:15 a.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, resumes Sept. 12. The group concludes the study, in English, of the book of II Kings. Newcomers welcome. Class led by **Dr. Aaron Nussbaum.** Call 416-633-8097.

SUPPORT GROUP

The Canadian Cancer Society invites people who have been newly or recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer to a support group information night, Thursday, Sept. 19, 7:15-9 p.m. Call 416-638-0771 for information and to register.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer with senior citizens in the Dufferin-Lawrence area by being a visitor, escorting residents to appointments or programs, or helping with feeding.

Assist teacher with research to prepare lessons in history, geography, reading or math for a Grade 7 class. When term begins you can help out in classroom one-to-one.

Toronto Public Library seeks volunteers to help with the homework club and reading programs.

For above positions call the Volunteer Centre of Toronto, North York branch, 416-631-6117.

BETH TZEDEC LECTURE

Rabbi Benjamin Hollander, lecturer at the Hebrew University, Machon Schechter and the Jerusalem campus of HUC-JIR will speak on Teshuvah as a Cornerstone for Jewish Nationhood: The Long Trek to the Promised Land, Tuesday Sept. 3, and Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue. Call 416-781-3514, ext. 14.

Continued on page 23

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What's New

Continued from page 22

9/11 REFLECTION

A study session between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Sept. 9, with **Rabbi Moshe Shulman**, presented by Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women, at a Thornhill home. No charge. Register by Sept. 9, 416-398-1510. Childcare available upon request.

PRAY AND LEARN

Pray and learn with **Rabbi Elliott Diamond-Begin**. Men and women of diverse ages and marital status, and with different levels of Hebrew, Jewish knowledge, experience and observance welcome. For information call Shaarei Shomayim office, 416-789-3213.

YIDDISH FOR CHILDREN

Free Yiddish program for children at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave., Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-noon, beginning Oct. 6. Funded by the Toronto District School Board's Heritage Language classes and the committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Call **Naomi** 416-635-2883, ext. 150.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated for High Holy Days. Call **David** 416-669-8101, ext. 2.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Hebrew Culture Organization of Canada offers Hebrew language studies with **Channa Sargon**, beginning week of Sept. 2. Day and evening classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. For information and registration call Canadian Zionist Federation 416-633-3988 or e-mail czfcr@lefca.com.

SHARING THE CARING

A new support group for people looking after aging parents meets Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 15 at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care. No cost to join. For information call **Cindy** or **Mona** 416-785-2500, ext. 2332 or 2253.

ORAYNU CONGREGATION

Join Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism at its Yom Kippur observance. Adult discussion and youth program, Monday, Sept. 16 1:30 p.m. at North York Central Library auditorium. Adults $15, teens/students $7.50. Babysitting available. To reserve tickets, call 416-385-3910.

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

The Orthodox congregation Ohr Penimi is holding High Holy Day services, 51 Elgin St., Thornhill with **Rabbi M. Kirsh**. Services free. Call 905-889-0793.

APPLES AND HONEY

A community secular celebration of Rosh Hashanah, including readings, poetry and music, will take place Saturday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m., Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Advance reservations required, 416-789-5502 or e-mail mws@on.aibn.com.

ESL CLASSES

Conversational English classes at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St., Wednesdays, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 4, are free and open to everyone. To register, call National Council of Jewish Women 416-633-5100.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

Jews for Judaism High Holy Days learning services with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, Sept. 7 and 8 at Forest Hill Jewish Centre, 446 Spadina Rd. For schedule and information call 416-483-0883.

CLARIFICATION

The caption for the picture "NCJW Biennial Convention" last week should have said that Sharon Hampson spoke on breast cancer. The speaker at the Jewish Genetics Awareness launch was Dr. Annette Feigenbaum.

FOR SENIORS

L.Z.A. Seniors Cultural Club meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information call 416-630-9444.

New Horizons Senior Day Centre for Hungarian speaking seniors is holding a Simchat Torah dance on Sept. 28. Centre open five days a week with lunch for members, 3565 Bathurst St. For information call **Edith** or **Olga**, 416-256-1892.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002. Saturday dances, Aug. 31, Oct. 12 and Oct. 26; bingo Tuesdays 1 p.m.; Casino Niagara Oct. 17.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove. St. (B'nai Brith Building). Aug. 29 is a picnic. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Young at Heart Seniors trip to glatt kosher Saxony Hotel, efficiency or meals; breakfast included free in both plans. Two weeks and up. Call **Helen**, 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Sept. 3 is a movie. **Anna**, ext. 10.

Day trip to Casino Rama with Russian speaking escorts, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m. Members $4, non-members $6. Registration date Sept. 3.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Sing-along *Fiddler on the Roof*, Thursday, Aug. 29, 8 p.m., Harbourfront Centre. Dress up as your favourite character. Prizes for best costumes. Tickets $10 available at JCC or Harbourfront Centre Box Office, 235 Queens Quay W. Call 416-973-4000.

Registration for fall programs is ongoing. Check the Web site at www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Living Well Health series, Thursday, Sept. 12, 6:15-7:30 p.m. Topic: Strains and Sprains with Dao Nguyen. $5, registration required.

Learn Hebrew in a friendly and supportive atmosphere at a two-day Hebrew marathon, Sunday, Oct. 20 and Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost $65 includes materials.

Other programs include: Teen Band, Sundays, 3:15-5 p.m.; Hava Nashira: Sing the Music of Israel, Mondays at noon; Women's Chorus, every 2nd Monday, 8-9:30 p.m.; Shlomo Carlebach & Beyond Chorus, Tuesday evenings; Study art with **Sally Glanville**; Introduction to drawing and painting, Mondays, 7-9 p.m.; art appreciation, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880.

Israeli folk dancing at the BJCC: New beginners class, Mondays, 8-9 p.m.; intermediate class, Mondays, 9-10:30 p.m. starting Sept. 23. Intermediate level, Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m., and intermediate/advanced, Tuesdays, 9-11 p.m.

International folk dancing on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 18, 8-10:30 p.m. All classes held in the Studio Theatre, Leah Posluns Theatre. Cost $6 per evening.

Art exhibition at Rachel's Centre Cafe featuring **Smadar Meiri-Ordynans** until Sept. 18. Hours, Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fall registration is open for the Academy of Ballet & Jazz. Classes offered in ballet, modern dance, hip hop, jazz, tap, Latin dancing, pointe, classical ballet repertoire, classical character. Ext. 258.

Register for music classes in piano, violin, trumpet, guitar, Suzuki violin and piano, singing from scratch, flute, recorder, preparatory music for preschoolers, eurhythmics for preschoolers, young musicians' band, theory, harmony, history, choir, percussion for kids, adult band and more. Ext. 228.

New show at Koffler Gallery until Sept. 27. W. Mark Sutherland's Scratch. Scratch features sculptural works, sonic poems, bookworks, videos and audio-visual installation. Closed Sept. 2, 8, 16, 22. Ext. 380.

ABOUT PEOPLE

CHANDLER APPOINTED

Dr. Bonnie Chandler

Dr. Bonnie Chandler recently became president of the Toronto Crown and Bridge Study Club, which provides continuing dental education to about 500 dentists in Ontario.

CHAT ANNOUNCES WINNERS: Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto recently held its 2002 annual lottery draw. Seen is Renee Gozlan, accepting the $10,000 grand prize from Brian Lass, president of CHAT, while Jerry Tollinsky, CHAT's director of development looks on. Other winners included Halfred Construction Ltd., Paul Shaviv, Robert Granatstein, Jeffrey Fine, Les Firestone, Michael Venasse and Morris Sosnovitch.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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Coast to Coast

Growth in North Bay

Continued from page 21

Herb Brown (right) has been in North Bay since the 20s. He's seen here with his son Marty (middle) and newcomer to town Dr Les Rosoph (left).

But he was shocked at the change he found when he returned. All of his "buddies" were gone and there wasn't a single Jewish merchant on Main Street.

He remembered his father once sending him down Main Street to gather people for a minyan.

His father, who has lived in North Bay all his life, has witnessed many changes in the community. He said Jews arrived in North Bay from eastern Europe in the early 1900s and many became merchants and opened up stores.

Herb Brown said services used to be held in people's stores or in their homes. His father was a tailor and very active in the local congregation, and Brown remembers him collecting $2 to $4 from people for membership dues after a furniture store was bought and converted into a shul in 1925.

The community kept kosher, and he remembers his mother keeping chickens, and the rabbi, as Brown said, "taking care of them," so they were kosher to eat.

In the '30s and '40s, more Jews began coming to North Bay to open up stores and start a new life. Brown said that "locals in North Bay knew not to go shopping during Yom Kippur or Pesach, because all the stores were closed."

In the '30s Brown won the city basketball championships with the St. John Anglican Church. He said he never experienced any anti-Semitism in North Bay.

"I mixed with everything, played with everyone. It was a good life."

In 1947, after Brown returned from the army, he opened H.E. Brown Supply – an automotive parts and truck equipment distributor. He still works out of the office in North Bay every day.

According to Brown, the Jewish community was always close and Jewish education was very important. "We had 100 per cent attendance. If a family couldn't afford [the school], the rest looked after them."

This is a value that is equally important to the new families in town.

"I want my kids to grow up to be proud to be Jewish," said Rosoph, who admits that it has been tough to get teachers from Toronto to come up and teach.

However, thanks to the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO), an organization that links 27 small Jewish communities together under the banner of United Israel Appeal, the community will soon welcome a teacher from Israel.

The RJCO helps make the link to Project Arevim, which sends an Israeli to small communities to live and teach there for a year.

"The people there [in North Bay] work especially hard to invest in a Jewish way of life," said RJCO director of community development Michael Soberman. "Their willingness to invest in Arevim is an excellent thing."

While strolling on his dock, Goldfarb said the "Arevim program has been good. We [still] need teachers who want a different experience and [want to] see a different part of the world."

Small communities usually struggle because there are a lack of professional opportunities with no large hospitals or universities. North Bay, however, is different.

In 1967, Herb Brown became one of the founders of Nipissing University, which, he said, "is [still] growing rapidly."

In September, construction will begin on a brand new $200-million hospital with a psychiatric building and become a regional referral centre. Goldfarb said "it's a great opportunity for North Bay and there will be tons of new jobs."

Herb Brown added that Cannadore College is now partnered with Nipissing University and expanding its aviation program by constructing a new building at the local Jack Garland Airport.

The building will be used for aviation training, aircraft maintenance and assembly, injecting life into the local economy.

As well, hangars from an old Canadian Armed Forces base have provided space for leading aviation firms to open up operations.

In addition, the waterfront is being revamped and the highway leading into town is being expanded to four lanes.

There is clearly a new breath of life in the city, but will the Jewish community last?

"I don't think my kids will come back, but there is a future here," said Marty Brown, whose older daughter has already moved away.

"We don't expect our kids will stay," the Goldfarbs agreed. "It's a good place for a family, but not for a single person. They [the children] will go away, get married and maybe come back here with a family."

Rosoph, on the other hand, is extremely optimistic and not thinking that far ahead.

"It will be good for quite awhile. There are lots of opportunities here," he said with his blue eyes lighting up as he explained how his kids can walk to a ski hill and that he lives right on the water.

"There used to be a lot of adults when I arrived. Now it has flipped and there is this gang of kids."

"Those people who like good fresh air, with no smog, will love it," Herb Brown added. "Everyone is accepted [here]. Some are intermarried, but everyone is accepted. We have a tremendous environment, friendly community and excellent facilities. We're five minutes from everywhere."

"North Bay has a viable future as a Jewish community, thanks to [people] who are moving in with their children. I think we will have a Jewish community here for a long time," his son Marty added.

"There is no way we're leaving this place. Every hour spent on the highway is an hour wasted in your life," said Goldfarb.

"We just want young people to come," he added.

–With files from Jeff Bercuson

Calgarians are solidly pro-Israel, poll finds

By JUDY SHAPIRO
Jewish Free Press

CALGARY — A new group of young professionals here has discovered that when it comes to being pro-Israel, they are not alone.

According to a survey sponsored by Stand With Israel, a grassroots group of 20 Jews and non-Jews, Calgarians in general are also staunchly pro-Israel in their attitudes.

The results of the poll, the group's first project since its formation last month, were released in early August.

"We did this [poll] to find out what Calgarians really think," explained Stand With Israel spokesperson Randy Shapiro. "We know what CNN thinks, we know what [CBC Middle East correspondent] Neil MacDonald thinks, but the question is: are politicians and the media in sync with the public?

"We found out that the public is way ahead of the media and politicians" when it comes to support for Israel.

Of the 432 Calgarians polled in July, 86 per cent said the Palestinians should replace Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat; 71 per cent felt the war on terror should include the PLO and Hamas; 62 per cent said Palestinians who target Israel with bombs should be called terrorists rather than militants or resistance fighters; and 65 per cent said Canada should suspend foreign aid to the PA.

Seventy-eight per cent believe Canada should take a balanced position and not side with either the Palestinians or with Israel, while 78 per cent said Canada was wrong to vote for UN resolutions that condemned Israel for violence but did not also condemn the Palestinians.

The poll, conducted by JMCK Strategy, has a margin of error of plus or minus five percentage points 19 times out of 20. Members of Stand With Israel composed the questionnaire and political scientist Faron Ellis, a professor at Lethbridge Community College, aided in the statistical analysis.

Shapiro, a Calgary lawyer, found the results to the questions about Arafat to be particularly illuminating.

"Eighty-six point four per cent voted to replace Arafat – the public want Arafat replaced. I think Jewish people know that Arafat has been responsible for precipitating catastrophe wherever he goes, but [the poll shows] that the public in general also understand this."

Shapiro found it surprising that Calgarians seemed to be aware of a rise in anti-Jewish incidents in Canada, but were not aware of an incident that took place in their own backyard – the firebombing of an Edmonton synagogue last year.

Stand With Israel is not aligned politically or religiously with any other group. Shapiro said its formation arose from its members' desire to demonstrate their support for Israel at a time when the Jewish State is "constantly barraged by suicide bombings and terror."

Although unaligned politically, Shapiro believes members of Stand With Israel do hold some common views.

"The last 24 months have made everyone a little more right-leaning than they've historically been," Shapiro said. "I think I can say that everyone supported Oslo and [former Israeli prime minister Ehud] Barak when it looked like peace was in the offing. And everyone in the group sees right through Arafat and doesn't [consider him] a peace partner anymore."

Continued on page 26

Do you believe that media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is fair and balanced, or is it unfairly biased towards one side or the other?

Fair and balanced	**55%**
Pro-Israel	**36%**
Pro-Palestinian	**9%**

There has been some debate in the media about what words should be used to describe Palestinians who target Israeli cities with bombs. Some media call them "resistance fighters," some call them "terrorists" and some call them "militants." Which label do you think most accurately describes these bombers?

Resistance fighters	**17%**
Terrorists	**62%**
Militants	**21%**

More poll results, see page 26

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Coast to Coast

Study shows 'pro-Israel Calgarians are not alone'

Continued from page 25

In forming their new group, members chose not to work through existing Jewish organizations, although Shapiro said that they all do good work.

He joked that his group's members were too impatient to work through committees and existing structures.

"Maybe we're all impatient type A personalities," he said.

Other groups in the Jewish community, he said, tend to be more inward-looking, and the members of Stand With Israel wanted to fill a perceived gap by drawing together Jews and non-Jews who are passionately pro-Israel.

The group wants to focus its energies on "interfacing with other communities, to do outreach and liaise with any other person who supports Israel," Shapiro said.

"The study has shown that pro-Israel Calgarians are not alone and that the majority of Calgarians are with them."

The poll is meant to be the group's first project. In the future, members hope to bring in pro-Israel speakers to address the Calgary community as a whole and to continue educating the public and explaining the Israeli position in the Middle East conflict.

Since the poll's release, several people have called Shapiro to express interest in joining the group. He said he hopes it will be the beginning of a grassroots movement that will spread across the country.

Calgarians' views on Israel

George W. Bush, the U.S. President, has called for a war on terrorists in any country, and Jean Chrétien, Canada's Prime Minister, has agreed. Do you think that should include Palestinian groups like the PLO and Hamas?

Include PLO and Hamas	71%
Not include	29%

President Bush has said that the Palestinians should replace Yasser Arafat by holding democratic elections. What do you think?

Replace Arafat	86%
Continue with Arafat	14%

The Israeli army has launched Operation Defensive Shield, repeatedly sending soldiers and tanks into Arab towns. The Israeli government says it needs to arrest terrorists, and shut down bomb factories. Palestinian groups say it is harassment by the Israelis. What is your opinion?

Israel needs to arrest terrorists	63%
Israel is harassing Palestinians	37%

At the United Nations, Canada has voted repeatedly to condemn Israel for violence, but Canada has not voted to condemn Palestinian violence. Was Canada right to do so?

Correct	22%
Wrong	78%

The Canadian government gives more than $100 million each year to Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians in foreign aid. What do you think of this?

Increase aid	8%
Maintain current aid levels	28%
Suspend aid	65%

Jean Chrétien, Canada's Prime Minister, has said that Canada should take a balanced view of the situation, and not side with either Israel or the Palestinians. What is your opinion? Canada should:

Take a balanced view	78%
Should side with Israel	19%
Side with the Palestinians	4%

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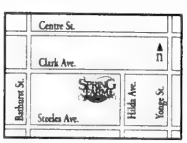

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Coast to Coast

Netanyahu to help launch Winnipeg CJA campaign

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — This city's annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign starts Sept. 9 with the first-ever appearance here by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Community leaders say he is one of the highest-ranking Israeli officials ever to speak in the Manitoba capital.

"We haven't had an Israeli speaker of his stature and ability to communicate to an English-speaking diaspora Jewish audience since [former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations] Abba Eban," says CJA executive director Gerry Koffman.

"Whether you agree with his ideological position or not, [Netanyahu] is able to articulate with passion his views on Israel – I have heard him speak for almost an hour without notes – and he is equally knowledgeable about events in Iraq and Iran."

Netanyahu's appearance in Winnipeg and his appearances in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal are being co-sponsored by the Asper Foundation.

Koffman says media mogul and philanthropist Israel Asper's connections with Netanyahu facilitated the Canadian speaking tour.

As for the Asper Foundation's participation in this year's CJA campaign, Koffman says it is not the first time CJA has sponsored a speaker or program in conjunction with another communal organization.

Benjamin Netanyahu

"It tells me that in our community, everybody works together," Koffman says. "As well, the Asper family is involved in the community in many ways."

Campaign organizers and the Asper Foundation are expecting a tremendous response to Netanyahu's presentation. They have booked the 1,400-seat Pantages Theatre and expect that tickets will go quickly.

Because of the yamim tovim, Super Week – Sept. 8 to 14 – will be somewhat truncated this year. Super Sunday will be at the end of the week rather than at the beginning and will be cut short because of Yom Kippur in the evening.

This year's campaign goal is $4 million.

"Our campaign is based on two fundamental pillars," Koffman says.

"There is our ongoing commitment to and connection with Israel and the events in the Middle East. Then there are our local community needs, including the federation's new Grow Winnipeg initiative [to increase the size of the Jewish community].

"Our emergency campaign for Israel did very well in the spring. We are optimistic that the community will respond equally positively to the annual campaign and that [Netanyahu's] visit will give us a big boost."

Koffman also notes that community leaders have scheduled a second mission to Israel from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3 and that Manitoba Premier Garry Doer and Dave Chomiak, the province's minister of health, will be on it.

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Coast to Coast

Giving succour to violence is wrong

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Tom Friedman's *New York Times* article, "Fog of War," (Aug. 18) recapitulated points made several months ago in his "Suicidal Lies": that the Palestinians could have achieved a state through negotiations at Camp David and in the months following; and that far from being acts of desperation, suicide bombs are a strategic weapon of choice deliberately undertaken not to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but to undermine Israel's existence.

Critics of Israel who excoriate Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon but who ignore and deny by insisting that the Palestinians are only "resisting occupation" are either naive or malicious.

Judy Rebick recently devoted an article entirely to Israel's alleged wrongdoings ("Ramallah Revelations," *Maclean's*, July 29). She avoided any mention of Palestinian Authority (PA) Yasser Arafat's rejection of the Barak-Clinton offers in summer/fall of 2000. Perhaps, like other apologists for the Palestinians and their resort to violence, she felt that Camp David was inadequate. But to ignore Israel's overtures entirely is breathtakingly obtuse.

Then there is the "suicide bombing is justified resistance" bandwagon. In June, Cheri Blair, the wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, expressed sympathy for suicide bombers on the very day 19 Israelis were slaughtered by one. More recently, Karen Armstrong, the former nun and highly respected author of numerous books on the major religions, claimed that "The [Palestinian] resistance will be as ruthless and violent as the occupation is... Palestinians don't have F-16s, and they don't have tanks... They only have their own bodies" (*Al-Ahram Weekly*, July 4-10). If the quote is accurate, it indicates an abysmal moral failure irrespective of any context.

Meanwhile, Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, are being viciously maimed and murdered in an effort to terrorize a country that was working toward Palestinian statehood. To listen to public figures rationalizing such slaughter, even under the guise of sympathy for the Palestinians, is appalling.

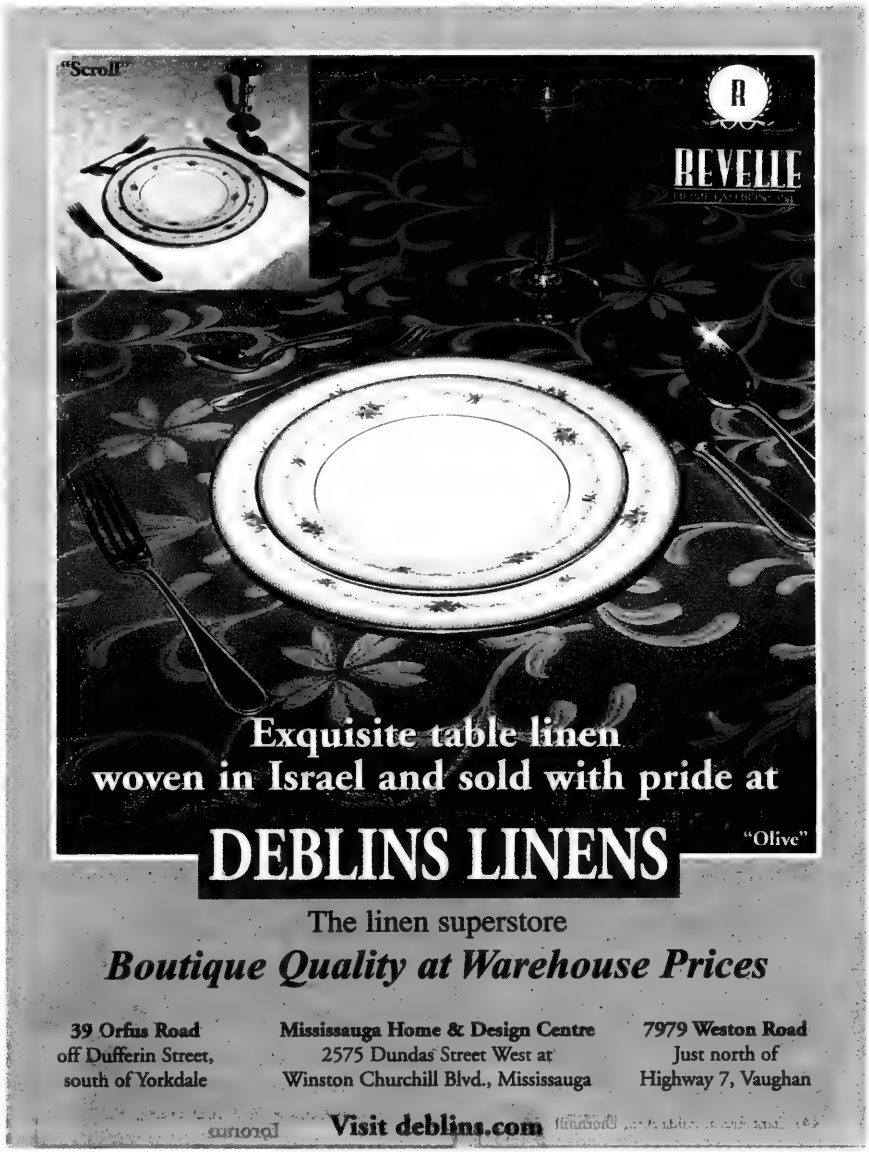
To reiterate why this position is morally repulsive: In signing the Oslo accords (1993), the Palestinians endorsed UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which underlie the entire Middle East peace process. Resolution 338 binds the parties to negotiate a resolution of their differences. Resolution 242 sets out a framework for a just and lasting peace in the region. The formula is "land for peace," which also means "if peace, then land." This was the process Israel and the Palestinians participated in until Arafat rejected his own written commitments to negotiate, to renounce violence and to fight terrorism.

There is absolutely no justification either in international law (such as the UN resolutions) or in the Palestinian commitments at Oslo to countenance the use of violence against Israelis.

When political leaders, writers and other intellectuals rationalize suicide bombings, they are unwittingly (or, in the case of a few, perhaps consciously) complicit in the murder of innocent people. In giving succour to the perpetrators of heinous crimes, they insult the historical and diplomatic record, as well as morality itself.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

HELPING MDA: Beit Rayim Synagogue and Adath Sholom Synagogue, who are in the process of merging and will be building Vaughan's first Conservative synagogue, raised almost $50,000 for the Magen David Adom fund in support of Israel. The proceeds will be used to purchase two Lifepack Defibrillator /Monitors. Here representatives from Beit Rayim and Adath Sholom are seen presenting the cheque to Berley. From left: Mel Fox, Adath Sholom; Ronda Goldberg, president Beit Rayim; Menny Deutsh, chair of the Beit Rayim/Adath Sholom Israel Action Committee; Gerald Berley, Magen David Adom Canada; Eli Goldberg, president Adath Sholom; and Kaila Cramer, Beit Rayim/Adath Sholom Israel Action Committee.



Coast to Coast

VISITING CHARLOTTETOWN:

Inge Blackett (top left), president of the PEI Jewish community, welcomed Karen Mock (top right), executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, as guest speaker for a special session with the Jewish community on the occasion of the CCRF's recent board meeting in Charlottetown. Seen here are (from left) Joe Naylor, secretary and Shawn Naylor.

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Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילוזער

דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר־אָבות

פון ד"ר פרעד וויינבערג (טאָראָנטאָ)

דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר אָבות פאַר די ימים נוראים איז זיכער פאַרבונדן מיטן געדאַנק, אַז די פאַר־שטאָרבענע משפחה־מיטגלידער קענען זיך משתדל זיין אין הימל לטובת די לעבעדיקע. דאָס שטאַמט פון אַן אַלטן גלויבן, אַז די אור־אַלטע אָבות — אברהם, יצחק און יעקב — האָבן זיך פאַרדינט און אָנגעזאַמלט אַזוי פיל מצוות אין זייער אייגענעם לעבן, אַז עס איז ביי זיי איבערגעבליבן אַן עודף, צו קענען דאָס נוצן לטובת זייערע אור־אייניקלעך.

די פייערלעכקייט פון חודש אלול, ווען אַפילו די פיש אין וואַסער ציטערן, זעט זיך אָן מער אויפן בית־עולם. עס איז באַקאַנט דאָס אויסוויינען זיך, ספּעציעל פון פרויען, און עס לאָזן זיך הערן די שטאַרקע קולות ביי די מצבות פון זייערע משפחות. עס זיינען פאַראַן פאַר־שיידענע תפילות פאַר די פאַרשטאָרבענע. פראָ־פעסיאָנעלע דאַוונערס וועלן פאַר אַ מטבע אָפּזאָגן פאַר אייך אַ קדיש אָדער מאַכן אַן „אל מלא רחמים".

דער גאַנצער באַזוך אויפן בית־עולם מוז זיין מיט גרויס דרך־ארץ צו די פאַרשטאָרבענע, כדי זיי נישט צו פאַרשעמען. מען טאָר נישט טראָגן קיין טלית אָדער תפילין, מען טאָר נישט לייענען פון אַ ספר־תורה, ווייל די טויטע קענען מער נישט די מצוות אויספאָלגן.

ווי אַלט איז דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר אָבות? אין חומש, אין די ביבלישע צייטן ווערט עס נישט דערמאָנט. אָבער אין דער צייט פון די משנה, אין צווייטן יאָרהונדערט, אין די תַּלמודישע ספרים ווערט עס יאָ דערמאָנט.

די חסידישע וועלט פון מזרח־אייראָפּע האָט שטאַרק געגלויבט אין גיין אויף קבר־אָבות. ספּעציעל האָבן זיי געהיילקט די קברים פון נפטר־געוואָרענע רביים. די חסי־דישע וועלט האָט אויך געהאַלטן, אַז די ערד פון אַ צדיקס קבר איז צו פאַרגלייכן אין קדושה צו ארץ־ישראל זעלבסט. די מתנגדים האָבן אָבער פאַרבאָטן צו גיין אויף קבר־אָבות און האָבן זיך אַנטקעגנגעשטעלט דעם מנהג.

דער ווילנער גאון האָט געלייגט אין חרם אַריין דעם באַרימטן חסיד ר' לוי יצחק פון באַרדיטשעוו. ר' לוי האָט געליטן שרעקלעכע רדיפות מצד די מתנגדים, ווייל ער האָט זיינע חסידים געפירט ווי אַ סעקטע מיט זייערע אייגענע מנהגים, ווי גיין אויף קבר־אָבות. ער האָט אויך געפּרעדיקט די אַלע מנהגים אין דער עפנטלעכקייט.

דער גרויסער חטא פון די חסידים איז געווען, וואָס זיי האָבן געבעטן און געדאַוונט מיט גרויס התלהבות ביים קבר פון אַ צדיק, אַז ער זאָל זיין אַ מליץ־יושר צווישן רבונר־של־עולם אין הימל און די לעבעדיקע בני־ישראל אין גלות. אין דער היינטיקער מדינת ישראל, אין ל"ג בעומר, גייען אַ סך ייִדן קיין מירון אין גליל צום קבר פון ר' שמעון בן יוחאי, דער מחבר פון „זוהר", און בעטן דאָרט ביי זיין קבר, און פייערן זיין יאָרצייט לזכר זיין העלדישקייט און ווי אַ מיסטיקער.

פאַראַן נאָך אַן אַלטער מנהג: אויף אַ באַזוך ביי אַ קבר דאַרף מען איבערלאָזן אַ שטיינדל אויפן קאָפּ פון דער מצבה, ווי אַ בכבודיקע געזעגענונג מיטן נפטר. ווי איר זעט איז אַפילו אין מאָדערנע צייטן דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר־אָבות טיף איינגעוואָרצלט אין ייִדישן פאָלקס געפיל, סיי אין ישראל און סיי אין די תפוצות.

אין נאָמען פון דער רעדאַקציע ווינטשן מיר אַלע ייִדן איבער דער וועלט אַ האַרציקן לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו! זאָל זיין שלום אין מדינת ישראל.

On Campus

Many changes in store for U of T students this fall

By JEFF BERCUSON
Special to The CJN

With September looming, thousands of university students are preparing to return to the familiarities of campus life. But for the Jewish students of the University of Toronto, there will be some major changes.

In anticipation of the opening of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life in September 2003, the campus's Jewish organization is undergoing changes to accommodate the expected increase in both activities and participation that comes with a new facility.

Located at the corner of Harbord and Huron streets, right in the heart of the university, the centre will be the 12,000-square-foot hub of Jewish life on campus.

"The Wolfond Centre is going to be a great place for students to meet, to socialize and to learn," says its director Lisa Isen Baumal.

The building will contain lounges, a resource centre, offices for staff and a multipurpose basement for Shabbat dinners and other social events, as well as what Baumal described as a "spiritual room."

The former location of the Jewish Students' Union (JSU), in the basement of U of T's University College, was a major deterrent for students who wanted to get involved.

"The Wolfond Centre will [have] a much stronger, much more visible presence on campus," says Pearl Gropper Berman, assistant executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS), whose office will be moved to the new location. "Students will no longer feel scared or intimidated to get involved."

In addition to the location changes, the structure of the student-run organization is undergoing reform. What was once the JSU is now called Hillel, a difference that entails more than just a name change. In becoming affiliated with Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the former JSU will have access to marketing, scholarship and grant money, as well as the recognition that the well-known international organization's name brings, says Gropper Berman.

"Eventually, all the Toronto campus organizations will be part of Hillel," she says.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, scheduled to open in Sept. 2003, will serve the University of Toronto's Jewish student community.

"Hillel will be much more representative of the interests of the students of U of T," adds Isen Baumal. "Hillel actively seeks to engage diverse Jewish students on their own terms and to provide them with opportunities that are meaningful and appealing to them."

Hillel will operate as a student organization made up of student-led, independently-run groups that are interest-based, faculty-based or religion-based, such as the Arts Collective and the Athletics Association.

In the past, an executive committee of five students made the majority of JSU decisions. Under the new structure, however, a five-member student co-ordinating committee will work directly with the representatives of the new, smaller groups within Hillel.

"We've implemented a whole new leadership structure," says Baumal. "The changes are going to make Jewish student life at U of T much more diverse and inclusive.

"Having a range of diverse Jewish student groups on campus will create numerous opportunities for students to participate actively or take a leadership role in both the university and local community. If students haven't found their niche on campus, Hillel provides the opportunity to create it."

When asked what prompted these structural changes, besides the impending opening of the Wolfond Centre, Baumal says the five-member executive wasn't able to coordinate a large enough number of activities for the growing number of Jewish students wanting to get involved in Jewish campus life.

Isen Baumal adds, "We just grew out of the JSU. The old structure was far too small and club-like, and the JSU had become much more than a club. Both the students and the executive decided that it was time for a change."

The major focus of Hillel this year will be the current conflict in Israel, she says.

"Israel is really at the top of everybody's mind. Our number-one goal this year is to continue to educate people about the situation and create more student advocates to provide additional support."

Currently, Hillel is planning an Israel Advocacy Retreat in October for more than 100 students. As well, there are plans to send a group of students to the Jewish state for a leadership conference in December.

In addition, Tzedek Hillel, an initiative dedicated to social action and justice activities supporting Israel, will organize events in the local Jewish community.

"This initiative will encourage students to volunteer and get more involved in the community," says Baumal. "Tzedek Hillel programs are scheduled to include literacy programs, preparing sandwiches for the underprivileged, clothing drives and food drives."

And like last year, Hillel also plans to send students to El Salvador, where they will help members of small communities rebuild their lives after the devastating earthquake that occured there in January 2001.

But for now, Hillel is working to raise awareness of the recent changes and of upcoming events.

"Right now, we are just focusing on putting our name out there," says Baumal, who is currently planning a welcome back barbecue, as well as the first Shabbat dinner of the year. Last year, 200 students attended the year's first Shabbat dinner, a number Baumal is confident will be surpassed this year.

As the largest mental health and addictions facility in Canada and a teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health works to create a better life for the one in four Canadians whose lives are affected by mental illness and addiction. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation – a team of seasoned fundraising professionals and volunteer leaders – raises funds in support of the work of the Centre. As the Foundation prepares to undertake a $50 million+ capital campaign in support of the expansion and redevelopment of the Centre, a dedicated professional is now required for the following role.

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Toronto surgeon, researcher Cohen to be honoured

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Toronto surgeon and researcher Zane Cohen is being honoured by the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Cohen, 58, is surgeon in chief at Mount Sinai Hospital, a professor in the department of surgery at the University of Toronto and chair of the university's division of general surgery.

He will be presented with the Negev Award at a dinner Sept. 18, 6:30 p.m., at the Sheraton Centre Grand Ballroom.

Mount Sinai will present Cohen with a certificate linking his name to the Surgical Same Day Admitting Unit. A new service to be located on the same floor as the operating rooms, it will streamline the admission process for patients coming to the hospital for same-day surgical procedures.

The keynote speaker at the dinner will be Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel.

A number of colorectal surgeons from BGU have been trained by Cohen, and there are plans for medical students from the university to come and train under him.

As well, Cohen will lecture periodically at BGU and demonstrate his surgical skills at the university's school of medicine.

He is responsible for bringing the Koch Pouch to Canada, which has proven highly effective in the treatment of colitis. Mount Sinai is now the third largest centre for this technology in the world.

Cohen is the child of immigrants, who, he told *The CJN*, wanted him to be a "doctor, a dentist, a lawyer or an accountant."

He chose to specialize in surgery, rather than his other choice, obstetrics and gynecology, he said, because "it was more exciting."

His opinion hasn't changed. "I don't have a single regret. There is no field like it, where you hold lives in your hands.

"It's hard work – but so rewarding."

While best known for his work in colorectal surgery, he said he really enjoys teaching, not just medical interns and residents, but undergraduates in the University of Toronto, medical personnel throughout the province and from out of the country, surgical residents and fellows and observers.

Cohen is concerned about the current method of medical education, which he described as "a problem-based learning curriculum," taken from a model set by Harvard University. It is supposed to encourage independent thinking and study.

However, he said, students still want to be spoonfed their medical knowledge, rather than doing the questioning and searching for answers that the method calls for. "This doesn't turn out worse doctors than before – but it doesn't produce better ones, either."

Dr. Zane Cohen

Education for surgeons is also a concern. First, he said, you can be a surgeon for 30 years without being required to be recertified. Also, because surgeons are so busy, and because there are fewer nurses and anesthetists to lessen some of the burden, "we can't afford the time to fully teach the residents."

For these reasons, he said, it makes sense to use simulators and dry labs to teach, especially, basics like knots and the proper use of surgical instruments and techniques. These new teaching methods, Cohen said, are a more efficient use of time.

Cohen called the Ontario government "shortsighted." Their restructuring policies, he charged, have led to "fewer doctors, especially anesthetists; little action on loosening regulations for immigrant physicians; fewer nurses; operating rooms that are not at full strength."

New technologies, such as the PET (Position Emission Technology) scan, which offers highly sensitive diagnoses, are not made available until long after they are proved safe and effective, and then only in very limited supply. (The only PET scan machine in Ontario, he said, is at McMaster University in Hamilton.)

"If there is not more money put into the health-care system or the government allows privatization," he warned, "access to health care will be more and more difficult."

While Cohen said he could understand the government giving more money to peripheral hospitals, "the downtown hospitals are where discoveries are made, due to their relationship with universities; the communities that are served have often more complex needs; and the cost per case is higher because they are teaching hospitals."

Cohen balances his surgical and administrative time with outside activities – arts: attending cultural events, such as the National Ballet; sports: "Some other doctors and I have season's tickets for baseball and hockey!"); going to the family cottage at Jackson's Point, and maintaining close family ties.

For information or dinner tickets, call 416-665-8054; fax 416-665-8055, or e-mail cdnbgu@on.aibn.com.

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Conflict with PA a strategic threat: IDF chief

Palestinian terror seen as greater problem than Iraq or Hezbollah

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — IDF Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon views the conflict with the Palestinians as one of the two main strategic threats to Israel, along with the prospect of a hostile country attaining nuclear weapons.

Ya'alon said Sunday that Israel must win the current conflict with the Palestinians, since such a victory would make it clear to the Palestinians that they cannot attain political goals by using terror, he said.

Ya'alon, speaking at a conference organized in Jerusalem by the Chief Rabbinate ahead of the coming High Holy Days, downplayed the threat posed by Iraq or Hezbollah compared to the problem of Palestinian terror and the danger caused by nuclear proliferation.

"In the long term, the threat posed by Iraq or Hezbollah doesn't make me lose sleep," Ya'alon said. "What does cost me sleep are two things: first, the prospect of a hostile country attaining nuclear capability and altering the strategic balance; and, second, the Palestinian issue."

He added: "If we don't make clear to ourselves that we must win this war [against the Palestinians], we'll find ourselves facing a cancerous threat."

Ya'alon added that when he headed military intelligence in 1995 he raised questions about the Palestinian Authority (PA). Questions he brought up then concerning the PA's possible reliance on terror have in the past two years become emphatic truths, he said.

The chief of staff said the Palestinians launched a war against Israel in 2000 when they grasped that the dispute was headed toward a diplomatic resolution and rather than choosing compromise, they initiated terror and violence.

The intifadah is not a popular uprising, as some would have Israel and the world believe, Ya'alon stressed. Rather, it is a war controlled by the PA leadership, with PA officials determining its tactics and norms.

The PA's recourse to terror reflects the Palestinian leadership's unwillingness to accept Israel as a state in the region, Ya'alon said.

Some Palestinian leaders believed that Israel would break down at a much earlier stage of the intifadah, Ya'alon said. These Palestinians believed that Israel could not endure 600 fatalities and serious economic damage. In reality, Israel has overcome setbacks, and must continue to do so, he declared.

Should the conflict end with the Palestinians believing that terror serves their ends, "we'll find ourselves on a slippery slope in terms of our deterrent capabilities, in relations with Arab states and with Arabs in Israel."

In what appears to be a slap in the face to PA Interior Minister Abdel Raziq Yehiyeh, the joint intifadah leadership called on the PA on Sunday to stop its security talks with Israeli officials.

A statement issued after a series of meetings between Yehiyeh and opposition groups said the intifadah leadership supports the continuation of the struggle against Israel and objects to the "Gaza and Bethlehem First" plan – in which the PA agreed to crack down on terror in exchange for a partial Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian-controlled areas – and other partial solutions offered by Israel.

Yehiyeh published a statement earlier Sunday detailing his efforts to get various militant groups to abandon the use of violence.

During a meeting last week, Yehiyeh stressed the importance of the security agreement in order to remove Israeli troops from Palestinian towns, he said.

"I asserted the need to reassess and revise accordingly the strategy of resistance and to review its presently adopted forms so as to comply with international norms and international legitimacy," Yehiyeh said in the statement.

Chief rabbis call for revision to Law of Return

By MAZAL MUALEM and ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel's leading Jewish authorities, Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron and his Ashkenazi counterpart Yisrael Meir Lau, called Sunday for an urgent revision to be made to the Law of Return, Army Radio reported.

Speaking at the end of the annual convention of rabbis in Jerusalem, the two warned that "70 per cent of the new immigrants to Israel are professed non-Jews, with no connection to Judaism. We cannot continue to bring entire Christian families to Israel."

The Law of Return, passed in 1950, states that every Jew has the right to come to Israel as an immigrant. New immigrants to Israel receive a range of benefits designed to facilitate their integration into society, including Hebrew lessons, subsidized housing and health care.

According to figures released last week by the Interior Ministry, some two-thirds of the immigrants to Israel from the former Soviet Union (FSU) since the beginning of the year are not Jewish.

Interior Minister Eli Yishai said the figures were a serious matter and testified to the need for an immediate change to the Law of Return. To date, Yishai, from the haredi Shas Party, has been unsuccessful in his efforts to change the law. Last June, it appeared that the law might be modified after a committee of cabinet ministers approved a change proposed by MK Michael Kleiner (Herut). But Kleiner's proposal was effectively buried after then-Housing Minister Natan Sharansky appealed the ministers' decision to the cabinet, which annulled it.

Under the Law of Return, the spouses of Jews, their children and their grandchildren are all entitled to immigrate to Israel, receive citizenship and various benefits, even if they are not considered Jews under Jewish law.

Under Kleiner's amendment, a person whose grandparent is Jewish would be eligible for rights provided by the Law of Return only if he immigrates to Israel together with the grandparent. In a situation in which the Jewish grandparent is dead, the grandchild would have to prove that he was persecuted because of his Jewish ancestry.

At the time of the amendment, Sharansky said parties with particular interests were spreading lies that most of the immigrants are non-Jews, when in fact only six percent are not Jewish. Yishai responded by promising to continue his efforts to change the law, claiming that it paradoxically is undoing Israel's Jewish identity while it is meant to do exactly the opposite.

Interior Ministry officials said the figures include all immigrants who received visas to come to Israel based on the Law of Return.

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The Week in Israel

Aug. 19

• Hebrew University researchers announced they have developed a technique that could prevent the spread of cancer cells. It involves engineering a virus that induces cancer cells to destroy themselves. The researchers are trying to adapt the technique against lymphoma and leukemia.

Aug. 20

• Former prime minister Ehud Barak appeared before the commission looking into the rioting in northern Israel in October 2000 in which 13 Israeli Arabs died. Barak, who created the commission, testified a "separatist Arab group with nationalist political demands" launched the violence.

Aug. 21

• A day after Israeli troops withdrew from Bethlehem, its mayor called for a peaceful struggle against Israel. Mayor Hanna Nassar said the Palestinian people had made a mistake by using weapons in the current intifadah.

Aug. 22

• The army prevented three armed Palestinians from infiltrating Kfar Darom in Gaza . A caller to Associated Press claimed responsibility on behalf of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a branch of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

Aug. 23

• The unemployment rate fell in the second quarter of the year, from 10.6 per cent to 10.3 per cent, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The number of jobless people fell from 268,500 in the first quarter to 260,500. But officials said the drop fails to reflect a change in the employment situation, saying it was due mainly to an increase in the number of people called up for army reserve duty and an increase in the number of private security guards.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Jews optimistic as UN summit opens

By MICHAEL BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAPE TOWN — Jewish participants have been bracing themselves for the opening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, worried that the conference could turn into another forum for anti-Semitism like last year's UN anti-racism conference.

But on the eve of the conference in Johannesburg, which begins Monday and runs through Sept. 4, some Jewish leaders here are optimistic that it will remain focused on the issue of balancing respect for the environment with the need for economic development.

Russell Gaddin, national chair of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, which has led the local Jewish lobby in preparing for the summit, said: "We do know that the anti-Israel lobby is going to be here and is going to endeavour to promote their anti-Israel propaganda.

"But I believe we have done enough network building to ensure they do not hijack the conference."

The South African government was determined to make sure the conference dealt with the issues that are supposed to be the summit's focus, Gaddin said, "particularly after they came to understand what a disaster the Durban racism conference was."

The United States and Israel stormed out of last year's conference in Durban, South Africa, condemning it as a circus of anti-Semitism, after language was debated that would have rehabilitated the 1975 UN resolution denigrating Zionism as racism, and after thousands thronged in protest of Israel, with some distributing anti-Semitic cartoons and taunting that Hitler never finished the job.

Focus expected to remain on the environment

This year's summit will start with a gathering of non-governmental organizations, followed by the governmental summit.

More than 100 heads of state and government are expected to attend. Several countries have expressed their disappointment that the United States delegation is being led by Secretary of State Colin Powell, and not by President George W. Bush.

In contrast to the racism conference, there has been no major emphasis on anti-Israel resolutions during preparatory meetings, although four allegations were made against Israel in debates, relating to toxic waste dumps, the destruction of olive trees, "stealing water" and preventing sustainable development.

Jewish groups, who admit they were caught by surprise by the virulence of the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic campaign at Durban, worked to make sure that the Johannesburg conference would not be hijacked by Arab and pro-Palestinian groups.

But the final preparatory document in June left the door open for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Although the parties were not mentioned by name, "foreign occupation" was listed among "worldwide conditions that pose severe threats to sustainable development."

Some prominent Africans, including South Africa's deputy foreign minister Aziz Pahad, believe that any overemphasis on the conflict, as happened at Durban, detracts from the Palestinian cause.

"We will always defend the right of the Palestinian people, but you can't have every conference dominated by the issue," he said earlier this month.

Gaddin regards the summit "not as a threat, but as an opportunity to showcase what Jews and Israel are doing for sustainable development worldwide."

This has led to a proactive strategy, focusing largely on Israel's contributions to sustainable development.

Keren Kayemeth Leisrael-Jewish National Fund, Israel's largest environmental organization, has sent a substantial delegation and is sharing research findings in the fields of forestation, desert rehabilitation, land development, water recycling and agricultural innovations.

Optimistic about the event, Jewish activists point to several differences between this year's meeting and Durban, saying that the conference in Johannesburg has a different agenda, is much larger and has had a lack of public demonstrations before the summit.

Israel sent only a low-level delegation to Durban, but this time it will be represented by two Cabinet members, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Environment Minister Tzachi Hanegbi.

Canada, Germany set to sign pension pact

Continued from page 1

Few German Jews who had lived outside Germany returned to the country after the war and, in effect, were excluded under the pension rules.

However, the governments of Israel and the United States campaigned to have the special circumstances of Jews recognized and in 1992, the law was amended to include eastern European Jews of German descent. In 1995, the law was further amended to include Jews not living in Germany.

Alerted to the situation by Endre Altmann, a Canadian citizen who emigrated from Romania in 1988, Canadian Jewish Congress began a long lobbying effort to include Canadian Jews in the pension plan. Canadian and German officials proved receptive to the idea and, once various bureaucratic hurdles were overcome, the signing ceremony resulted.

To be eligible, pensioners must be a Jew of German ancestry born before Sept. 1, 1925. They must also have been a Canadian resident prior to July 1, 1990.

Since the pension reforms were implemented, only about 200 American Jews have qualified, said Ron Singer, director of public affairs for Congress.

Altmann said he expects to receive a lump sum, retroactive payment of tens of thousands of dollars. "It means I would be able to help my grandchildren," he said. "It would be a great help to support them in their university years."

Altmann, who worked as an engineer in the food processing industry, said his family traces its roots in Romania to a German colonization under the Habsburg Empire in the 18th century.

Florida man arrested for planning to attack Muslims

By SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A Florida podiatrist, Dr. Robert Goldstein, 37, was arrested Friday on suspicion of planning to bomb mosques and Islamic centres in St. Petersburg.

Agents of the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) raided Goldstein's home in the suburb of Seminole, near St. Petersburg, after the suspect's mother called police, requesting a security check at her son's home. She was concerned over a fight Goldstein had with his wife Kristi.

At the home, which was rigged with trip wires and closed circuit cameras, the agents discovered what they described as "enough explosives to destroy the 200-unit townhouse complex."

In a Tampa court, Goldstein was charged with possession of a non-registered destructive device and attempting to use an explosive to damage and destroy Islamic centres. He continues to be held without bond at the Hillsborough County Jail.

In the Goldstein home, agents found a typed list of approximately 50 Islamic places of worship in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area and other Florida locations.

The operation at Goldstein's home began with an effort to coax him outside. Thirty minutes later he was placed in custody under the Baker Act, which allows involuntary commitment for psychiatric evaluation.

In the home the police found explosive devices, grenades and a 20-litre gasoline bomb with a timer and a wire attached to it.

They also found a cache of weapons, including .50-calibre machine-guns and sniper rifles. Goldstein had licences for the guns and no criminal record, according to a local detective.

Police said they also found an 11-point plan for attacking an Islamic education centre. The plan outlined details including what Goldstein would wear, how he could get rid of fingerprints and how he would engage in hand-to-hand combat if necessary.

"Set timers for approximately 15-20 minutes to allow for enough time to get out of area, but to confirm explosion has... been successful," the outline said, according to authorities. "The amount of explosives should be ample to take down the building[s]," they said.

Jerusalem terror cell implicated in major attacks

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — The recent capture of a Hamas cell in eastern Jerusalem believed responsible for a series of devastating terrorist attacks was a major coup for Israel's security forces – but it underscored the challenge Israel faces in fighting terrorism when the perpetrators may come from within.

Israelis reacted with shock and consternation to the fact the four cell members from eastern Jerusalem used their Israeli identity cards, places of employment and freedom of movement to carry out some of the most devastating attacks of the current Palestinian intifadah, killing 35 people and wounded dozens.

Among the attacks attributed to the cell were the July 31 bombing at Hebrew University that killed nine people, including five Americans.

The cell also is believed to have carried out the March suicide bombing at Jerusalem's Moment Cafe, and a suicide bombing at a Rishon Lezion pool hall in May.

The cell also tried, on two occasions to derail Israeli trains by planting bombs on the tracks near Lod. They also planted two bombs on fuel tankers, one of which blew up beneath a tanker at the country's largest depot, Pi Glilot.

The Pi Glilot attack, which because of a series of coincidences caused no injuries, raised Israeli fears of a "mega-terror" attack that could cause thousands of casualties.

Deputy Public Security Minister Gideon Ezra said the capture of eastern Jerusalem residents at the core of a terrorist cell completely shattered the left's claim that terrorists were driven by economic hardship, hunger and poverty.

"These people had it made from every aspect," Ezra wrote in the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*. "They did not live under closure or blockade. They enjoyed a good living, freedom of movement throughout the country. Despite this, they turned murder into an industry that coldly killed 35 Israelis and was always looking for the next murderous attack.

"All of this proves that hardship" is not "what pushes the Palestinian murderers, but vast hate, cultivated by religious leaders and the Palestinian Authority," Ezra wrote.

Interior Minister Eli Yishai said he was taking steps to revoke the permanent residency status of the four Jerusalemites.

As a first step, Yishai asked the state attorney's office and the Shin Bet security service to provide him with material showing that the four had been involved in terrorist activities.

Yishai has already begun proceedings to revoke the citizenship of two Israeli Arabs suspected of terrorist activity. The interior minister, who has been criticized for what some considered an extreme move, said it is the only way to deter terrorists who are Israelis or live in Israel from exploiting their status to harm the state.

"We are in the midst of a war, and we are obliged to protect ourselves," Yishai said last Thursday.

Unlike Israeli Arabs, residents of eastern Jerusalem are not Israeli citizens. They can vote in Jerusalem municipal elections – though most choose not to, so as not to legitimize Israeli rule, and because of threats from Palestinian leaders – but they cannot vote in elections for the Knesset.

Since the signing of the 1993 Oslo accords, they can vote in Palestinian elections.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who has taken pride in the fact that eastern Jerusalem residents for the most part have refrained from violent activity during the intifadah, expressed shock at the existence of the cell.

"This is something I feared," Olmert said.

In addition to the four eastern Jerusalem residents, Israeli security forces arrested a cell member near Ramallah.

Security forces said the cell's commanders in Ramallah received their instructions from Damascus. Israeli security forces said the cell apparently was planning "mega-attacks" against Israel.

The men were captured last week on Saturday night by Israeli security forces, who thwarted an attempt to carry out an attack in central Israel. Last Tuesday, Israeli experts recovered the bomb the cell had intended to use in the attack, which they had hidden near the entrance to Jerusalem.

At least eight major attacks were attributed to the group. They include the July 31 bombing at Hebrew University's Frank Sinatra cafeteria. Nine people were killed, among them five Americans, and more than 80 were wounded.

According to reports, one cell member jumped the fence of the university the night before the attack and hid the bomb behind a bush. The next day, Mohammed Odeh, who worked as a painter for a contractor doing renovations on the campus, showed up for work. He picked up the bomb from its hiding place, took it to the cafeteria, put it in on a table and covered it with a newspaper. He then left the campus and detonated the bomb by remote control from a cell phone.

The day after the attack, Odeh reported to work to repaint the scorched walls of the cafeteria.

A French foreign student wounded in the cafeteria bombing said he felt only slightly relieved by the capture of the cell responsible for the attack.

"If I understand the news correctly, it is only the tip of the iceberg. It is scary that there are terrorist cells prepared to do everything to hurt us," the daily *Ma'ariv* quoted him as saying.

American Jewish organizations demanded that the cell members be extradited to the United States to face trial.

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Syrians say they would consider border changes

Middle East officials, policy-makers meet for closed-door conference

By SHARON SADEH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — A closed-door conference of opinion makers and officials from the Middle East – including Israelis, Syrians, and Palestinians – heard surprising readiness on the part of the Syrians to discuss border modifications in any peace deal with Israel involving a return of the Golan Heights.

In addition, one of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's closest advisers, MP Peter Mandelson, said the lines of a final peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians are well-known to all and that the mutual bloodshed will not change them, even if the violence continues for years to come. He said an international force, led by the Americans, not the United Nations, might be necessary to guarantee a ceasefire that could corral both sides into negotiations.

Mandelson, who as Secretary for Northern Ireland was involved in the peace negotiations there, said Israel and the Palestinians are closer to a final accord than the Irish, since the Irish agreed to postpone a final agreement until a plebiscite is held. Meanwhile, the sides are proceeding through an interim agreement.

With the outlines of a final deal between Israel and the Palestinians almost certain to resemble the Taba and Clinton plans, the conflict in the Middle East is much closer to a solution than the violence would suggest, he said.

The conference was organized by the Next Century Foundation, among whose founders is former PLO treasurer Jaweed al Ghussein, and whose advisory board includes both Arab and Jewish businessmen.

Attending the conference – dubbed "Beyond the Boundaries" and described as "a confidential meeting between opinion formers to search for a rationale amongst the various plans and options currently in circulation in the Middle East" – were private and public officials from all sides in the region. The meeting's agenda was to "discuss the plethora of peace plans that are currently in circulation and find a viable thread."

Among the Israelis attending was Oded Ben Haim, director of Palestinian affairs in the Foreign Ministry, and Prof. Itzhak Galnoor, a former head of the Civil Service Commission.

On the Palestinian side, a minor flap erupted when the Palestinian Authority (PA) representative, Jihad al Wazir, cancelled his attendance because of the presence of several Palestinian opposition figures who have long been seeking the removal of PA President Yasser Arafat.

These included Tawfiq al Ghussein, son of the former PLO treasurer, who is running as an independent candidate against Arafat for the PA presidency. However, Bassam Abu Sharif, a former spokesperson for the PFLP and now an adviser to Arafat, showed up.

Most surprising among the 40 delegates to the conference were the Syrian representatives, Fawaz Akhras, father-in-law of Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Ghayth Armanazi, a former Arab League ambassador and former head of the Arab Bankers Association. Organizers believe the two attended with full knowledge and approval of the uppermost echelons of the Syrian government.

Armanazi said Syria disapproves of ending the conflict with a series of separate agreements, and believes that the peace process should continue along the lines of the regional negotiations according to the Madrid Conference. He said the Oslo process failed because Syria was opposed to it.

Turning to the Israeli-Syrian dispute, however, the Syrian surprised the audience when he said that if necessary, Syria would consider border corrections in an agreement with Israel over the Golan Heights. So far, Syria has insisted on Israel returning to pre-1967 borders.

But the speaker insisted that for Syria to reach an agreement, Israel has to clarify what it regards as the final line of withdrawal and stop using ambiguous statements such as "the depth of withdrawal will equal the depth of peace," a phrase the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin often used to explain his position on the Golan Heights.

In addition to the outlines of a final Israeli-Palestinian deal and the dispute with Syria, the participants also discussed "100 commercial projects for the area that could be implemented immediately," if a political settlement is reached. Jerusalem and the fate of the holy sites was also on the agenda.

CLARIFICATION

In recent stories, we have given incomplete information. Birthright Israel is a partnership between the Israeli government, local Jewish communities (United Jewish Communities–UJA Federations in North America, Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency for Israel) and the following philanthropic partners: S. Daniel Abraham, the Abramson Family Foundation, Andrea and Charles Bronfman, Edgar Bronfman Sr., the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation, Hadassah, Ronald S. Lauder, the Samberg Family Foundation, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Judy and Michael Steinhardt, the Wasserman Foundation, Leslie and Abigail Wexner and the Wexner Foundation, Karen and Gary Winnick in North America, and Marc Rich in Europe. Contributions have also been made by the AVI CHAI Foundation, Sandy Baklor and Arlene Kaufman, Len and Alex Blavatnik, Lev Leviev and the Righteous Persons Foundation.

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Holiday Food Ideas

Follow commandments and be sated

By RIVKA TAL
Special to The CJN

Rivka Tal, a freelance writer living in Israel, sent along her family's Rosh Hashanah menu:

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is a two-day holiday, and many people follow the commandment to eat two festive meals on each day.

It's a time when family and friends get together to wish each other a good, sweet year. So not surprisingly, the meals favour our sweet tooth. Challahs for these meals are traditionally round to symbolize the cycle of the year.

Another tradition is to avoid the use of any nuts on Rosh Hashanah. Our first night meal will look something like this. Although it may seem to be excessive, none of us will forego chicken soup at any Shabbat or holiday meal. The Tuna Pinwheels are a bit of an effort, but definitely worth it.

Since many people are not partial to honey cake, we serve honey cookies instead.

Recipes for items marked with a * are included below.

May the entire Jewish people be inscribed for a good, sweet year!

*Tuna Pinwheels
Chicken Soup
*Honey-Mustard Chicken
Green Salad
Mashed Potato Kugel
*Carrot Tsimmes
Fruit Compote
*Honey Cookies

TUNA PINWHEELS

Tuna Pinwheels may be served as is, or topped with dollops of mushroom sauce for an elegant presentation.

3½ cups flour, sifted
½ tsp. salt
1¾ cup unsalted margarine
6 to 8 tbsp. ice water
1 can artichoke bottoms (optional)
2 6½-oz. cans tuna, well-drained
2 eggs
½ tsp. onion soup powder (optional)
⅓ cup matzah meal
salt and pepper to taste
1 egg yolk, beaten

Prepare pastry: Combine flour and salt in a medium bowl. Cut in margarine with a pastry blender or two knives until crumbly.

Sprinkle ice water, 1 tbsp. at a time, evenly over surface. Stir with a fork until dry ingredients are moistened. (After adding 6 tbsp. ice water, squeeze dough firmly between your fingers. If it falls apart, add remaining water.)

Divide dough in half and form each into a flattened disk; wrap with plastic wrap. Freeze for half an hour or chill for 2 hours. Let stand at room temperature 5 minutes.

Quarter well-drained artichokes and place in food processor. Buzz briefly. Add tuna, eggs, nuts, soup powder, matzah meal, salt and pepper and combine thoroughly.

Preheat oven to 375. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out one pastry disk on a floured surface to ⅛-inch thickness, about 13 x 9 inches. Spread filling evenly over dough and roll up tightly. Pinch to seal; fold ends under loaf. Place on parchment-lined sheet. Repeat with remaining dough.

Mix egg yolk with 1 tsp. water and brush over prepared rolls. Sprinkle with sesame seeds. Score with a sharp knife at ¾-inch intervals. Bake for about 45 minutes or until golden. Slice and serve. Yield: 2 rolls of 8-10 servings.

CARROT TSIMMES
(includes no fat)

non-stick cooking spray
2 medium sweet potatoes
3 cooking apples (Golden Delicious or Rome Beauty)
3 medium carrots
1 cup pitted prunes
¼ cup orange juice
2 tbsp. grated orange rind
¼ cup honey
¼ tsp. ground cloves

Coat a 13 x 9-inch decorative bake-and-serve casserole with non-stick cooking spray. Peel sweet potatoes and slice into thin slices. Peel and core apples. Scrape carrots. Slice apples and carrots into thin slices. Cut prunes in half, using wet kitchen shears.

Layer sweet potatoes, apples, carrots and prunes in overlapping circles in the prepared baking dish. Combine orange juice, orange rind, honey and cloves and pour over mixture.

Cover. Bake for approximately 1½ hours or until thoroughly cooked. Serve hot.

CHICKEN IN HONEY MUSTARD MARINADE

¼ cup honey
¼ cup soy sauce
¼ cup prepared mustard
¼ cup dry white wine
1 tbsp. grated orange rind
1 clove minced garlic
1 2½-3 lb. chicken, cut into eighths

Combine all ingredients except chicken in a large bowl. Put chicken into the mixture and cover. Chill in the refrigerator 6 to 8 hours or overnight, turning over pieces once, if possible.

Preheat oven to 325. Lightly grease a medium baking dish. Place marinated chicken in the prepared baking dish. Bake in the preheated oven 1-1½ hours, or until meat is no longer pink and juices run clear.

HONEY COOKIES

3 eggs
¼ cup sugar
⅓ cup vegetable oil
1 cup honey
4 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. cinnamon
powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 325. Beat eggs together with sugar. Add oil and honey and beat in well. (If honey is too thick, it may be softened by microwaving at full power for 45 seconds. Be sure to remove the top of the jar. If the jar is plastic, microwave for only 20-30 seconds. Be careful: jar and honey may become very hot!) Set aside.

Sift flour. Stir in baking powder and cinnamon. Combine with the first mixture, mixing just enough to thoroughly incorporate ingredients.

Cover cookie sheets with aluminum foil. With your hands, form balls about 1½ inches in diameter. Place on cookie sheets, 2 inches apart. (If dough is too sticky to handle, wet hands slightly before forming the balls.) Bake for 12-15 minutes until golden brown around edges. Remove from cookie sheets and dust with powdered sugar. Yield: 4 dozen cookies.

Manischewitz Wine Cellars, Naples, N.Y.

Holiday Food Ideas

This year's Rosh Hashanah recipes from COR

The Kashruth Council of Canada (COR) issues holiday information and recipes to thousands of families in Canada, the United States and beyond.

There is no charge if you want to be placed on the mailing list. You will receive information about the availability of kosher products, new products, shops and facilities, as well as holiday information throughout the year.

To receive these mailings, call 416-635-9550, fax 416-635-8760, or write to Kashruth Council of Canada, Kosher Information Service, 4600 Bathurst St., Suite 240, Toronto, Ont., M2R 3V2.

Here is a sample of this year's Rosh Hashanah recipes.

HEARTY VEGETABLE SOUP
Pareve

A great way to use leftover vegetables, your garden vegetables or canned vegetables. Just replace a can of vegetables in the ingredient list with approximately 2 cups of your leftovers or vary the vegetables. Prepare a day or two in advance to blend the flavours and the taste is better.

2 19-oz. cans Italian stewed tomatoes
4 cups water
1 19-oz. can chick peas, drained and rinsed
1 14-oz. can cut green beans, drained and rinsed
1 14-oz. can green peas, drained and rinsed
3 potatoes, peeled and diced
1 medium onion, diced
2 carrots, peeled and chopped
¼ cup rice
⅛ tsp. black pepper
⅛ tsp. red pepper flakes
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. garlic powder

Bring the tomatoes and water to a simmer. Add the remaining ingredients. Cover and continue cooking for 60 minutes to allow flavours to blend. Serves 10-12.

Variation: Use any canned vegetables you prefer. Corn or kidney beans work well. Serves 4.

GLAZED VIDALIA ONIONS

Glaze:
1 cup dry kosher red wine
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. dried rosemary
1 tbsp. lemon juice
⅛ tsp. ground cloves
⅛ tsp. black pepper

2 medium Vidalia or other sweet onions
cooking spray
2 tsp. olive oil

Preheat oven to 400. Combine the first 6 ingredients in a small saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook, uncovered, until reduced to ½ cup (about 10 minutes). Set aside. Cut the onions lengthwise in half. Place cut sides down in a small baking dish coated with cooking spray. Drizzle olive oil over onions. Cover and bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake 20 minutes more. Remove from oven. Turn over and pour the wine mixture over the onions. Bake an additional 20 minutes or until onions are tender, basting every 5 minutes. Serve ½ onion with 1 tbsp. glaze per serving.

MOROCCAN CHICKEN
A dark succulent dish

4 tbsp. oil
2 cups sliced onions
1 cup raisins
1 cup pitted prunes, halved
1 cup almonds, blanched, peeled and toasted
2 cups cooked or roasted chicken, cut in strips
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
¾ cup orange juice

Preheat oven to 350. Heat oil and fry onions until soft and dark brown. Add raisins, prunes and almonds. Simmer covered, on a very low heat for 15 minutes. Add chicken strips, salt, pepper and orange juice. Place in covered casserole and bake for 1 hour. The juices will evaporate and the dish should be dark brown and very soft. Serves 4.

SUPERB RICE MOLD

Part 1
2 cups brown rice
2 tbsp. oil
salt and pepper to taste

Put rice in a large pot of boiling salted water and cook for 30 minutes. Drain and rinse with warm water. Place in a baking dish. Add oil, salt and pepper to taste. Dry in a 200-degree oven for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally with a fork.

Part 2
While rice is cooking, prepare vinaigrette in a jar or food processor.
1½ tsp. dried basil
1½ tsp. dried tarragon
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
¼ cup vinegar
¾ cup oil
salt and pepper to taste

Part 3
½ cup toasted slivered almonds
½ cup fresh green peas
1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced
½ cup black olives, sliced
¼ cup chopped flat leaf parsley
½ can cut hearts of palm
¼ cup red pepper, diced
1 can sliced mushrooms, drained
¼ lb. salami, diced (optional)

Mix rice with ingredients in part 3. Toss with vinaigrette in part 2. Pack tightly in an oiled ring mold or bundt pan. Refrigerate. Before serving, unmold rice ring on a bed of Boston leaf lettuce. Garnish with remaining hearts of palm and cherry or grape tomatoes. Serves 10-12.

BLUSHING SALAD

Salad:
4 heads Boston Bibb lettuce leaves separated, washed and dried well
1 cup canned or bottled sliced beets, drained
1 small red onion, sliced very thin

Dressing:
3 tbsp. vinegar
3 tbsp. kosher white wine
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
¾ tsp. Dijon mustard
salt, to taste
¼ tsp. black pepper

croutons

Place the lettuce, beets and onions in a large salad bowl. Place all dressing ingredients in a jar. Shake to mix thoroughly. (May be prepared and refrigerated 2 days in advance). Just before serving, shake dressing and drizzle over the salad. Add croutons and toss the salad to coat evenly. Serve immediately. Serves 6-8.

HONEY ALMOND BISCOTTI

1½ cups unblanched almonds, toasted and divided in half
2 cups all purpose flour
½ cup sugar
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ cup honey
⅓ cup water

Preheat oven to 350. Grind half the almonds to a fine powder. Combine ground nuts, whole nuts, flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon. Add honey and water; mix well until mixture forms dough.

Divide dough in half; shape each into a cylinder about 15 inches long. Place them well apart on a cookie sheet that has been lined with slightly oiled parchment paper or aluminum foil. Bake for 30 minutes or until firm and dark gold. Cool slightly.

Remove dough to cutting board. Slice into ½-inch slices and place cut side down on cookie sheet again; bake for 15 minutes or until lightly browned and dry. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

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• SALMON AND FETA BRUNCH PIE •

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Prep time: 15 min. • Cook Time: 35–40 min. • Makes 8 servings

1 cup 2% cottage cheese
1/2 250g pkg light cream cheese, softened
3 eggs
2-3 tsp chopped fresh dill
1/4 tsp black pepper
2 green onions, chopped

- In food processor or blender, process cottage cheese until smooth. Add cream cheese and process until smooth. Add eggs, dill and pepper; blend until smooth.

1 can (170 g) **Clover Leaf® Chunk Sockeye Salmon**, Skinless and Boneless, drained
1/2 cup crumbled light feta cheese
1 unbaked 9-inch (23 cm) deep dish matzoh meal pie shell

- Stir in salmon, green onions and feta. Pour into pie crust.
- Bake at 375°F (190°C) 35–40 minutes or until set. Serve warm or chilled.

HINT *Instead of feta, substitute other favourite cheeses: cheddar or Swiss. This pie may be prepared up to a day ahead; cover and refrigerate. Reheat at 350°F (180°C) about 20 minutes.*

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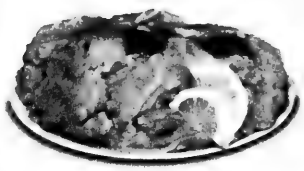

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Cookbook recalls Syrian Jewish traditions

BY PENNY SCHWARTZ
Special to The CJN

Ten years ago, Jennifer Abadi tied on an apron and armed herself with a notebook for weekly cooking lessons with her Grandma Fritzie, a Syrian-born Jew with a passion for food. Occasionally, they were joined by Abadi's mother and aunt.

The cooking sessions in Grandma Fritzie's small New York City kitchen were the prelude to Abadi's project – to learn and record the treasures of the unfamiliar world of Syrian Jewish cooking before it is lost.

Sitting in a Cambridge, Mass., coffee house recently, Abadi recalled the scene and said she had envisioned a cookbook to carry forth the traditions and roots of her grandmother's vanishing culture. Syrian Jewish recipes are rarely shared with the outside world, she explained.

Stories flowed with the food. And oh, what stories!

'Food embodies a culture'

You'll savour the results and discover the wealth of Jewish Syrian American life in *A Fistful of Lentils, Syrian Jewish Recipes from Grandma Fritzie's Kitchen*, written and illustrated by Jennifer Felicia Abadi, with a forward by Barbara Kafka (Harvard Common Press, $24.95).

Abadi, a 35-year-old graphic artist, spoke about her heritage and her worldwide vista.

"Food embodies a culture. It is the easiest way to learn about a place and its people."

Fistful readers embark on a culinary journey. Tucked into the more than 125 recipes are Abadi family tales, illustrations, photographs, history and detailed information about ingredients and preparation.

The recipes and stories are seasoned by the centuries with alluring spices – allspice and cumin; lots of salt; the smells and aromas of rose water, mint and lemon; and most especially, tamarind, adding the sweet and pungent zest of life which dominates this cuisine.

"The story begins 500 years ago," Abadi writes, "when Sephardi Jews fled from persecution in Spain and settled in Allepo, Syria, joining an ancient community of Oriental Jews, known as Mizrachi. In shared living quarters and in communal kitchens, the flavours of their cultures blended as the women spent their days preparing meals, expressing themselves boldly and creatively, and competing with a friendly spirit."

Grandma Fritzie, who was born in Allepo in 1915 or 1916, told Abadi of a vivid childhood memory: "I would stand at the doorway and watch the mothers cooking and chatting. The sights and aromas of the place have never left me."

Grandma Fritzie's family was among the large wave of Syrian Jews who immigrated to America in the 1920s and recreated their tightly woven, traditional community in the Ocean Parkway neighbourhood in Brooklyn, where even now, they maintain their strong cultural and religious customs.

Matloub Abadi, Grandma Fritzie's father, was the rabbi at the tiny Magen David Synagogue in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, which, 75 years later, still exists.

"My family finds most Middle Eastern food too bland," Abadi said. "The ingredients in Syrian Jewish cooking are not complicated. There are just a few spices. But you should be able to taste the lemon juice, you should be able to taste the mint."

Abadi opens her hand to show a measurement – *kemsheh*, a handful, a fistful.

"When I asked my grandmother for her measuring cup, I was amazed to find out that she didn't have one," Abadi said. "Grandma Fritzie pulled out a big soup spoon and said that this was a tablespoon. "'Throw it in. Don't be shy,' my grandmother would say," Abadi repeated.

Abadi said the recipes in her book are better because she resisted the urge to cut back on the spices.

"For 60 years, my grandmother used the same warped, uneven aluminum pot to cook M'jedrah – rice with lentils," Abadi noted. So comforting is this Syrian soul food that Grandma Fritzie was asked to ship a potful via Federal Express to satisfy her grown, homesick grandson in Montana.

There's a wide selection of vegetarian recipes, as Syrian Jewish cooking follows the kosher Jewish dietary rules separating meat from dairy products.

Fowleh b'Bandoorah, string beans in tomato sauce, is rich and tangy with tamarind paste. The Yogurt-Mint Dressing (with cucumber) is a perfect light and smooth complement.

Dja'jeh Mish Mosh, sweet and tart chicken with apricots is an aromatic stew flavoured with tomato paste and and lemon.

But it is the platefuls of Sambusak – savoury pastries filled with either meat or cheese – another staple of Syrian cuisine – that are Abadi's hands-down favorite.

Desserts are sweet and prepared with such delicate ingredients as phyllo, pistachio nuts, rosewater and dried fruits.

A Fistful of Lentils is topped off with menus such as the humorous, Meet Your Suitor Afternoon Tea Party.

Abadi has created a book that – like Grandma Fritzie's M'jedrah pot – will stand up to the test of time. She closes her introduction with this invitation: "It'fadalu," welcome to our table, to which readers will reply, "Shuk'ren," thank you.

Continued on page 41

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Cookbook recalls traditions

Continued from page 40

DJA'JEH MISH MOSH
SWEET-AND-TART CHICKEN WITH APRICOTS

Here is a delicious chicken recipe that will have your guests licking their fingers. The tangy apricots mixed with the tomato base create an aromatic stew. The use of apricots in savoury as well as sweet dishes is common in the Middle East. Serve with rice.

3 lb. chicken pieces (white and dark meat), skinned
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
2 tbsp. vegetable oil

Sauce:
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
2/3 cup coarsely chopped yellow onions
2 tsp. minced garlic
1 6-oz. can unsalted tomato paste
1 1/4 cups cold water
3 tbsp. firmly packed dark brown sugar
6 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 1/4 cups dried whole Turkish apricots

Preheat oven to 350. Prepare the chicken. Rinse the chicken pieces under cold running water, pat dry with paper towels and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place on a plate.

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is very hot, add the chicken pieces and brown, cooking for 2 to 3 minutes on each side. Remove from the skillet and set aside.

Prepare the sauce. Heat the oil in the same skillet over medium heat and cook the onions, stirring, until golden and soft, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until golden, an additional 1 minute. (Be careful not to burn it.)

Combine the remaining sauce ingredients, except the apricots, in a medium-size bowl and pour into the skillet with the onion and garlic. Bring the sauce to a boil over high heat. Turn off the heat and set aside.

Arrange one layer of chicken in a small roasting pan (it is better if the chicken parts fit snugly so that the juices will not dry out). Cover the pieces with the apricots. Pour the sauce over the apricots, reserving 1/2 cup for later, and cover with aluminum foil for a tight-fitting lid. Bake for 1 hour.

After 1 hour, pour the remaining 1/2 cup sauce over the chicken and continue to bake, covered, until the chicken is tender, almost falling off the bones, about another 30 minutes. Serve hot, with the sauce spooned over rice. Serves 4.

KUSA B'JIBIN
SQUASH CHEESE PIE

3 tbsp. vegetable oil, plus more to coat the pan
1 cup finely chopped yellow onions
8 cups diced yellow squash and/or zucchini (about 4 large)
1/2 cup cold water
3 large eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup crumbled feta cheese or freshly grated Parmesan cheese
2 cups large-curd cottage cheese (preferably whole milk, but lowfat or nonfat can be substituted), pot cheese or farmer's cheese
several grindings of black pepper
dash of paprika

Preheat oven to 350. Heat the 3 tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium heat and cook the onions, stirring, until golden and soft, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the squash and water and simmer, covered, over medium-low heat until the squash is soft but not mushy, about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

In a large bowl, combine the beaten eggs, cheeses and black pepper. Mix well. Pour half of the cheese mixture into a separate large bowl.

Fold the cooked squash gently into the mixture in one of the bowls. Coat a 9-inch glass or other ovenproof baking dish with vegetable oil.

Pour in the squash-cheese mixture. Spread the remaining half of the cheese mixture on top and sprinkle with paprika for colour. (May be refrigerated at this point and baked later in the day, or frozen. It will keep for 4 to 5 days in the refrigerator, 3 to 4 weeks in the freezer. Defrost before baking.)

Place the pie in the centre of the oven and bake until the top is brown and the centre is firm when pierced with a knife, 50 to 60 minutes.

Let stand for 5 minutes before serving. Can be served hot or cold, with each serving topped with a dollop of Yogurt-Mint Dressing. Serves 6 to 8.

LEBAN M'NAA'NA
YOGURT-MINT DRESSING

The combination of cold yogurt and cucumber with dried mint is commonly eaten in the Middle East to cool down the body in the hot desert sun.

Kirbies are small cucumbers often used for pickling. They are good for eating raw as well. Because they don't have the thick, waxy skin found on the larger cucumbers in most supermarkets, they do not need to be peeled.

2 cups plain yogurt
1 heaping tbsp. dried mint leaves
dash of garlic powder
about 1/4 tsp. salt, to taste
1 cup peeled and finely chopped or coarsely grated Kirby cucumbers

Place the yogurt in a small bowl and stir until creamy. Add the dried mint by crushing between the palms of your hands. Add the garlic powder and salt and mix well.

Fold the cucumbers into the mixture, cover, and chill until serving time; it will keep, refrigerated, for up to 2 days. Makes 2 1/4 cups.

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Dressing gives your salads variety and flair

BY EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

No matter what the holiday meal, it is certain there will be salad served at some point. Even if you buy the pre-cut, pre-washed bags, home-made dressings make the salad special.

The following recipes are all pareve and they are so versatile that they are equally tasty with beef, chicken or fish. I prefer to dress my salads before I serve them, and most of these recipes will make a perfect amount to dress a salad that will serve eight people.

Of course you can make several different recipes and let your guests choose the one they like best.

HONEY BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
2 tsp. honey
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
4 tsp. cold water
6-8 tsp. olive oil
1/4 tsp. each of salt and black pepper
1/4-1/2 tsp. herbs such as dill or basil (optional)

In a glass bowl, combine the vinegar and honey. Place the bowl in a microwave and warm the mixture for 20 seconds or more until honey dissolves in the vinegar. Add the mustard, water, olive oil, salt, pepper and herbs (if desired). Whisk to combine and then pour the dressing into a container with a lid. Cover and let set for at least 1/2 hour so that the ingredients can combine. Shake vigorously just before using. Makes approx. 1 cup. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

ORANGE POPPY SEED DRESSING

2/3 cup oil
1/4 cup lime juice
2 tbsp. orange juice
2 tbsp. orange rind, grated
2 tbsp. honey
2 tbsp. onion; minced
1 tbsp. poppy seeds
salt and pepper to taste

Place all ingredients in a screw-top jar. Shake vigorously. Chill until ready to serve. For even more flavour, seeds should be slightly toasted in a 350-degree oven for about 5 minutes. Makes approx. 1 1/2 cups. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

SOUTHWEST VINAIGRETTE

1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup white or rice wine vinegar
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. mustard powder
1/2 tsp. oregano
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/4 tsp. cilantro
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. cumin

Place all ingredients in a screw-top jar. Shake vigorously. Chill until ready to serve. Makes approx. 1 cup. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

LIME AND CILANTRO VINAIGRETTE

1/2 cup olive oil
2 tbsp. mayonnaise
2 tbsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. rice vinegar
1/4 cup fresh, shredded cilantro leaves, tightly packed
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. thyme
1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/8 tsp. cumin
a squeeze of fresh lime juice – about a quarter lime

Combine all the ingredients in a blender or food processor and process until fully mixed. Pour the mixture into a bowl and cover and chill until you're ready to serve.

ORIENTAL SALAD DRESSING

1/2 cup soy oil
2 tbsp. white vinegar
1 tbsp. tomato paste
1 tbsp. soy sauce
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1/2 cup sliced celery
1/4 cup onion, coarsely chopped

Combine oil, vinegar, tomato paste, soy sauce, salt, ginger, celery and onion in blender container and blend at medium speed 3 to 4 seconds until celery is finely grated. Pour the mixture into a bowl and cover and chill until you're ready to serve. Makes approx. 1 1/2 cups. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

CREAMY ORANGE DRESSING

1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
2 tbsp. white sugar
1 tbsp. white wine vinegar
cracked pepper

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and whisk to combine. Pour the mixture into a bowl and cover and chill until you're ready to serve. Makes a scant cup. This recipe can be doubled or tripled.

THAI PEANUT DRESSING

1/2 cup chunky peanut butter
1/2 cup cider vinegar
1 cup oil
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. chopped fresh chili pepper or crushed red peppers
2 tbsp. chopped green onion

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and whisk to combine. Makes 2 cups and is great as a dressing for a spinach salad or as a sauce with grilled poultry or meat on noodles.

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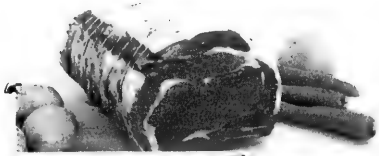

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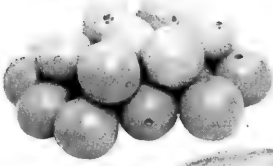

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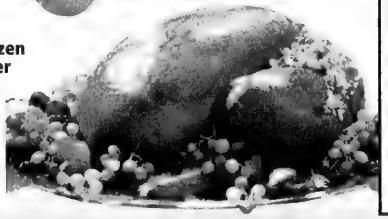

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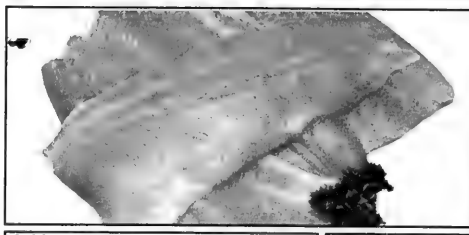
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Holiday Food Ideas

Brisket needs long, slow cooking

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

In our family, no meal is more anticipated than the annual holiday spread prepared by my mother on Rosh Hashanah. Every year at this time, she heads west along Highway 401, her car laden with bagels and other Montreal delicacies, to celebrate the new year in Toronto with her children, grandchildren and other extended family members.

For my children, the word bubbie is almost synonymous with chicken soup and matzah balls.

There's no doubt that my mother's chicken soup is the most revered dish of our holiday feast. However, there's no lack of appreciation for her brisket.

Over the years, the main course has varied between roasted turkey or roasted chicken, but there has always been brisket as far back as I can remember. In fact, brisket has been a traditional holiday staple for many Jewish families.

Brisket is a cut of beef from the front quarter of the cow. This roast is slow cooked for a long period of time to get maximum tenderness. My mother's brisket is so tender it melts in your mouth. It is so tasty, I couldn't imagine anyone being able to make brisket as well.

Marinating ahead of time gives the meat the flavour

However, about three years ago, I complimented her on her brisket, and was shocked to learn that my sister Sherri had made it. I was astounded. Her brisket was sweeter than my mother's, but no less tasty or tender. Ever since, Sherri makes it the first night of every holiday.

This year, we have so many holiday guests, I have offered to make the brisket for the second night of Rosh Hashanah.

I've been consulting with family, friends and professional cooks to find the best, and possibly the easiest, brisket recipe.

Almost everyone I asked has a recipe she swears by. My sister uses the recipe she got from her sister-in law Randi Winston. My friend Esther Kagan relies on Norene Gilletz's Marinated Brisket, while neighbour Evelyn Koch uses a recipe from *Second Helpings Please*, a cookbook often regarded as the bible of Canadian Jewish cuisine. A lot of these recipes call for everyday ingredients such as ketchup and dry onion soup mix to flavour the meat, and there are even recipes using cola drinks.

My neighbour, caterer and cookbook author, Lynn Mendelson, says brisket is the perfect dish for the most novice of cooks. Brisket is so forgiving you can probably do anything to it. Her secret for perfect brisket is to keep the roast submerged in liquid for optimum tenderness and make sure it is tightly covered in tin foil.

Mendelson uses her mother's Coke and onion soup recipe. She's not sure where her mother got it, but the dish is a sure-fire hit with her family. It's also simple to prepare, she adds.

"I love making it because it's no work. It's a one-pot meal. I add the carrots and potatoes into the pot. You can be adventuresome by adding parsnips and turnips. They'll add more flavour to the brisket."

She recommends making brisket a day ahead. She slices the meat across the grain into thin slices before reheating. "It always tastes better thinner. It absorbs more sauce that way."

There are two cuts of brisket – a lean one, called a single cut, and the double cut, which has a layer of fat in the middle. Essentially, the single cut eliminates the fatty layer and the meat on the bottom. Mendelson says the double cut is delicious, but most people cook the single.

"Anything cooked in fat tastes better because it's more flavourful. We don't have the palate for the fatty meat any more."

When asked about the fat content, cookbook author and brisket maven Norene Gilletz says, "Sometimes people have to choose between the pleasure principle or living to 120. I think the holiday is really a time not to worry too much about fat, and enjoy the yontif meal."

She recalls that in the past, brisket was served very regularly, but with people cutting back on beef consumption, it now tends to be served on special occasions.

Gilletz says she rarely cooks brisket the same way twice, and so over the years she has developed many recipes. However, she always sticks to a couple of key principles in her recipes. Marinated meat and long, slow cooking are the secrets to mouth-watering brisket.

The idea of marinating ahead of time gives the meat the flavour, she explains, noting that brisket is one of the easiest things in the world to make. Gilletz says it's time efficient and economical to make brisket a day ahead. You always get more if you cut it the next day.

She also recommends coating the roasting pan well with non-stick cooking spray to avoid heavy-duty scrubbing. Wrapping it in heavy-duty foil is another clean-up time-saver.

Since brisket comes in many shapes, Gilletz advises checking on the meat during the roasting process because a thinner cut of meat cooks faster.

Brisket freezes well and so she suggests making two roasts at a time. The meat can be cut and put in the freezer for another day.

It's great for company. It goes a long way with very little work, she says. It's easy, but looks fabulous. You can look like a great cook without putting in all the work.

That definitely sounds like my kind of cooking.

MRS. MENDELSON'S COKE BRISKET

1 4- to-5 lb. brisket
2 litres of any regular cola drink
2 packages of dry onion soup
¼ cup of ketchup
3 onions, sliced
2 carrots cut in 4-inch pieces
6-8 potatoes, sliced ½-inch thick
2 parsnips cut in 4-inch pieces (optional)
2 turnips, sliced ½-inch thick (optional)

Continued on page 41

Holiday Food Ideas

FOOD MOROCCAN STYLE: New recipes, which will be served to the Israel Defence Forces, are displayed in a Moroccan tent, at the IDF food show and military chef competition at Lod.

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A traditional holiday staple, brisket needs long, slow cooking

Continued from page 46

Put the onions at the bottom of a Dutch oven or covered roasting pan and lay the brisket on top of the onions. Sprinkle soup over top of brisket.

Slather ketchup over the brisket. Pour the Coke over the top of the brisket so that every thing gets mixed together. It can sit for an hour or two before cooking, but it's not necessary. Add remaining vegetables around the sides of the brisket. If there is a need to add more liquid during the cooking process, cola is preferable. You can also add red wine at the end.

Preheat oven to 350. Put roasting pan on the bottom shelf. The brisket needs to be well covered. It's easy to use tin foil. Make a tent using two large sheets of heavy-duty tin foil. Place one sheet going east-west and one north-south and fold edges up to make a tent. The tent makes it easier to open up and check the brisket without burning oneself. Allow 40-45 minutes of cooking time per pound.

MARINATED BRISKET

This recipe originally appeared in *The Pleasures of Your Processor* by Norene Gilletz. It can now be found in *The Food Processor Bible* also by Gilletz.

4- to 5-lb. brisket
3-4 onions
2 tsp. salt
fresh ground pepper to taste
1 tbsp. paprika
1 tsp. dry mustard
4 cloves of garlic
½ cup of soy sauce
2-3 tbsp. honey or maple syrup

Slice onions or use the food processor. Rub brisket on all sides with salt, pepper, mustard and paprika. Mince or process garlic. Add soy sauce and honey or syrup. Pour mixture over the meat and rub into the meat. Cover meat with tin foil and let marinate 1 hour or up to 24 hours in the refrigerator.

Preheat over to 325. Cook covered. Allow 45 minutes per pound, until the meat is fork tender. Uncover meat for the last hour and baste it occasionally. Let the roast stand 20-30 minutes before slicing. Slice brisket thinly across the grain Reheat slices in pan juices. Yields 8-10 servings.

Slow cooking gives brisket its maximum tenderness.

RANDI WINSTON'S BARBECUED BRISKET

5-7-pound beef brisket
3 cloves of garlic slivered
pepper and paprika to taste
1 cup of honey
1½-2 cups ketchup
1 envelop onion soup mix
1 tbsp. soy sauce

Preheat oven to 325. Make slits on top of the brisket. Insert garlic slivers. Place brisket in a large roasting pan.

Season meat with pepper and paprika. Combine honey, ketchup, onion soup mix and soy sauce in a saucepan. Cook over low heat until blended. Pour this sauce over the brisket. Cook covered until meat is tender. Uncover for last hour and baste occasionally. Let stand for about 20 minutes and then slice thinly.

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Grandmothers show their stuff

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Today's grandmother plays golf, travels the world, skis in Vaile, belongs to a gym and works outside the home. She is far from the image of the grandmother of a generation or two ago.

But under the bicycle helmet or bikini is a bubbie, gram, grandma or nanna who wants nothing more than to please her grandchildren, and what better way than to watch them eat one of her special meichels – a favourite recipe that she makes better than anyone else.

We asked three grandmothers, Esther Schwartz, Kitty Wintrob and Helen Cooper, to share some of their special recipes – dishes that their grandchildren look forward to at holiday time.

Schwartz is a professional cooking instructor. She loves trying new recipes and adapting recipes to make them kosher. Her joy is preparing what her grandchildren request, particularly when her Israeli grandchildren come for a visit.

The aroma of her grandmother's honey cake filled the house with goodness

"I've spent all my life creating recipes, but I get the most satisfaction in feeding my family," she says. "My grandchildren have been my best tasters and testers, and they have always inspired me."

Wintrob, who was born and raised in London, England, loves to entertain, and nothing pleases her more than to get a new recipe. She tries it, alters it, and makes it an inimitable Kitty Wintrob dish.

Her daughter, Suzanne told *The CJN* that when her mother asked her what gift she would like for her birthday several years ago, Suzanne replied, "All I want is your recipes."

Kitty put the recipes in a binder, each one between plastic sheets and presented them to her daughter. "I was thrilled with the gift," says Suzanne.

Holidays are a time for memories, and Helen Cooper who is a teacher and a proud grandmother, recalls her own grandmother, Anna Margolius, as she begins to review her recipes for the holidays, many of which were handed down through the generations.

Cooper says she was "lucky" to be raised in a house with a resident grandma, "one more pair of arms to be held in, one more lap to sit in, one more person to talk to and one more voice to be raised on my behalf."

But what she remembers most is her grandmother's special repertoire of holiday dishes. She says that when she began to have her own family, she wanted to recreate those tastes and smells, "that had been so formidable for me. But my grandmother always cooked *varfed arein* – nothing was ever measured. She cooked instinctually by feel."

Cooper sat beside her grandmother and watched her cook, and she attempted to measure the ingredients. "Slowly, and to my children's delight, I was able to recreate my grandmother's secret recipes."

Cooper recalls that the aroma of her grandmother's honey cake filled the house with goodness during the High Holy Days. "Its sweet smell reminds us to wish good things for each other during the coming new year."

Over the years, Cooper baked the honey cake for her children, students, their parents, and now for her grandchildren. "Like my grandma, this honey cake is totally accepting of whatever you do to it. You may mismeasure, undercook or overcook it, and it still manages to taste delicious."

SWEET & SOUR FRICASSEE

From Esther Schwartz

Part 1
2 tbsp. oil
½ diced onion
½ diced celery
salt, pepper, paprika
mixed giblets of choice: cut up necks, gizzards, wings, broiled livers, feet and hearts of two chickens

In a deep pot heat oil; saute onions and celery until limp. Add giblets, sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Let brown, stirring occasionally.

Part 2 – Sauce
1 tbsp. vinegar
¼ cup fresh lemon juice
⅓ cup brown sugar
1 bottle chili sauce
½ cup water
1 tin tomato and mushroom sauce
1 tsp. salt
few gratings of fresh pepper
1 bay leaf (optional)

Mix ingredients together and pour over giblet mixture.

Part 3
1 lb. chopped meat
few sprinklings of fresh pepper
¼ cup beef or chicken stock
1 garlic clove, crushed

Mix ingredients together. Form into small balls and place in pot with the giblets and sauce. Cover and simmer for two to three hours. Serves 8.

Note: This fricassee is better the day after. Any leftover sauce is delicious with chicken, tongue, veal or over spare ribs.

CRUSTY POTATO CHOLENT

From Esther Schwartz

1 tbsp. oil
5 lb. potatoes (P.E.I. or Yukon Gold)
1 large onion, grated
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
¼ cup challah or bread crumbs
1 lb. flanken (slit at each bone)

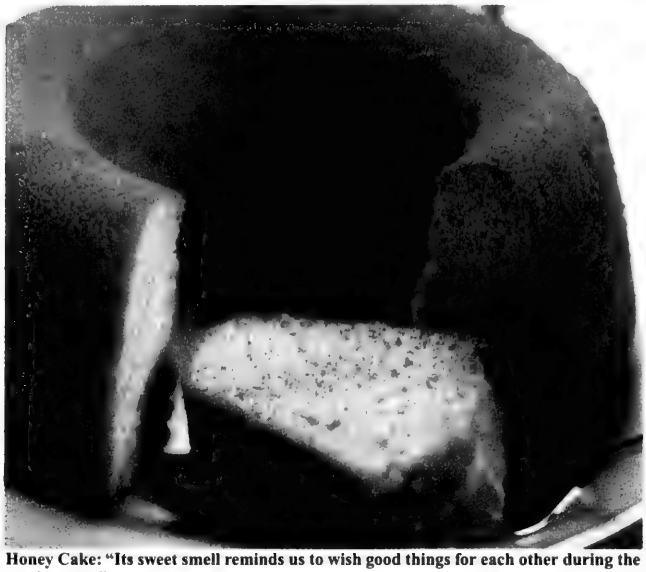
Heat oil in a heavy pot. Make sure sides of pot are coated. Grate potatoes into cold water. Drain well or spin dry in lettuce spinner. Mix potatoes with grated onion, salt, pepper and challah crumbs.

Pour half the potato mixture into pot. Place flanken pieces in the middle and top with remaining potato mixture. Cover. Heat on top of stove at medium high heat. When it begins to steam, turn to a very low heat and simmer for 6-7 hours, mixing with wooden spoon every two hours. The bottom gets crusty and everyone including the children will clamour for it. Cook this the day before as it is better the second day. If it is too solid the second day, reheat in oven or on top of stove, adding a little gravy or stock. Delicious. Freezes well. Serves 8-10.

Challah crumbs:
To make challah crumbs, dry leftover challah in a 350-degree oven for 10 minutes. Grate or process in blender or food processor. Store in a glass jar in refrigerator or freeze in plastic bags.

Continued on page 49

Holiday Food Ideas



Honey Cake: "Its sweet smell reminds us to wish good things for each other during the coming year."

Grandmothers show their stuff

Continued from page 48

STUFFED HONEYED BAKED APPLES

From Kitty Wintrob

Take 6 large spy apples cored and thinly peeled at top. Prick apples here and there to prevent bursting. Soak some raisins and chopped apricots in a little sweet wine. Add a handful of chopped nuts. Stuff core with this mixture.

Sprinkle apples with cinnamon and cover with honey. Place in a baking dish with about one inch of hot water. Bake at 375 for about 30 minutes until apples are tender but have not burst, basting with liquid from pan from time to time. Serve warm or cold with a dollop of ice cream, sour cream or yogurt.

KITTY'S PUMPKIN OR APPLE LOAF

4 eggs
1½ cups sugar
1¼ cups oil
1 can pumpkin or apple pie filling
3 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1½ tsp. baking soda
3 tsp. cinnamon
½ cup chopped nuts
1 cup raisins
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix in large bowl in order given, beating eggs and sugar well. Sift dry ingredients. Add nuts and raisins last. Pour into two loaf pans lined with parchment and sprayed with oil. Bake at 350 for 1 hour until toothpick comes out dry when inserted at centre. Cool before removing from pan. When ready to serve sprinkle with icing sugar. Freezes well.

GRANDMA ANNA MARGOLIUS HONEY CAKE

8-oz. glass of strong tea
1 tsp. baking soda
4 large eggs
2 cups of white sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1 cup liquid honey
2 tsp. baking powder
2½ cups of white flour

Preheat oven to 325. Make an 8-oz glass of strong tea. Add baking soda and let the mixture stand. Beat eggs in a bowl until they turn lemon yellow. Add sugar slowly, beating until the mixture is lemon yellow.

Add vegetable oil and beat well. Add liquid honey and beat well. Mix baking powder into flour. Add the flour/baking powder mixture and the tea/baking soda alternately to the batter. Beat well.

Pour the batter into a 13 x 8 oiled Pyrex dish. Bake one hour or until done.

Note: Can be baked in large muffin tins for about 12 to 15 minutes to create treats for school lunch boxes.

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Use a crock pot to cook it slowly but surely

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Once relegated to making chicken soup or cholent, today's crock pot has become the kitchen gadget to have on your counter top.

Slow cooking usually works at low heat with the lid on, and there is hardly any liquid lost during the cooking process. Sometimes it seems like you have more liquid than when you started because almost all food, especially meats and vegetables, contain water, and as they cook they begin to release their water.

With most cooking methods, the water turns to steam and evaporates. But since the lid is on the slow cooker, there's nowhere for the steam to go; it just collects on the lid and drips back into the food.

The slow cooker is one of the few cooking methods in which you can cut the cooking time in half by turning up the temperature, and still get great results.

Food will not burn because it retains the moisture, and because the heat is evenly and gently distributed around the sides as well as the bottom of the pot. If something takes 10 hours on the low setting, you can safely cook it for five hours on the high setting with similar results.

Helpful crock pot/slow cooker hints:

• If you're not using a cooking bag, spray the inside of the crock pot/slow cooker with cooking spray. It makes cleanup easier.
• Carrots, turnips and potatoes take longer to cook, so cut them into small pieces or thinly slice them and make sure you place them in the bottom of the crock pot/slow cooker.
• Always cook and drain ground meats before adding them to the slow cooker.
• Thaw frozen vegetables before placing them in the slow cooker. Adding frozen vegetables will lower the internal temperature, and the dish will take longer to cook.
• Be sure to allow sufficient cooking time. Most soups, stews and one-dish meals require about 8 to 10 hours on the slow cooker's low heat setting.
• Coat the meat you want to use with flour. It will help to thicken the liquid as it cooks.
• If you're inventing your own slow cooker recipes or adapting your favourite stovetop and oven recipes for the slow cooker, decrease the amount of liquid you use.
• **Note**: All of the following recipes can be made in the oven.

CROCK POT BARBECUE BEEF

A zesty, easy to make dish that's perfect for Sukkot. Spoon meat onto challah rolls and top with additional barbecue sauce.

1½ cups ketchup
¼ cup packed brown sugar
¼ cup red wine vinegar
2 tbsp. prepared Dijon-style mustard
2 tbsp. soy sauce
1 tsp. liquid smoke flavouring
½ tsp.salt
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
¼ tsp. garlic powder
4-lb. brisket

In a large bowl, combine the ketchup, brown sugar, red wine vinegar, Dijon-style mustard, soy sauce and liquid smoke. Stir in salt, pepper and garlic powder. Place the roast in the slow cooker. Pour the ketchup mixture over the roast. Cover, and cook on Low for 8 to 10 hours.

Remove the roast from slow cooker, shred with a fork, and return to the crock pot/slow cooker. Stir meat to evenly coat with sauce. Serves 8 to 10

APPLE AND BROWN SUGAR CORNED BEEF

1 corned beef brisket
4 cups apple juice
1 cup brown sugar
1 tbsp. prepared mustard
8 small red potatoes
2 medium carrots, pared and cut into chunks
1 onion, peeled and cut into eighths
½ head cabbage, cut into chunks

Place all ingredients in a large crock pot/slow cooker (cut meat in half if necessary) and stir to mix. Cook on high for 4 to 5 hours or on low for 8 to 10 hours. Remove meat and vegetables and some of the cooking liquid. Slice meat thinly across the grain and serve with the vegetables and some of the liquid. Makes 6 servings.

ORANGE GLAZED CHICKEN

6 oz. orange juice, frozen concentrate, thawed
6 chicken breast halves
½ tsp.marjoram
1 dash ground nutmeg
1 dash garlic powder
¼ cup water
2 tbsp.cornstarch

Combine the thawed orange juice concentrate in a bowl with the marjoram, garlic powder and nutmeg. Dip each chicken breast half into the orange juice to coat completely. Place the coated chicken in the crock pot/slow cooker.

Pour the remaining orange juice mixture over the chicken. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours or on high for about 4 hours. When chicken is done, remove it to a serving platter. Pour the sauce that remains in slow cooker/crock pot into a saucepan. Mix the cornstarch and water and stir into the juice in pan.

Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thick and bubbly. Serve the sauce over the chicken; delicious with brown or white rice. Serves 6.

SLOW COOKER CRANBERRY TURKEY BREAST

1 thawed turkey breast (you can use frozen)
1 envelope onion soup mix
1 can cranberry sauce

Continued on page 51

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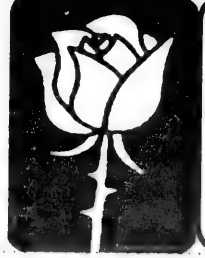

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Crock pot dishes

Continued from page 50

Place the turkey in the crock pot/slow cooker. In a bowl combine the cranberry sauce and soup mix and pour the mixture over the turkey breast.

Cook on high for 2 hrs. then on low for 7 hrs. If you use frozen, cook on high for 2 hrs. then on low for 10 hrs. or more.

MUSHROOM AND BEEF STEW

Tender chunks of beef simmered with wine, garlic and thyme, and accented with mushrooms, is perfect for any meal.

2 lb. beef for stew, cut into 1-inch pieces
¼ cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper
½ tsp. dried thyme leaves, crushed
¼ cup ready-to-serve beef broth
¼ cup tomato paste
¼ cup dry red wine
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 lb.red-skinned potatoes (1½-inched diameter), cut into quarters
8 oz. mushrooms cut into quarters
1 cup baby carrots
fresh parsley (optional)

Combine the flour, salt, pepper and thyme in small bowl. Place the beef in the crock pot/slow cooker. Sprinkle the meat with the flour mixture and toss to coat.

In a bowl combine the broth, tomato paste, wine and garlic in small bowl; mix well. Pour the mixture over the beef. Add the potatoes, mushrooms and carrots and mix well. Cover and cook on high 5 to 6 hours or on low 8 to 9 hours, or until beef and vegetables are tender. (No stirring is necessary during cooking but stir well before serving). Garnish with parsley, if desired. Makes 6 servings.

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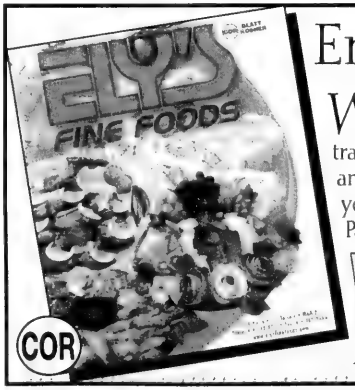

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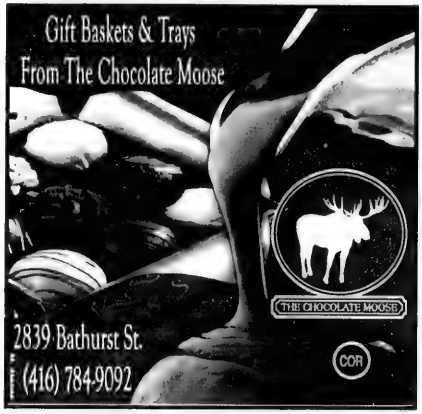

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Family dinners a time to connect

By RAHEL MUSLEAH
Special to The CJN

Family dinners evoke a swell of emotions for Blu Greenberg. Sometimes a memory will make her laugh uncontrollably, like the time her daughter Deborah cut school and Greenberg tried to elicit a confession at dinner. Her son David tried to warn his sister by slipping her a note in French: "*Confessez-vous. Elle savait.*" (Confess. She knows). Greenberg carries that note in her wallet to this day, 20 years later.

"It's an unending source of amazement how much conversation you can have night after night at dinner," says Greenberg, author and president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance in the United States.

"It's always a little interesting, a little silly, a little serious. It's always loving, there's always a little politicking, a little anger, a little pain and a little glory."

Greenberg's notions of family dinners have been imprinted in her consciousness from a young age.

Like many who make family dinners a priority, the family she grew up in always ate dinner together at 6 p.m.

"That's what made our family a family," she says. "I never realized this wasn't what the rest of world was doing. When I had children, and they were old enough to sit at table, I used to wait until my husband came home. Sometimes it was late. I thought that was a major contribution I made toward creating our sense of family."

For Greenberg and countless North American families, mealtimes are the cornerstone of family life. They are a time of connection, centring, catching up, scheduling, perspective, praise and problem-solving, often the only time the whole family is together during the day.

For others, eating together has taken a backseat to children's after-school activities, their parents' long, tiring hours at work, the fragmentation and individualization of family life. Laments over the demise of the family dinner range from sociological studies to poetic elegies.

"Family is the most powerful transmitter of identity," explains Dr. Rela Mintz Geffen, author, sociologist and president of Baltimore Hebrew University. "The absence of family meals leads to the feeling that there's an absence of family."

According to the NPD Group, which studies eating patterns in the United States, about half of American families eat dinner together every night, a modest increase over the mid-1990s.

Of 2,000 families surveyed in 2000, 49 per cent ate together seven days a week, compared to 45 per cent in 1995; 74 per cent ate together five out of seven days, compared to 72 per cent in 1995.

Eighty per cent of all dinners are eaten at home, and 76 per cent of meals are still prepared by women. NPD does not have data tracing eating patterns back 30 years, but, says NPD vice-president Harry Balzer, the numbers were probably not that much different then, despite public perception.

"Family meals require social conformity," says William Doherty, professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota and author of the forthcoming book, *Putting Family First* (Holt). "You have to gather at the same time; eat more or less the same food; make conversation together rather than read, play video games or watch television; and finish at the same time. Sounds oppressive, doesn't it?"

For some, maybe. For others, it is stuff of fond memories. "My brothers and I each had chores to do for setting the table," recalls Charles Neuman, a 32-year-old computer programmer and father of one-year-old Avishai.

"Mine was the napkins. And we rotated who got to sit 'alone' each night. There were three of us kids, two on one side and one on the other. The two who sat together inevitably had some issues of the other crossing the 'property line.'

"At the dinner table, we basically counselled my mother through her first few years of teaching. We absorbed stories about troubled students and disorganized administration. Oh, there's also having to be excused. *M*A*S*H** started at 7:30 and at 7:29 we were squirming to leave the table."

Trivial though they may be, it is often these tiny, commonplace details that contain the most lasting memories.

Family meals present the central daily opportunity for ritual, which Doherty defines as any co-ordinated, repeated activity with emotional meaning.

Rituals can surround foods, chores, conversation: their mundane nature often masks deeper values – self sufficiency, responsibility, respect for property, teamwork, and caring for one another, according to Dr. Jody Elizabeth Myers, professor of religious studies and co-ordinator of the Jewish studies program at California State University, Northridge.

The connection between food and the Jewish spirit is as ancient as the Torah, which is filled with ancestral stories of worship and thanks through offerings of food. The laws of kashrut elevate food to a spiritual level, as do the blessings recited before and after eating almost anything. The book of Leviticus contains "recipes" for the menus of the day prepared and offered by the priests, Myers notes.

After the Temple was destroyed, the rabbis transformed these sacrificial rites into domestic table rituals. The Sabbath offerings, for example, were re-enacted in three special meals. The Passover sacrifice became a family feast with highly symbolic foods.

Family is the most powerful transmitter of identity

"Popular tradition teaches that Jews have been 'the people of the book,' prizing Torah study above all," Myers says. "This is only partly true. Rabbinic Judaism made us 'the people of the table' as well. The table was at the centre of every Jewish dwelling. Laden with food, it substituted for the altar."

While numerous surveys have documented the varied facets of North American Jewish life, almost no statistics point to how much and when Jewish families eat together, says Geffen.

Sharing food is entwined with religion in every tradition, but Judaism centres its food-based rituals at home rather than in a public venue like a temple or church. Communal dinners are at the core of Jewish life, reinforced by the Jewish calendar and the laws of keeping kosher. Shabbat's scripted blessings and foods – challah, wine and more – drape the family meal in a mantle of tradition. "The structure makes it more compelling and helps the contemporary family to say, 'This is sacred time,'" says Geffen.

Amy Lederman, a former lawyer who is now Jewish educator in Tucson, Ariz., advises families to elevate every dinner – not just Shabbat and holiday meals.

"Our family made a commitment to keeping kosher 10 years ago to try to bring in the daily consciousness of God and our Jewish heritage," she notes.

The Ledermans often use dinner to discuss and vote on potential changes, like whether the family should become kosher or take a sabbatical year in Israel. But their usual ritual begins with the basics: everyone gets a turn to ask and be asked, "How was your day?"

"It trains the kids to get out of themselves, to care about others, and to talk about things other than what's going on in their world," Lederman says.

Despite the rewards, most families acknowledge that pulling dinner together is not always easy. Organization is crucial, Lederman says. "Plan the night before or in the morning so it's not overwhelming when you get home from

Continued on page 54

Sephardi recipes are a welcome addition to any cook's menu

By RUTH HEIGES
IPS

Thanks to the growth in popularity of the Mediterranean menu, Sephardi cuisine is finally being discovered. The following recipes will be sure to complement your holiday menu.

SEPHARDI LEEK SOUP (SOPA DE PRASA)

Meat or pareve

¼ cup olive or vegetable oil
10 medium leeks, trimmed, sliced and well washed (or 5 leeks and 2 large yellow onions)
2 large baking potatoes or 3 medium carrots, peeled and grated
1 bunch parsley, chopped
8 cups chicken or vegetable broth or water
about 1½ tsp. salt, or to taste
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
pinch of grated nutmeg (optional)

Heat the oil in a 6-quart pot over a medium heat. Add the leeks and the potatoes or carrots. Sauté until softened (about 5-10 minutes).

Add the parsley, broth, salt, pepper and [optional] nutmeg.

Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat to low, and simmer about 40 minutes, until tender. Adjust seasonings. Serve the soup as is or process in a blender. May be served warm or chilled. Yield: 8 servings.

EGYPTIAN BLACK-EYED PEAS WITH CILANTRO (LUBIA)

Pareve

Adapted from *The World of Jewish Entertaining* by Gil Marks (Simon & Schuster, 1998)

2 large garlic cloves, chopped
3 tbsp. olive oil
2 10-oz. packages (4 cups) frozen black-eyed peas or 1½ cups dried black-eyed peas (picked over, drained and rinsed)
1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
2 tsp. chopped fresh cilantro root (if unavailable, then chopped cilantro stems)
3 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro leaves, plus additional whole leaves for garnish
salt and ground black pepper to taste
steamed, long-grain white rice (per number of diners)

Cook the garlic in the olive oil over a gentle heat in a large saucepan until soft and beginning to turn golden, about 2 to 3 minutes. Add the peas, tomato sauce, cilantro root or stems. Add enough fresh cold water to cover the peas by about 1 inch. Bring to a boil. Cover the pot and simmer over a low heat. If using frozen peas, add the salt and pepper after 10 minutes. If using dried peas, add the seasonings after 20 minutes.

Add more water, if necessary, to keep the peas quite soupy. There should be enough water to form a sauce. Cook frozen peas for a total of 20 to 30 minutes; dried peas for 35 to 45 minutes, or until tender.

Stir in the chopped cilantro and serve the lubia over steamed white rice or a pilaf. Garnish with the whole cilantro leaves. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

COUSCOUS WITH SEVEN VEGETABLES

Pareve

Adapted from *The Gefilte Variations* by Jayne Cohen (Scribner, 2000)

6 cups vegetable stock or water
6 carrots (2½ cups), cut into chunks
3 onions, quartered
2 turnips (3 cups), peeled and quartered
2 stalks celery, sliced
2 sticks of cinnamon (3 inches, each) or 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ to 1 tsp. ground cumin
½ tsp. ground turmeric
1 tsp. salt
black pepper, to taste
1 butternut squash or small pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cut into 2-inch pieces
½ head green cabbage, shredded (5 cups)
2 cups cooked or canned chickpeas or fava beans
1 tbsp. chopped coriander or parsley
couscous, cooked per package directions

Bring 6 cups stock or water to a boil. Add the carrots, onions, turnips, celery, cinnamon, cumin, turmeric, salt and pepper. Cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer for 30 minutes.

Add the squash, cabbage, chickpeas (or fava beans) and coriander (or parsley). Cook until tender (about 20 minutes).

To produce a thicker sauce, use a potato masher or the back of a wooden spoon to mash some of the chickpeas or squash against the bottom of the pot. Spoon cooked couscous onto a large deep-sided platter or individual serving plates. Make a well in the centre and fill it with vegetables. Pour 1 to 2 cups of stock over the couscous. Pass around the remaining stock. Serve warm. Yield: 6 servings

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The importance of dinner is not lost on children

Continued from page 52

work. Cook meals on Sundays. Enlist the help of your spouse and kids. You have to be committed to the idea, but also flexible. We've had movie nights and pretend picnics on the floor."

The importance of dinner is not lost on children.

For her 45th birthday three years ago, Lederman's son Joshua, then 13, cooked an entire dinner as a gift to his mother. He set the table with candles and wine, made homemade french bread; a gourmet salad with mandarin oranges and avocado; pasta, and pie with ice cream for dessert. His mother was the guest of honour.

But not all families feel they have the resources or support to make dinner a priority.

'Everything we first know in the world comes from family. How can we learn from people who aren't there?'

After Jane Cutler divorced, she had to fit the reality of single parenthood into her definition of family. "We no longer had traditional family dinner. We didn't have, in the traditional sense, a family. And my heart was broken," says the author of *Family Dinner*, a children's book she wrote as a path to healing. (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1991).

In the book, when Great Uncle Benson comes to visit, he's mystified that 10-year-old Rachel's family – a two-parent, three-kid family – doesn't have family dinners. Her father watches the news; her mother goes jogging, and the children all like to eat something different.

Though Uncle Benson tries to revive family dinners, whipping up exotic delights like Hundred Garlic Soup and Kansas City Macaroni and Cheese Casserole, family dinner doesn't work at Rachel's house. It turns out her parents both had negative memories – arguing, being forced to eat, or speaking only when spoken to – at their family dinners.

"Family" dinner does eventually succeed, but with a configuration of friends and neighbours instead of the immediate family.

"The book expressed my feeling that a new kind of family could embody the virtues of family even if it couldn't rely upon the old forms," Cutler explains.

Patricia Volk's food-inspired memoir, *Stuffed: Adventures of a Restaurant Family* (Knopf), describes Thursday night gatherings at her grandmother's house for dramatic, seven-course dinners that spanned four generations and could accommodate 25. Now, says Volk, whose family owned Morgen's, a chain of 14 restaurants in Manhattan, most big dinners take place on Jewish holidays.

"There's nothing quite as wonderful as looking around the table and seeing faces you love and serving them good food. I always set the table with things that have been handed down to me, so I feel the presence of the people who used to be at my grandmother's table."

It's impossible to separate food and family, Volk says.

"I wrote *Stuffed* partly out of the fear that family is vanishing. Once we were five generations living in a four-block radius. Now those people are in Honolulu, Arizona and Boca Raton. If I wanted my family around me at dinner, the table would have to be 4,968 miles long."

She sums up the reason for having dinner as a family: "Everything we first know in the world comes from family. How can we learn from people who aren't there?"

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SpaMedica (66 Avenue Rd., Toronto) now has an acne program that includes a new and fabulous Clear Light Device. This unique process emits a UV-safe, intense blue light that strikes the acne-dense regions of the skin and kills the bacteria that cause acne.

The actual cause of acne is bacteria that proliferate at the base of the sebaceous glands of the skin. This method is one of the first that helps to eradicate the acne where it begins. The treatment plans are individual and take from four to 16 weeks. The goal is to eliminate active outbreaks, control future flare-ups as safely and effectively as possible and eliminate the use of harmful drugs.

Hugo Boss adds 16 spectacular new styles to its woman's sunglass collection. The styles are exquisitely alluring and make the perfect accessory for any outfit. The lens provides full ultra-violet protection, regardless of the tint density. Many of the frame styles pay homage to the eyewear of past decades and to the tinsel charm of Cannes. They are a surprising blend of current technology and the glam of the past – available at Karir, at both the Yorkdale and Yorkville Toronto locations.

BEAUTY SHOP
By CAROL WISE

Making a makeup decision this fall will not be easy. The palettes are full of the most fun shades of glimmering multi-coloured bubbles and bobbles. Why choose one colour when you can wear a few at a time? Pull your face together with the ultimate of shimmer for your eyes, lips and nails.

Be sure to have fabulous brushes on hand for easy application – **NARS** introduces four new ones this season. Smoulder your eyes with murky coal and polish your lips with bursts of berries – confidence gives you the edge.

Carita Paris 'Creme de nuit' skin care.

CAROL'S TIPS

SKIN CARE: It's a deliciously indulgent "tea time" for your body and **Elizabeth Arden** provides the goods. Fizzing tub tablets and crushed sugar scrubs are on the menu, so choose an evening and create your own spa.

Shiseido introduces *New Pureness*, a complete line of products developed specifically for young women. This interesting collection is designed to control excess sebum while maintaining a high moisture level in the outer layer of skin.

At the other end of the spectrum, **Shiseido** formulates *Future Solution*. Its unique blend of ingredients strengthens the skin barrier while minimizing the appearance of fine lines.

Jennifer Lopez creates her own fragrance called Glow.

Carita Paris treats us this season with two truly wonderful creams. *La Crème Parfait* – which targets reduction of feminine hormones – it is designed for woman approaching or in menopause and *Crème de Nuit* has a relaxing ingredient to help you sleep more peacefully.

Michael Kors' *Leg Shine* can be applied to arms, shoulders and back; its solid stick packaging is perfect to glisten your body and particularly great for no-nylon legs.

Zirh is a high-end men's skin-care line that has won Design Awards in both '97 and '98. It prides itself on its three-part system: clean, correct and protect. Its alpha-hydroxy wash is exceptional, and this season, **Zirh** presents a fresh and inviting fragrance.

For women age 50 and over, **Lancome's** *Absolue Eye Treatment* is consummate for the fragile eye area and acts on all problems associated with aging. Its trio of ingredients – wild yam, soy and brown algae – combine to nourish, restructure and restore elasticity.

Esprit fragrances

Continued on page 56

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Fall Fashion

Continued from page 55

FOUNDATION: Estee Lauder's *So Ingenious Multi-Dimension Makeup and Loose Powder* will make a foundation wearer out of the most makeup shy. It feels like your own skin and it lasts all day!

Touche Liberte from **Lancôme** is a new "supernatural" shade that actually suits all skin tones. Its shimmering effect is superb.

For magical nights, highlight cheekbones, eyelids and cleavage with **Lancaster's** *Evanescent Powder* – it provides a metallic blue and iridescent lilac sheen that just plays with light.

An excellent face finisher from the **Elizabeth Taylor Color Cosmetic** line is a new translucent powder compact trimmed splendidly with a circular pave glitter – what a showpiece!

BEAUTY SHOP

BY CAROL WISE

CHEEKS: *Irreelle Blush* is a new blusher from **Chanel**. It contains photo-reflective pigments that soften the appearance of fine lines – available in five shades. From chocolate to glowing pink, the iridescent multi-effects are quite stunning.

Another treasure from **Chanel** is *Les Perles de Chanel*. This autumn-winter star product is a limited edition and should not be missed. Thirteen perfectly shaped pearls dance in harmony, joining four natural shades to illuminate lips, eyelids and cheeks. Included is a long, fine foam applicator for perfect execution.

Try **NARS** *Multiple Stick* rouge in the colour sheer wine – just gorgeous and what a great traveller!

Another really special cream rouge in a compact form is from **Revlon's** *Age Defying Collection* – very smooth and silky. Cream blush is good for all skin types, but particularly great for dry skin.

LIPS: Lips come into the spotlight with **Lancome's** *Gloss Focus*. It can be layered or worn on its own.

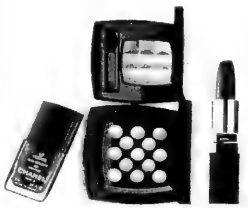
Check out **Cargo's** *Reverse Lip Liner*. It's a natural colour and when applied to the outer mouth, it gives a fuller appearance.

Fuller appearance: Cargo's Reverse Lip Liner

Lise Watier's *Crayolip Duo* combines liner and lipstick for multi-task girls – offering a variety of shades including Blind Date and Sweet Kiss.

Elizabeth Arden's *Dual Perfection* lipstick-lipliner combines demi-matte lipstick and matching smooth lipliner that lasts all day.

For the moistest lips in town, try **Clinique's** *Moisture Surge Lipstick SPF 15*. Its treatment qualities are equalled only by the yummy berry shades.



Les Perles de Chanel.

NAILS: This season, become a little daring with **Yves Saint Laurent** – with nails dipped in black-tinged purple or incandescent garnet red.

Estee Lauder's *Pure* line presents an interesting amethyst and garnet.

Shiseido The Makeup introduces two new shades, iced onyx and mod pink that contain an ultra-fine glitter and condition nails as they resist peeling and fading.

EYES: Yves Saint Laurent's *Eyeliner Emerald Reflections* adds a dash of green to enhance your eye – a very neat twist.

Rimmel London's double-ended two-tone pencil is easy to apply and the colours are stellar. Camouflage for the eye area is the most important single step to alluring eyes.

This season, **Chanel** provides us with the most comprehensive compact, including four corrective shades to be used alone or in combination – its name – *Pro Correcteur*.

Pro Long Lash mascara from **MAC** is terrific – lots of lushness and length-in seven flowery shades.

Limited edition from **Revlon** is a terrific 10-shade eye shadow palette – impressive and very practical.

Moon River eyeliner from **NARS** is a beautiful, deep navy blue that will brighten the whites of your eyes.

Color Focus eye colour from **Lancôme** has pearly reflections and a powdery yet silky texture.

Continued on page 57

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Fall Fashion

Continued from page 56

Lancaster's new *Khol* eye pencil goes on like velvet and presents in three shades, black, black-green and black-blue. Do your smouldering with their glittering black shadows – sensational! Both are from **Lancaster's** *Intriguing Night* collection.

A must have from **Estee Lauder's** *Mineralites* collection is *Illusionist Maximum Curling Mascara* in teal – day or night, it's fabulous.

Agent Double from **Lise Watier**, a double-coloured pencil, is a snap to apply. It is creamy upon application and magically transforms into a lightly powdered finish.

Translucent Eyebrow Shaper from **Shiseido The Makeup** is fascinating. It's a liquid shaper that contours and defines while adding lustre and strength. Also from **Shiseido The Makeup** is *Distinguish Mascara*, a unique waterproof formula that separates and adds fullness at the same time.

HAIR: Robyn Alex at the Terry Ritcey Salon at 122A Yorkville Ave. (416-926-0123) not only can cut and colour your hair in superb order, but recently she plucked my best friend's eyebrows, and her whole face looks better! Alex is definitely the undisputed queen of eyebrow shaping.

Ritcey tells us that the best way to describe hair this fall is "free and easy." Long-flowing waves and short-cropped tops are a taste of what's happening.

Whatever the length, a decided lack of restraint compliments the free-spirited look of the hippie-inspired fashions. Even up-do's are free form.

"What's going on with colour?" I ask

He informs me that "reds are the rage," with the capacity to whisper a shout.

FRAGRANCE: The Healing Garden has a comfy little baby set with baby lotion, baby bath and the sweetest stuffed animal sheep.

Marc Jacobs' *Body Crème* is whipped to pure white perfection and is as fragrant as fresh gardenias. **Marc Jacobs** also presents a very distinctive, uncomplicated collection especially for men. Its essence is much like a fig with a green woodsy scent.

Oscar de la Renta's *Intrusion* body cream is filled with sensuality and will no doubt arrest the masculine world – it's almost bewitching. For best results, layer with their body line.

Esprit's new *Fragrance Collection* offers five unique scents. Just to mention a few: for my dreams, for my spirit and for my fantasy. Lots of fun and they smell great!

Beauty products from Estee Lauder.

Smooth some of **Lauder's** *Intuition Fragrance Silk* over your pulse points; its gel-like texture is quite sensual.

Romeo Gigli for men in the classic fragrance is true to its name – classic. And do not miss *Byblos*; the scent is very sexy – perfect for your special guy.

Moisturize your whole body with **Versus's** *Time to Relax* massage mousse. The packaging is stunning; it's the perfect gift.

L'Eau Cheap & Chic from **Moschino** couldn't be more adorable. It's packaged in a mound of jelly beans and the scent is sensational.

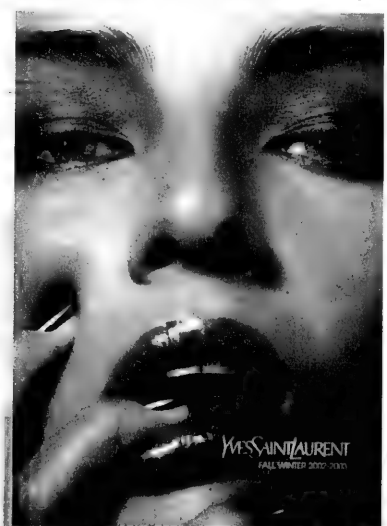
Rimmel London's fragrance collection is brand new, young and fresh with teenagers in mind.

Women are buzzing about **Estee Lauder's** *Pleasures Intense*, a fuller, deeper counterpart to the original. It's a modern interpretation of a lush floral garden.

Shiseido creates a new fragrance called *Zen*. This pure scent could be called the quintessence of an elegant Japanese spirit. It has a sense of serenity similar to meditation.

Brand new from **Elizabeth Taylor** is *Forever Elizabeth*, a perfect name that so resembles its creator. Like the lady herself, the scent is a true inspiration.

Jennifer Lopez creates her own fragrance called *Glow*. It's fresh, sexy and clean, a scent you intuit when you're close, a scent of bare, glowing skin warmed by body heat – almost as creamy as a bunch of white roses.



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Fall Fashion

Clothier celebrates 50th year

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

Saul Korman, owner of Korry's Clothiers to Gentlemen, affirmed his faith in the Danforth long ago despite the advice of well-meaning friends who urged him to relocate to Yonge Street.

Now, with his handsome bi-level premises in the heart of bustling, colourful Greektown at 569 Danforth Ave. just west of Pape Avenue, Korman has launched an ongoing celebration of 50 years in business, culminating with an in-store party on Oct. 17.

At the party, there will be a draw for a one week trip for two, including accommodations, at the Maho Beach Hotel in St. Marten on the Caribbean.

Born in Noranda, Que., Korman later moved to Toronto, where he went into retail menswear with his father Nathan at Danforth and Coxwell avenues.

Korman bought the present building in 1969 and took over as owner and president when Nathan retired in 1975.

Today, Korman has earned an enviable reputation in business. He likes people and action; he is involved in the community. His store attracts customers from across Toronto and the city's outlying areas and into the United States.

Energetic, innovative, combining a youthful outlook with a veteran's know-how, Korman seems to be everywhere, buying, selling, lecturing, advertising on radio and in print.

An entrepreneur, he has introduced a number of Korry's specialized services geared to his customers' specific needs. The store offers assessments of personal clothing requirements in keeping with business and social obligations, lifestyle and budgetary considerations. Private wardrobe consultation with trained staff is provided by appointment.

Saul Korman

Both made-to-measure and ready-made suits and coats are available. Clothing needs for busy executives can be accommodated in the seclusion of their own office.

Korman "*kvells*" when he talks about buying from the finest houses, including Arnold Brant, Hugo Boss, Canali, and he mentions his private label, Roberto, with pride.

He describes what will be in for the coming season.

"Black, of course, earth tones, dark burgundy, grey, soft-toned shirts, creams, pinks, co-ordinated ties," he says.

Korman touches the merchandise as he strolls through his spacious store, fondly stroking a cashmere coat, pointing to a comfortable sports jacket. Korry's carries everything in suits, from tailored to casual, but he emphasizes that while there is a place for each style, the tailored look gives a message that commands respect.

Among noted sports stars who have patronized Korry's are Doug Gilmour and Wendel Clark.

Korman encourages young men to be aware of how to dress well. He recently spoke to a group of hockey players, between the ages of 16 and 22, about fashion basics. Among noted sports stars who have patronized Korry's are Doug Gilmour, Wendel Clark, David Wells, Tom Henke, Devon White, Pinball Clemens and Elvis Stojko. Radio and TV personalities include Bob McGown, Gord Stellick, Jim Duthie and Peter Kent. Entertainer Donny Osmond and actor Christopher Plummer have also chosen Korry's.

We walk past fine leather belts, scarves, raincoats, Colehann shoes, sales racks featuring exceptional markdowns on outgoing merchandise and we reach the entrance. Korman stops in the doorway, impeccable in his tailored suit, a glint in his eye, a grin on his face, a happy man doing what he loves well.

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Crawford Boys, a store at the Lawrence Plaza in Toronto that specializes in clothing for boys ages 4-16, now also carries clothes designed for children who are overweight. "The inability to find properly designed, fashionable clothing often leaves these boys dressed in a manner almost guaranteed to isolate them from better dressed and fitted peers," says owner Paul Spiar. Crawford Boys orders a wide range of dress and casual clothing which is specifically designed for boys who require these sizes. If a style is not offered, such as husky cargo pants, Crawford Boys designs and produces them "in house."

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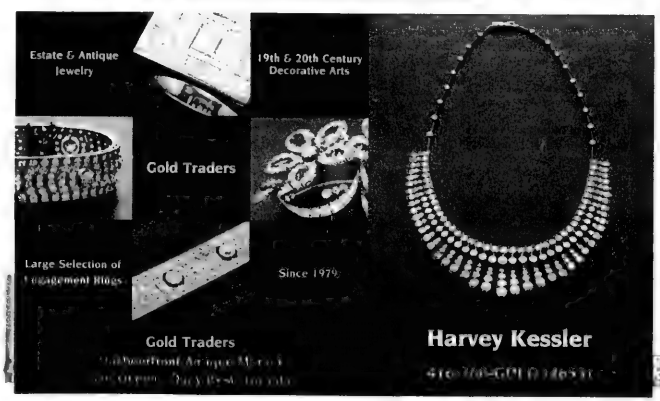

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Fall Fashion

September rules to live by

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

It's that time of year again when we are bombarded with many trends in fashion. September is such a hectic time, it might seem impossible to do right in the fashion world. To help push the anxious into the change rooms, I've compiled a list of rules:

• Trends are fabulous, but avoid looking too overdone.

I know how hard it is not to salivate over each and every item that falls on store hangers, but there is such a thing as looking tacky, trust me. Trends change faster than you can say Dolce & Gabbana, and therefore it is not proper to spend all your dough on them.

There are some trends that are meant to make you look a certain way, and the worst thing you can do is to make them into math homework – complicated and overdone.

My point is similar with many trends, but mind you, there are exceptions. Go wild with colours and fabrics and wear hockey socks with stilettos, except not when you want to look like Joey Potter.

• Be smart about shoes.

I guarantee that a good pair of shoes will last you longer than your latest hair colour.

Don't get me wrong, I'd never dare to say that you should own merely one pair, because I, the owner of at least a dozen pairs, would be a hypocrite! And no, comfort is not an issue with me.

Buy shoes, and then buy more and more, but just make sure you have one pair of great shoes that you'll still want to wear when you're finally out of high school!

• Dress properly for the occasion at hand.

It might just be me, but it seems all too often I notice people who are improperly dressed.

I'll never understand why women come to my all-female gym, all *faputzed*, looking just like J. Lo, only to sweat like a pig along with everyone else.

On the other hand, I notice when people are underdressed as well. I haven't the slightest idea who said wearing sweatpants to a party was cool. Really, it's just not.

• Vintage is not an exact science.

If you're looking to add some spice into your otherwise bland wardrobe, I suggest vintage. There are so many places in Toronto to hit for vintage gear. These stores make it possible to raid closets of the sibling you never had while not having to search through thrift stores.

Personally, I only take vintage so far. I think it's kinda nasty to wear someone else's fur coat, but I do own a collection of shirts, belts and hats.

Everyone has their own opinion on how they like their vintage, so I suggest trying Kensington Market and deciding for yourself!

• Don't buy based on brand names.

I love designer names to death and I'd love to own everything in *Vogue*, but I won't spend all my money just based on the name tag.

If you actually want what you are about to buy, go for it! But if you're going to shell out serious money for nothing much, think again.

To sum up, the fashion world is more confusing than you'd think. The last thing you need is a fashion faux-pas when you're busy fasting on Yom Kippur and finishing essays!

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Fall Fashion

The Beauty Bible combats cosmetic counter confusion

By ELAINE COHEN

Cosmetic companies constantly churn out innovative products to enhance the beauty of consumers of all ages. People are bombarded by so many goodies in alluring hues that they become confused.

That is one of the reasons author and consumer activist Paula Begoun recently provided readers with an update in the second edition of her book, *The Beauty Bible* (distributed by Raincoast Books in Canada).

Begoun covers everything from acne to wrinkles. Although women's makeup and grooming are her prime focus, she also includes chapters devoted to men, babies and animal rights.

So much more is known in today's scientific world than in the past about products, health and skin care, the author/journalist explains in the introduction.

"When I started [the second edition], I never realized I would need to rewrite 75 per cent of the book," said Begoun. Among her other cosmetic guides are *Blue Eyeshadow Should Be Illegal*, five editions of *Don't go to the Cosmetics Counter without Me* and two editions of *Don't go Shopping for Hair Care Products Without Me*.

Author advises women to throw out mascara every three-to-six months

Begoun spent more than two decades working behind cosmetic counters and she is accustomed to interacting with consumers. Furthermore, she knows how major players operate in the cosmetics industry. In addition to appearing on television talk shows, she writes on the subject for print and online publications.

Her interest in cosmetics began when she became dissatisfied as an acne-prone adolescent. Begoun made it her business to help others as well as herself. Now that her books have sold in the millions, one may say she has accomplished her mission. Fortunately for consumers, she remains intrinsically involved.

The new edition of the *Beauty Bible*, an informative 510-page guide, tackles products and problems affecting the body from head to toe. Topics include cosmetics cop; understanding the hype; miracles, frauds, and facts; skin care basics for everyone; sun sense; skin-care planning; skin-care battle plans; battle plans for wrinkles; battle plans for dry skin; battle plans for blemishes; battle plans for wounds and scars; common skin disorders; hair removal; cosmetic surgery; men's skin care; baby skin care; body and nail care; makeup application, step by step; problems, solutions; animal rights.

Unlike many how-to guides, this is more than a quick read that people will part with and never leaf through again. Instead, readers are bound to refer to different topics from time to time.

Begoun lists 10 commandments. One deals with high-price products. "More expensive doesn't mean it's better," she writes.

According to FDA (Federal Drug Administration) regulations, every ingredient except fragrance must be listed on a product. If you develop sensitivity to any skin-care product or cosmetic, stop using it and consult your physician, Begoun advises.

As far as how long one should keep cosmetics, she says it depends on a lot of factors. However, she strongly advises women to throw out mascara every three to six months because it has a short shelf life and it's not worth risking an eye infection.

The section on miracles, frauds and facts is interesting, even if you don't care about cosmetic products. Begoun discusses hormone replacement therapy (HRT), creams, grape extract, vitamin K and spider veins, yeast, herbs and algae.

Begoun underlines the importance of treating the skin with respect – be gentle and take good care of it. Avoid extremes of hot and cold. She doesn't believe moisturizer is for everyone but agrees it benefits women with dry skin. An excellent moisturizer contains sunscreen, emollients (lubricating ingredients), waterbinding agents and anti-irritants (ingredients to reduce irritants skin is exposed to daily.)

Throughout the text, Begoun cites bona fide sources before rattling off rules. She provides formulas to battle skin-care problems for those with sensitive skin and allergies. Moreover, she debunks the myth that wrinkles only occur on dry skin. Readers receive an update on different forms of cosmetic surgery; for example, cellulite treatment for eyelids.

Women can follow her step-by-step makeup plan, which is embellished with illustrations.

Here is a sample of Begoun's words of wisdom: If your lipstick has a tendency to cake or dry out during the day, avoid simply adding another layer. Make sure to take off the caked layer first. You may wish to add lip balm under your lipstick, if caking persists.

If you use lipliner, avoid a pronounced demarcation in a different shade. For thin lips, use vibrant shades but avoid darker colours because they make the lips look harsh.

Co-ordinate blush and lipstick hues. Foundation should match skin exactly, says Begoun, adding concealer should be a shade or two lighter than foundation.

Many women will appreciate Begoun's chapter on "feeling beautiful during the trauma of cancer treatment." It hit home, when her sister underwent chemotherapy. "Gentle" is the best word to describe Begoun's tips. The skin is sensitive after chemotherapy and radiation; therefore, stay clear of hot baths, strong soaps, and loofahs. She advocates wearing silk underwear and sleeping on silk sheets.

Women worried about hair loss during chemotherapy should visit the *shatelmacher* (wigmaker). "The *shatelmacher* is a mainstay of the Orthodox community," says Begoun, "and she knows better than anyone how to make a wig look natural and attractive."

After receiving positive e-mail, the author is convinced the "look good and feel better" concept works. For a sample of Paula Begoun's writing, visit www.CosmeticsCop.com.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jewish Television series still a dream, for now

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

As far as Miriam Porter can remember, she has never seen an entire television series devoted to Canadian Jews. So the Toronto resident is pursuing a dream to produce a series called Jewish Television.

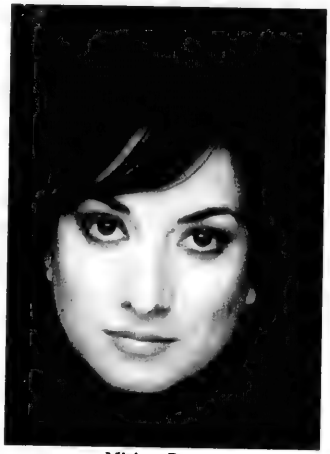
While the 29-year-old has received tremendous support for the series, dubbed *J:TV*, from the Jewish community and has enlisted the assistance of editors and directors, financial backing is still a problem. She also has yet to find a broadcaster, but a pilot will be available by the end of the summer.

But Porter, who was inspired by her conversations with director Steven Spielberg when she worked in Los Angeles on his Survivors of the Shoah Foundation, is clinging to her dream and says she is on her way to success.

She says the series, which she's been working on for a year, would be suitable for non-Jewish viewers, although *J:TV* would stress Holocaust survivor stories and Jewish entertainment.

"*J:TV* can give kids of all cultures people to look up to," Porter says, nibbling on a muffin at Mars Uptown Restaurant near Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue.

Porter has already tasted success on numerous occasions. Acting in television as young as 15, Porter worked in theatre and commercials through her high school days at Earl Haig Secondary School. After attending York University, she moved to Los Angeles in 1997. When friends and family told her she would be another starving actress, she ignored them, staying in L.A. for four years.



Miriam Porter

She says her most memorable moments were her days as a guest star on *Becker* – several of her scenes included an intense argument with *Becker* star Ted Danson.

But when she worked with Spielberg on his Holocaust series, his energy inspired her to brainstorm a series on Jewish life. Along with director Jennifer Podemski (another Toronto actress), Porter began working on a series to represent the Jewish past, present and future.

"I know I have to do this," Porter says. "I have a strong commitment to get some messages across."

She says the format of the half-hour show is in multiple segments: the first two minutes will shoot Jewish "streeters" speaking on various issues, followed by the main eight-minute interview, which will centre on an individual's accomplishments.

A rotating segment will follow, focusing either on an entertainment or on a lifestyle topic. The next eight-minute section will revolve around a Holocaust survivor. An animal advocate segment will round off the show, with the help of Porter's sister at the Toronto Wildlife Centre. Porter is planning to tape a total of 13 shows.

As producer and host, Porter is looking for grant money from Canadian Jewish institutions. While she has injected some of her own funds into the project, she realizes that a television series in Canada can only get off the ground with hefty financial assistance.

"But everyone is so supportive," she says, citing letters of support from organizations such as B'nai Brith Canada and Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto.

In the meantime, she says *J:TV* must become a reality so the next generation can know about Jewish culture. Since kids devour television more voraciously than the Talmud, Porter's medium could be the appropriate delivery tool.

After every grant rejection, Porter pushes harder to reach her goal of bringing this series to the public. She sees her drive as similar to the hero in her favourite book *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull* by Richard Bach.

"It's about going past your limits," she says, "and not letting anything stand in your way."

To contact Porter and *J:TV*, e-mail jtv toronto@hotmail.com.

Sing-along-with Tevye

Today, Aug. 29, Harbourfront will be re-invented as a village in Czarist Russia. And if your moviegoing experience usually involves sitting back, watching the film and munching on popcorn, this evening will be something different.

This is the night when the audience is the star, as *Sing-A-Long Fiddler on the Roof* returns to Harbourfront's outdoor screen at 8 p.m.

Dress as your favourite character – including babushkas, beards and wedding veils – and be prepared to sing along (don't worry, the words will be on the screen). Prizes will be awarded for best costumes.

David Gale, host of the W Network cooking show *Loving Spoonfuls*, will host and lead the vocal warm-up.

Tickets are $10 and are available from Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211, and the Harbourfront box office, 235 Queens Quay W., 416-973-4000.

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 71.

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Eye on Arts

BY Bill Gladstone

MEDINA THEATRE ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS FOR *HANNA SENESH*

The Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding auditions for a staged reading of *Hanna Senesh*, written by **Aharon Meged**, to be directed by **Ralph Small**. Young adults to seniors welcome; resume and recent photo required. Auditions involve a cold reading of the script; no monologues required.

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. (west end of Baycrest Centre). Members 7:30 to 9 p.m. Non-members 9:05 to 10 p.m. Fran, 416-785-1074. E-mail, medinatheatre@hotmail.com.

* * *

Ashkenaz Reminder: The Ashkenaz Festival of New Jewish Culture, Toronto's festival of klezmer and Jewish arts, features musicians and artists from around the world. It has a full roster of events, including many that are free, and runs from Aug. 31 (evening) through Sept. 2 at Toronto's Harbourfront. For times and ticket information, contact Harbourfront at 416-973-3000 or visit the Web site, www.ashkenazfestival.com

* * *

Rosh Hashanah: Apples & Honey, a community secular celebration of the Jewish New Year, features readings, poetry and music with guest artists **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner**, followed by a potluck lunch. Advance reservations required. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Saturday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. 416-789-5502. Email, mws@on.aibn.com

* * *

CD Release: *Koren's Song Safari* is a new CD that offers a diverse collection of children's music in English, Shona, Hebrew, French and Yiddish. The CD is the work of **Koren Kassirer**, a longtime employee of Beth Habonim in Toronto who also runs an arts school in Orono, Ont. It is available for sale via the Web site www.korenscreativearts.com

Partial proceeds of sales are being donated to Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, to provide mosquito netting for a hospital in Zimbabwe. Partial proceeds are also going to Arts for Children of Toronto, a scholarship fund.

* * *

At the Galleries: Smadar Meiri-Ordynans has been a member of the Israeli Artists Group of Toronto for more than a decade. This group of 20 artists meets monthly in each other's homes and conducts its meeting in Hebrew. Meiri-Ordynans' work is currently on view at Rachel's Centre Cafe, Bathurst JCC, 4588 Bathurst St., until Sept. 18.

* * *

Roy Thomson Reopening: The Roy Thomson Hall gala reopening concert features the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**, **Toronto Children's Chorus**, the **Toronto Mendelssohn Choir** and others. Saturday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m. The following day, the hall throws open its doors to the entire community for a series of public concerts in the auditorium, lobbies, patio and side entrance, with some fun activities for children. Sunday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News: Comedian **Ross Rumberg**, formerly of Winnipeg, is a direct descendant of **Moe Howard** of the **Three Stooges**. He's toured extensively and opened shows for **Jackie Mason**, **Red Green** and others. He's appearing Sept. 11 to 14 at the Comedywood Club, 800 Steeles Ave. W. at Bathurst. 905-761-0543.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Seneca College at York University Continuing Education offers evening introductory acting classes for adults, taught by highly skilled professionals. "Come and explore your acting talents," says Rose Dubin, program co-ordinator. Orientation, Thursday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m. 416-491-5050, ext. 4112. E-mail, rose.dubin@sencac.on.ca.

• The second annual benefit concert for the Moe Koffman Memorial Jazz Scholarship takes place Sept. 23 at the Montreal Bistro and Jazz Club. Tickets $65. 416-946-3580.

Songs of the Jewish Shtel

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

You don't have to be Russian to enjoy an evening of traditional Yiddish songs performed by Efim Aleksandrov, a famous Russian performer and singer, and 35 other talented Russian dancers, singers and musicians.

Aleksandrov, a Benny Hill look-alike, headlines Songs of Jewish Shtetl, at The Music Hall, 147 Danforth Ave., on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 8 p.m.

Efim Aleksandrov

The lone Toronto performance is part of a 16-city North American tour. It follows a European tour that received rave reviews in Russia, Germany and Israel.

Aleksandrov not only sings and dances in the show, he is also its artistic director and co-creator, along with Yan Ashkinazy.

The ensemble performs a huge, colourful and creative production dedicated to the preservation of Jewish culture in Yiddish.

The repertoire includes famous Yiddish songs that were sung in Jewish shtetls across eastern Europe and passed down by Jewish mothers and grandmothers.

The production also features dancers in traditional costumes and comic skits.

Ella Tcheloznova, the Toronto show's producer said the show "is for the older to remember and for the younger to learn."

In its review of the production, *the Moscow Courier* noted that the show's songs still have a strong influence on the minds of the contemporary Jewish community.

"Many [contemporary Jews] don't know Yiddish, but the sound of the language their parents and grandparents used to speak will undoubtedly make any heart pound in unison with the rediscovered and everlasting tunes."

Ashkinazy, the show's co-creator, has also produced a CD titled *Songs of the Jewish Mestechko*, consisting of folk songs composed in Jewish *mestechkos* (small settlements) scattered across Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, the Baltics states, Poland and Romania.

For tickets to Songs of Jewish Shtetl, call 416-491-3014 or 416-226-9151.

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Machu Picchu: Trek to the Lost City of the Incas

Every day is a history lesson as we piece together the puzzle of the peak

By LISA ABRAM
Special to The CJN

LA PAZ, Bolivia — I meet my fellow travellers as they arrive in La Paz, Bolivia, the world's highest capital city at 12,000 feet. The backpackers on this trek have flown in from various places around the globe, and for some, their time travelling has been measured in days, not hours.

Our goal is to reach Machu Picchu in Peru – the Peruvian name for the Lost City of the Incas – which is located in the town of Aguas Calientes.

We start in La Paz because it allows us time to adjust to the altitude before we ascend to 17,000 feet a week later. Preparing for a trip of this nature is not without its potential dangers. Altitude sickness can affect, without warning, even those who are in superb athletic condition.

La Paz is a kaleidoscope of colours. Bolivian women stroll through the city carrying their wares to the market in brightly coloured blankets with the ease of a lifetime of practice.

Meanwhile, still uncertain about our own physical limitations during this acclimatization period, we adjust to the thinner air with reasonable caution.

Our tour leader is Roberto, a Peruvian from Cuzco with over 10 years experience as a tour guide. He is articulate, educated and passionate about his work. He demonstrates an understanding of each of our needs. His livelihood is dependent upon delivering an experience that exceeds everyone's expectations and one that promises a safe return home.

On day three of the trip, we board a bus heading for Copacabana, a religious pilgrimage town for the country's faithful, and Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. We head higher up into the Andean mountain range towards 13,000 feet. By now, the entire group has acclimatized. The usual symptoms of altitude sickness, light-headedness and nausea pass within the first 48 hours.

Machu Picchu: A sense of accomplishment. [Lisa Abram photo]

The tour leader is fully aware of the state of his charges, much like a shepherd who meticulously tends to his flock.

To better prepare us for the week ahead, six days of camping and high altitude trekking in the Andean mountains, he suggests we negotiate an hour climb while in Copacabana. The air is thinner here than in La Paz, and the challenge is to climb to the top of a small hill breathing less oxygen.

When we arrive that evening in the town of Puno, located on the railway line, we're lucky to see the local people celebrating the birth of a patron saint, and we admire the colourful tapestries and Peruvian artistry at this huge street party.

The next day, we board the train from Puno to Cuzco, an 11-hour journey that traverses the countryside, revealing scenery more reminiscent of a lunar landscape: dry, barren and mountainous.

Cuzco is a visual masterpiece, with inspiring Inca ruins and magnificent Spanish churches all forming the backdrop on a canvas surrounded by orange-tiled roofs. We spend the next three days exploring the surrounding area: white-water rafting on the Vilcanota River and visiting the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The next four day's activities in the Andes reveal snow-capped mountains, unbelievable vistas and ancient water canals, all unspoiled by tourism. Time to ourselves allows for quiet reflection and wonderment. How small we feel surrounded by nature's unspeakable glory.

It's at this point we fully comprehend the reason why we started our trip in La Paz. Any prior difficulties we encountered acclimatizing to the thin air have truly paid off here. We're ascending higher each day, starting at 10,000 feet and slowly climbing our way up to 17,000 feet. On day three of the trek, we will conquer the summit of a glacial saddle nestled near the top of the Salcantay Mountain.

As we cross the glacial saddle midday, it feels as if we've been on a pilgrimage. We have all pushed ourselves further physically and mentally than ever before. Roberto informs us the mountain is alive with movement and we stand still to feel its presence. We place rocks at the summit to give thanks to the Pacha Mama, the mother earth. We're overwhelmed by this spiritual experience and climb out of the saddle with ropes, daydreaming, yet fully aware there are still ice crevasses to manoeuvre around.

The physical beauty of the Andes offsets the physical exertion of climbing towards the heavens. While sharing the Inca trail with local alpacas and llamas, the realities of trekking become obvious. As we continue up the steps, we are overwhelmed by a pungent odour. A backpacker examines the bottom of her boot to discover the remnants from a four-legged passerby. Humility and humour are definitely close cousins on this trek.

As we get closer to Machu Picchu we visit many Inca ruins along the trail. Every day is a history lesson from Roberto as he pieces together for us the puzzle of the peak.

On the final day of the trek, we ascend to the top of a crest on a particularly hot day to finally see that we've made it. We feel an incredible sense of accomplishment. Some celebrate with whiskey, others stand or sit down in awe. We all agree it was worth the toil and sweat. A celebration is planned that night.

In the morning, we take a four-hour train ride back to Cuzco where we spend our last night and quietly reflect on the last two weeks.

We fly to Lima, the capital city of Peru, for the final leg of the trip and bid farewell to South America and each other before we return home, promising to return some day to relive the magic of discovering ourselves high up in the Andean mountains.

For more information about the trip, which is called the Inca Highlands Trek, contact The Adventure Centre at 416-922-7584 or visit www.theadventurecentre.com.

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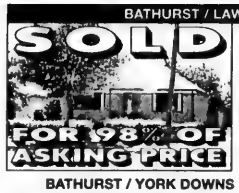

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330 OBITUARIES

KUSHNER, Abraham – on Aug. 6, 2002.
TROST, Sam – on Aug. 7, 2002, late of 6101 Bathurst St.
KLEIMAN, Hana – on Aug. 7, 2002.
TENNENBAUM, Emil – on Aug. 8, 2002, late of 650 Briar Hill Ave.
SHEFFER, Martin – on Aug. 8, 2002.
BERDUGO, David – on Aug. 9, 2002, late of 16 Dove Hawkway.
DIKSHTEIN, Don – on Aug. 7, 2002, late of 5 Fisherville Rd.
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LIFE PARTNER

Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 39-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

HAPPY TIMES

Petite female, 5' 2", brown eyes, brunette, friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate. Seeks a professional gentleman between 50-60 yrs with similar qualities with whom to enjoy companionship & happy times, interests include movies, theatre, music, dining out, walks in the park **AD#1395**

FUN LOVING

Fun loving, professional lady who likes the finer things in life, but down to earth in personality I'm attractive, blonde, likes to travel enjoys theatre & learning new things. She's hard working, with no children and seeks intelligent, active, easy going gentleman 45-55 yrs with a balanced life **AD#1357**

I AM FOR YOU

Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall **AD#1240**

HIGH CLASS

Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

PICTURE THIS

I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more, If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

LET'S TALK

I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

EASY GOING

Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number I'm looking for a serious relationship **AD#1037**

KILLER SMILE!

Hi, my name is Debbie I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead Little bit overweight but working on it diligently, I love the outdoors **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?

Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5½, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, compimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life **AD#1151**

LET'S MEET

Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate, intelligent, good natured and attractive. 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old **AD#1138**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Charm, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs. 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED

Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'

Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

I'm a fun loving, down to earth personality, attractive, blonde, enjoy travel, theatre, learning new things, very hard working. I have no kids and seek an intelligent, active easy going male, between 45-55 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1211**

SHARE WITH YOU

Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY

40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments. I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships **AD#1401**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE

Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & writing to explore a little bit Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1186**

LET'S MEET

Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner, He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE

Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-60yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?

Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1318**

WALKS BY THE LAKE

Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. Please call and leave a message **AD#1204**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER

Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me Have a great one **AD#1132**

FUN & COMPASSION

Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind sense of humour conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel. **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship **AD#1457**

LET'S TALK

Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message **AD#1158**

NEW IN TOWN

Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love it this fits you, please answer this ad **AD#1061**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN

Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise, please leave a message. **AD#1238**

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FRIENDSHIP & LOVE

Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family **AD#1459**

FUN GUY

Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands **AD#1368**

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Anaheim pitcher not keen on being a spot-starter

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Anaheim Angels reliever Al Levine says he'd prefer not to take the mound during the upcoming High Holy Days, but the 6-foot-3 righthander isn't one of those guys who can just say he's not pitching on a given day.

Al Levine
[Photos courtesy of Anaheim Angels]

Levine is currently trying to recapture the set-up role he held with the club for the first half of the season, getting the ball into closer Troy Percival's hands with the lead in the ninth inning.

Levine had a breakthrough season last year, emerging as the team's primary set-up man while making a career-high 64 appearances (one start) and posting a team-low 2.38 ERA. The team sent him home on Yom Kippur prior to a game in Oakland, but he's not in a position these days to request time away from the ball club, even for the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

In his first seven appearances since being activated off the disabled list on July 20, the seven-year major league veteran did not allow an earned run in 12 innings pitched. However, he was used in only one situation with the game still in doubt, after returning to the lineup from a three-week absence due to right shoulder tendinitis.

Levine declined to comment about the way the Angels are using him in their pursuit of a playoff berth, but it was clear he wasn't keen on being a spot-starter down the stretch.

"I don't see it in the future," said Levine, a free agent after the season. "But if it happens, it happens. I mean I'm not gonna sit there and say no.

"Our starters are good and there are guys at Triple-A who can do the job.

"September's coming along soon and the rosters expand anyway so who's to say they won't be one of those guys (spot-starting)."

The 34-year-old Levine met with manager Mike Scioscia and pitching coach Bud Black early in the month to talk about his role on the wild-card-leading Angels' pitching staff.

"There are a couple of things we're looking at," said Scioscia. "He's an option for us to be a spot-starter, so we're keeping him lengthened out whenever we get the chance.

"At the same token, when he's throwing the ball as effectively as he's shown, we want to look for a spot to use him along with [Ben] Weber, [Brendan] Donnelly, [Scott] Schoeneweis, depending on match-ups and who's fresh in the seventh or eighth inning."

A sinker and slider pitcher, the 11th-round pick of the Chicago White Sox in the 1991 draft struggled for a number of years in the minors before getting the call to make his big league debut on June 22, 1996.

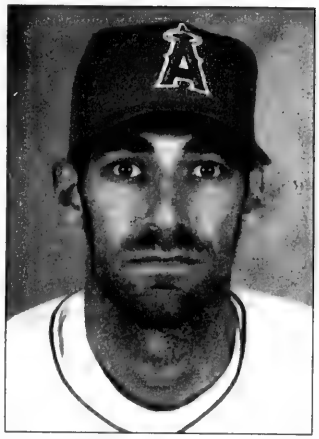
The highlight of his baseball career prior to that came in 1994 when he got to play with Michael Jordan on the Double-A Birmingham Barons.

He admits playing so close to home in Chicago was extremely difficult in his two years with the Sox.

"I was up and down (from the minors) and I was terrible," said Levine, a Park Ridge, Ill. native. "I really hated (playing there). If anyone has to play in their hometown, it's more of a pain because everyone always wants something and is always trying to get in touch with you. To me those are just more distractions that you don't need."

His career improved when he was traded to Texas following the 1997 season. Levine spent his first full season in the majors with the Rangers the next year, helping the club qualify for post-season play.

Texas released him early in the 1999 campaign and Levine signed on as a free agent with Anaheim. He's been pitching for the Angels ever since.



"He's steadily grown into a more impact role on our club," said Black, a former Blue Jays hurler.

"Since we've had him he just seems to be more comfortable on the mound. He understands his game and what he has to do. You know, [with] some guys, it just takes longer."

Essay contest

The Jewish Sports Connection, a periodical that promotes the discussion of sport and Jewish life, is extending the deadline for its essay contest to Oct. 15.

The essay topic is : "How has Judaism enriched my life in sport? How has sport enriched my life as a Jew?"

The best entries, selected by a panel of judges, will be awarded Israel Bonds of $500, $360 and $180 (US).

Contest guidelines and essay submission forms can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to *The Jewish Sports Connection*, P.O. Box 66461, St. Petersburg, FLA. 33736, U.S.A. or by making an online request at JewishSports@yahoo.com.

The contest is open to Jewish high school and college students with significant involvement in organized team or individual sports.

Israel kicks off new era with 4-2 victory

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

KAUNAS, Lithuania — Israel beat Lithuania 4-2 in an international friendly in Kaunas last week, giving Avraham Grant a winning start to his tenure as national team coach. Not only did Grant get a win in his first game in charge, but two players making their international debuts were on the scoresheet for Israel.

Watched by just 2,000 fans, Israel got off to a decidedly shaky start, and within 10 minutes, the home team had taken the lead.

A corner was lofted over from the left and Arturos Fomenka rose above the Israeli defence to head past Dudu Awat. Ten minutes later, Israel was back on even terms, as Omri Afek celebrated his first cap in style. Haim Revivo sent a long ball from the centre of the pitch over several Lithuanian defenders and Afek latched on to the ball, rounded the keeper and stroked the ball into the empty net.

With the Israeli defence struggling against the home team's attackers, it came as no surprise when Lithuania took a 2-1 lead at the half-hour mark. A mistake by Ilan Bachar allowed a Lithuanian winger to cross from the left, and when the ball evaded the Israeli defenders, Robertas Poskus was on hand to stab home from close range.

The second half was an entirely different affair, following the introduction of another newcomer, Michael Zandberg. His pace, control and flair were the difference between a poor Israeli showing in the first half and a confident performance in the second.

Israel's second equalizer came three minutes after the restart, as Zandberg received a deep pass from Kfir Udi, left two defenders in his wake and scored past the stranded Lithuanian goalkeeper.

In the 64th minute, Afek completed a superb personal performance by scoring Israel's third and his second goal. Substitute Alon Harazi crossed from the right, Udi's volley was parried by the keeper, and Afek had the presence of mind to turn the rebound back into the Lithuanian goal.

Israel saved the best goal for last. In the 74th minute, Udi crossed from the right of the Lithuanian penalty box, Walid Badir headed the ball back across the penalty box, and Idan Tal headed from close range to give Israel the 4-2 win.

Addressing the players during training prior to the contest, Israel Football Association (IFA) chair Gavri Levi urged them to turn around the run of disappointments that has seen Israel fail to qualify for a major soccer championship since 1970.

"From now on," said Levi, "you have to work harder than ever and fight with all your strength for the country. Hard work will help you achieve your goal – reaching the finals of Euro 2004. You can do it."

In a lighthearted aside, Levi said the injuries that had left Grant without three starters could work to the new coach's advantage. "At least he won't have any trouble selecting his team," Levi joked.

Lithuanian coach Benjamin Zelkevicius told Israeli reporters his squad was in the early stages of readiness for its own Euro 2004 qualifying campaign. In its last game, in March, Lithuania came away with a 1-0 win over Moldova. Zelkevicius added that in a friendly tournament in Malta over the summer, his team was beaten 3-0 by Jordan.

"I know the Israeli team very well because of Maccabi Haifa's Lithuanian defender, Raymundas Zatauttas, who is my captain," said Zelkevicius. "He has told me all about Israeli soccer and has made it clear that despite the absence of Yossi Benayoun and Avi Nimni, you have a very strong team headed by Haim Revivo, who is famous even here in Lithuania.

"Even though we have home field advantage, I think the current Israeli team is even better than the one that beat us here 3-2 last year. There's no doubt that Richard Nielsen left behind a strong basis and that Israel is a team that demands respect."

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Israeli footballers humbled in international tournament

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

If they had appeared on an episode of *The Sopranos*, you could say the Israeli flag football team got "whacked" but good.

On *Star Trek*, phasers would have been set far beyond "stun" and if it had been the CFL, fans would have been bellowing Arrrrrgggggos! long before the final snap.

Instead it was merely a flag football tournament and nobody got killed, though there was plenty of embarrassment to go around.

Playing more talented squads from Canada, the United States and Greece (consisting of Canadian-born players of Greek origin), Israel was humbled, to put it mildly.

Israel lost its bronze medal game 35-0 to the United States, and finished 0-4 at the recently concluded Flag Bowl 2002, held at York University. Canada finished first and Greece second in the event, sanctioned by the Global Federation of American Football.

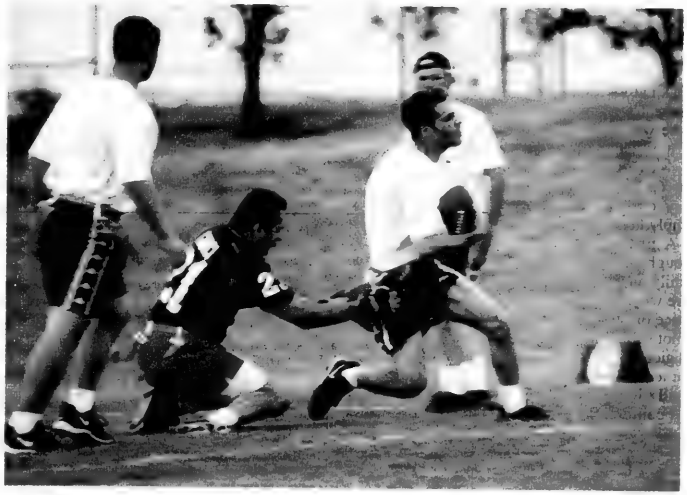
Israel's performance was disappointing, to say the least, as the boys in blue had in previous international tournaments shown they were at least competitive with second tier football countries, like Mexico, Italy, Brazil and France.

This time, however, none of the also-rans showed up to play (the Mexicans, originally scheduled to play, were held up in Mexico due to visa difficulties) and Israel was left as the flyweight in a heavyweight contest. Perhaps the other countries knew something Israel didn't.

Still and all, head coach Danny Gewirtz presented a positive spin on the team's Toronto experience. The team had moved the ball against Greece, he said, scoring 26 points though allowing 48, but the Canadians had steamrollered them, 42-6.

"We know what we have to do to raise our level to that of North America...Against them, we don't match up well," he said, noting the Canadians' and Americans' team speed and knowledge of the seven-man, no contact game.

Even before the tournament, Gewirtz and team manager Steve Leibowitz knew they'd have trouble with the North Americans. They pointed to the 15-yard drops the Canadian quarterback would take and the fact the Canuck QB had a rocket for an arm, making it difficult to defend against a pass on a field that's 53-yards wide.



Open field running was tough against the American flag football team, as this Israeli ball carrier discovered recently. [Adam Irving photo]

What's more, Israel has always done better in the contact version of the game (the Flag Bowl was a non-contact tournament).

At the World Cup of Flag Football, held last February in Ft. Lauderdale Fla., Israel defeated England and recorded a 1-3 record. In Le Havre last May, in an event attended by 26 teams, Israel finished third. Those, however, were contact tournaments.

Organized football has been played in Israel for 13 years, ever since Gewirtz and Leibowitz, American olim, founded the American Touch Football in Israel (ATFI) league.

Giants fans since their days in Queen's, NY, they had always missed football while living in Israel. When they started the league back then, it consisted of 100 players on eight teams. It has subsequently grown to 700 players on 36 teams, including many visiting yeshiva students.

Ten of Israel's best travelled to Toronto for the games and surprisingly, five of them were native-born Israelis.

Each year, more and more sabras are getting involved in the league, Gewirtz said. "They're getting good. It's definitely catching on."

Elik Cohen is one of the young Israelis who loves the North American game. A native of Jerusalem, Cohen played point guard for Hapoel Jerusalem, the city's professional basketball team, before an injury ended his career.

He took up flag football only three months ago and after three weeks of getting used to catching a spiraling oval ball, became one of the country's best players. He was named MVP in Israel's bronze medal blowout in Toronto.

Prior to playing flag football, he had seen only some *Super Bowls* on TV. "I had no idea it was so much fun. It surprised me very much.

"I think it's one of the smartest games," he continued. His favourite part of the game is scoring and "stealing (intercepting) the ball."

Aryeh Bauman is an American-born member of the team who's lived in Israel for 14 years. During his North American football career, he bounced from college to college and even had a three-month stint with the Argos during the 1994 season. The highlight of his stay here, before suffering a foot injury, was sacking then-Stampeder quarterback Doug Flutie on a safety blitz.

The sport is catching on in the Holy Land. "Israelis like the physical aspect," said Bauman, a top arm wrestler, who's ranked third in the world in the 80 kg class.

Israel's football program was given a considerable boost by the philanthropy of American supporters. A few years ago, the league approached Robert Kraft, owner of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots and a supporter of Israel, and he agreed to fund development of a four-dunam piece of land in central Jerusalem to serve as the league's home field. The rock-strewn land, near Gan Sacher Park, was donated by the municipality of Jerusalem.

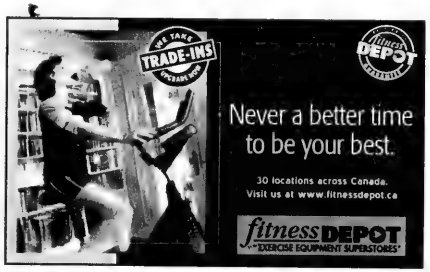
The NFL, meanwhile, kicks in $7,500 (US) per year to support the league and Kraft, along with fellow owner Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers have floated the idea of a home and away exhibition played in Ireland and Israel. But the NFL won't allow it, given Israel's security situation, Leibowitz said.

The league plays all its games at Kraft Stadium, including the season-ending Holy Land Bowl, and the field is rented for other sports as well.

Football is proving to be more than a good recreational activity, Leibowitz said. The sport has been introduced to young Ethiopians, Russians, Iranians and Israelis and it creates bonds between them. "It's a way to integrate them into society," he said.

The team's participation in the Toronto tournament was made possible by grants of $5,000 (US) from B'nai Brith Canada and $7,500 from UJA Federation, as well as contributions from supporters in the United States. Roots provided the team with uniforms.

During their visit, QB Ron Dermer, a columnist with the *Jerusalem Post*, addressed the congregations at two synagogues.



Renewing yourself

Many people my age have likely been going to shul in some capacity for 20 or so years on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Through years of observing the High Holy Days in our own ways, we have likely each experienced their significance in one way or another.

For some, this time may be deeply religious or spiritual. For others, it may represents a break in their routine for renewal, a special time to be with family, or perhaps the only time of year when they feel particularly Jewish. Some might resent these holidays, having being forced to go to shul or to pray to a God that they didn't believe in simply because they were born Jewish.

A girlfriend recently told me that although she goes to synagogue with her family on the High Holy Days, she is not sure why. In fact, she questions the relevance of the holidays to her because she is not sure how she wants to incorporate religion into her life. Yet at the same time, she identifies strongly with being "culturally Jewish."

I completely understand her point of view.

The questioning of faith is quite normal. In fact, on Rosh Hashanah, we read the story of Sarah and Hagar and the story of God's testing of Abraham in the Akedah, which both raise issues about the questioning of faith. So, if you were to ask me if I think you have to be religious to benefit from the High Holy Days, I would say no.

The High Holy Days have a lot to offer us in our journeys of self discovery. Rosh Hashanah encourages us to examine our behaviours, relationships and priorities, as well as how we treat ourselves. In the days that follow, we take responsibility, mend and forgive. We also figure out how we can learn from our mistakes of the past year and how we can make positive changes in our lives.

Then, by giving up something on Yom Kippur – whether we choose to fast completely or simply give up some luxury as a form of personal sacrifice – we can all become aware of how lucky we are. We experience empathy for those less fortunate than us. We might also connect more deeply to God or if not to him, then certainly to ourselves.

20 something

By Jodi Kovitz

I know a wise young woman who is very spiritual, though not very religious or very observant. She wrote the following to me:

"You know Jodi, the High Holy Days are so for our age group. Our 20s are often so tumultuous because we are usually solidifying who we are. We make life changing decisions (like choosing careers and life partners) and many of us are often dealing with difficult issues like sickness or death for the first time.

"These holidays have become part of my self definition and healing process [in battling anorexia]. I feel renewed, and am then able to keep going. This is what I think these days are meant to do... help us grow and reaffirm our commitment to life."

I could not have said it better. I hope that you can find some meaning in the High Holy Days this year. Perhaps the experience can make your journeys a little easier. And in addition to what we stand to gain personally, let's unite to help our 20-something friends in Israel. Perhaps while we are fasting, we can think of them and send them our collective feelings of compassion, empathy and renewed hope.

Thanks to all of you who have helped to shape my thinking this month. Our dialogue to date has been outstanding, and I continue to welcome your contributions at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

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1 cup sliced celery	watercress
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1 tblsp. honey	
1 tblsp. lemon juice	lettuce leaves
1 tsp. salt	

Combine slivered almonds with celery, chicken and pimiento. Blend mayonnaise, honey, lemon juice and salt and toss with chicken mixture. Arrange in salad bowl and garnish with watercress and halved, seeded grapes or pineapple chunks, if desired. Serve on lettuce leaves. Serves 4.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Several educators have made the point that Jewish education in 20th-century western countries was modelled too closely on public schooling. The argument is that the public classroom is a fairly recent innovation in the long history of education, and Jewish learning thrived in many different settings for centuries without reference to the public mode of teaching. Isn't it possible that we should be looking inward and backward to search for modes more authentic to our own heritage?

Of course, there is a double danger in this type of exercise. One, we might over-romanticize models that were neither efficient nor effective. Two, we could fall into the trap of dismissing an acceptable idea just because of its newness and "modernity." With those caveats in mind, it seems to make sense to ask if, in fact, there are other modes of learning that could, at least, complement the formal schooling we now depend on.

A recent training seminar run by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education's Mishpacha Institute of Toronto, was based on the idea that the Jewish family is a sine qua non for Jewish learning and identity.

So much of the last 100 years of organized Jewish education isolated children from their families instead of integrating the whole family into the process. There was a cartoon some years back of an irate father yelling at his son, "You'll go to shul Saturday morning even if I have to take you there myself!!"

Another aspect of Jewish learning that existed in the past and can easily be recast in our world is the visible adult learner. Children should see their parents studying Jewish sources. Children do see their parents taking advantage of the other skills they learn in school, using math, reading, making sense of the outside world. If Jewish subject matter is to be relevant to children as they mature, they must see adults appreciating the same material on an adult level. That simple act of seeing a parent studying Torah, reading a volume of Jewish history or enjoying an Israeli novel adds reality to the built-in artificiality of schooling.

Even our schools could search for ways to connect to old modes of study that might be more suited to Jewish subject matter: form in concert with content. More on that in future columns...

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish News Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 64.)

Authors' Firsts

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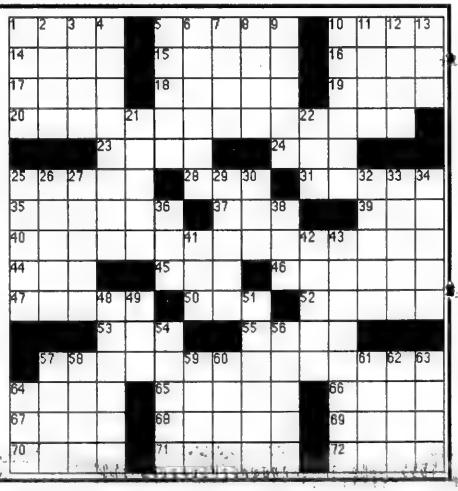
Across

1. A repenter turns one over
5. Letter stylings (abbrev.)
10. Enactments
14. Bowl, in Spanish
15. Candles of (Hebr. possessive form)
16. Give out
17. Big golfer
18. Not on drugs
19. Internet service provider, namesakes
20. Doctorow / Amichai / Friedman
23. Swiss river
24. Drunkard
25. Thorny comments
28. Jrs.' elders
31. Songbird
35. Addis' capital partner, namesakes
37. Fleming
39. Vital commun. service
40. Kellerman / Dayan / Henthoff
44. Khamor, in Paris
45. Photo ___
46. Come out
47. Searches
50. Ancient Israel's basic army unit
52. Moses, in Marseilles
53. Rowing tool
55. Or___, 2nd c. C.E. Greek writer
57. Kitaj / Levi / Oz
64. ___ of faith
65. First part of word meaning steward or servant
66. Teaching method
67. Gate proceeds
68. Legendary knight of Spain
69. Gustave
70. Word alphabetiz.
71. Composer Saint-_____
72. Kochav, in Kansas

Down

1. It may be a mother
2. Israel's international carrier
3. Close associate
4. Kellerman / Eban
5. Take on, say to debt
6. Diacritical marks
7. Region
8. Matriarch
9. Kitchen fixtures
10. Makeshift shelter
11. Running ____
12. Cunning as a cartoon coyote
13. Aves.
21. Mixes it up with
22. Gr. for smidgeon
25. Lower Californias, familiarly
26. "Toss the dog _____"
27. Hindu princess
29. Washer cycle
30. Utter
32. Matisse
33. Internet zines
34. Lauder
36. 'nuff's preceder
38. Scottish negative
41. Likely
42. Master clown Kelly
43. Cohen and Bernstein
48. Ted
49. Minister, in Meggido
51. Vitamin
54. Hoarfrosts
56. Nasty kind of lock
57. Harvest
58. Do stuff in the oven
59. Prop preceder, per Dickens
60. Upon a time preceder
61. Kind of point
62. Other, in Spanish
63. Prophet
64. Football linemen



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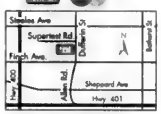

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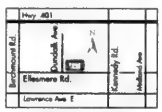

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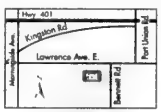

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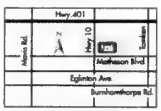

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

During last spring's Walk With Israel, sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, two Toronto police officers chat with a walk volunteer. [Jacob El-Baz photo]

Life after 9/11

Editorial

It was an ordinary late summer morning, and I was on my way to an interview. I stopped for a coffee, and that's when the first of two planes crashed into the World Trade Center. I am not unique in remembering nearly a year later exactly where I was and what I was doing when the news broke that grim Sept. 11. Most of us do, just as those of us who are old enough remember what we were doing when president John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Each time, it felt as if nothing would ever be the same again.

It wasn't long after that the new intifadah seemed to reach a new level of brutality and news of suicide bombings stopped being breaking news.

Acts of anti-Semitism, from graffiti to vandalism to the burning of synagogues – things that always happened "somewhere else" – began happening here, too.

No wonder we became unsettled and afraid, unsure of how to respond.

This Community Focus supplement is coming out just before the first anniversary of 9/11, as it has simply come to be called. How have we coped – both individually and as a community – over the past year?

On Sept. 11 itself, members of our community didn't hesitate to open their homes and hearts to those who were stranded at Canadian airports when American ones were closed. Transportation, telephones, kosher food, places to stay and comforting words were offered in such quantities that many who wanted to help had to be turned away.

For the first little while after 9/11, Toronto's Jews, like the rest of the world, were in shock.

Have any of us spent as much time glued to the television as we did that awful week? How often, before or since, has there been only one topic of conversation wherever you went?

As the days went by, especially as the intifadah and anti-Semitism around the world grew more strident, our reactions became more focused. Security everywhere not only increased, it became more visible. There were guards outside Mount Sinai Hospital, police and dogs outside shuls, and purses and briefcases were being searched at community events.We were afraid, and the fear showed in doctors' offices, in changed travel plans (including, for some, a refusal to travel at all) and in nightmares.

Life after Sept. 11 has been trying for Jews around the world, but for Israel it has been catastrophic. Flights have been cut back, hotels are empty and the economic outlook in the Jewish State is bleak.

Continued on page B6

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Aish 20's Program Co-ordinator: Ilana Ginzburg
Tel: 905-764-1818, ext. 225
Fax: 905-764-1606
E-mail: yptoronto@aich.com
Website: www.aish20s.com
Aish20s is a division of Aish HaTorah, for ***Jews in their 20's***. We provide an environment where one can explore their Judaism and meet others in a social setting. Contemporary topics, dynamic speakers, we offer diverse programming to suit everyone's needs. Check out the web **aish20s.com**

BATHURST JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
4588 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W6
Executive Director: Sherry Kulman
Tel: 416-636-1880 Fax: 416-636-5813
Website: www.bjcc.ca
The Bathurst JCC is a multi-service centre that provides social, athletic, educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages. Fitness, aquatics, music, drama, visual arts, dance, adult education, 55+, special needs, health & wellness, camps, Early Childhood educatin, Family Resource Centre, The Jewish Discovery Place, Koffler Gallery, Leah Posluns Theatre, after school programs, kids birthday parties and more. You belong here!

JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS OF CANADA
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Acting Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
President: Michael Rosenberg
Tel: 416-787-4345 Fax: 416-785-4536
Our main goals: To represent Jewish Holocaust survivors with a unified voice, to work on behalf of survivors and help disseminate information by representing Canadian Survivors at the Jewish Claims Conference. To obtain registration forms please contact us at 416-787-4345.

JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL OF CANADA
638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 210,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 2S1
Executive Director: Penny Krowitz
Tel: 416-630-9313 Fax: 416-630-9319
E-mail: jwic@colosseum.com
Jewish Women International of Canada is committed to improving the quality of life for women, children and families and strives to end the cycle of violence through education, advocacy and action. There are traditional and non-traditional models of membership available throughout the GTA. Call now for YOU! 416-630-9313.

MILES NADAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: info@milesnadaljcc.ca
Website: www.milesnadaljcc.ca
The Miles Nadal JCC at the hub of revitalized activity in Toronto's downtown area, offers sports, recreation and cultural programming for tens of thousands of people who participate in hundreds of programs. The JCC is a founding member of the strong and vital Downtown Jewish Community Council.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA, Toronto Section
4700 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W8
Executive Director: Terry S. Winston
Tel: 416-633-5100 Fax: 416-633-1956
E-mail: info@ncjwc-ts/org
Website: www.ncjwc-ts.org
Established in 1897, National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, is a volunteer service organization, dedicated to identifying community needs and providing leadership changes in our community. We are proud of over a century of service, education and social action.

NATIVE MEN'S RESIDENCE
14 Vaughan Rd.,
Toronto, Ont. M6G 2N1
Contact: Randi Sokolsky
Tel: 416-651-7347
Native Men's Residence - *Na-Me-Res* - is a multi-service shelter, open to all men, 16 and older, regardless of religious or ethnic heritage. Our highly successful ***Street Help*** and ***Gimme Shelter*** Outreach Programs have placed hundreds of homeless individuals into shelters. Please contact Randi Sokolsky for donations and volunteering opportunities.

REENA
Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre
927 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Executive Director: Sandy Keshen
Tel: 905-889-6484 Fax: 905-889-3827
Website: www.reena.org
Reena is a non-profit social service agency supporting individuals with a developmental disability, and their families through residential and social work programs. Community day, evening, respite and Sunday programs focus on recreation, education, life skill/vocational training, support and leisure. Charitable donations can be made through the Reena Foundation at 905-763-8254, ext. 3033, or toll-free 877-324-4141, ext. 3034.

UJA FEDERATION
4600 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V2
Tel: 416-635-2883 Fax: 416-635-9565
www.jewishtoronto.net
No matter where Jews live in the Greater Toronto area, UJA Federation, in partnership with community volunteers and other organizations, is responsible for fundraising, planning and co-ordinating services on their behalf. Through the Annual Campaign, endowments and capital initiatives — all key components of our community's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative — UJA Federation, backed by more than 25,000 donors, raises millions of dollars to support an extensive network of essential services and facilities. UJA Federation also provides a strong Jewish voice on issues of urgent concern through financial support of Canadian Jewish Congress. UJA Federation departments include the Board of Jewish Education, Committee for Yiddish, Holocaust Centre of Toronto, Jewish Information Service and Ontario Jewish Archives. Among UJA Federation beneficiary agencies are the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, BBYO, Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Canadian Jewish Congress, Circle of Care, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Camp Council, Jewish Campus Services, Jewish Family & Child Service, Jewish Immigrant Aid Service, JVS of Greater Toronto, Jews For Judaism, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Reena, the Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa and Zareinu. UJA Federation fundraising expenses are among the lowest in North America.

VE'AHAVTA
365 Bloor St. E., Ste. 1705,
Toronto, Ont. M4W 3L4
Director: Avrum Rosensweig
Tel: 416-964-7698 Fax:416-964-6582
www.veahavta.org
How can Jews not respond to the terrible pain around us? We asked, "Where was the rest of the world when the Nazis were killing our family during the Holocaust?" Help the homeless. Care for the millions dying of HIV/AIDS. Play your role in tikkun olam. Ve'ahavta, 416-964-7698.

DAY CARE

BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Contact: Barbara Lev
Tel: 416-783-6103
Playtime Nursery for Parents, Grandparents & Tots. Programs for children ages 1-2 and 2-3. Monday thru Thursday morning programs available. Instructive, creative programs with adult participation, holiday celebrations, arts & crafts, music, stories and refreshments. Bond with your children and interact with other adults, to form lasting friendships.

GAN YELADIM DAY CARE CENTRE
100 Elder St.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 5G7
Supervisor: Shelley Wise
Tel: 416-638-1796
Non-profit, full-day child care for children 18 months-5 years and after-school care for 6-9 year olds. Government licensed, operates 12 months a year, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., provides kosher meals and snacks under COR. Program includes Jewish education, art, music, computers, dance, creative and dramatic play and outdoor play.

EDUCATION

AHAVAT YISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL
8950 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Principal: Mrs. Leslie Shapiro
Tel: 905-731-6704 Fax: 905-731-4651
Provides a creative, enjoyable learning experience for those interested in a once or optional twice a week program. The school, in its 13th year, offers an enriching curriculum of reading, writing, language, prayers, Israel and holidays. Special events include challah baking, Purim party and Passover seder. Remedial and enriched program available. Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF TORONTO
Educational Director: Rabbi Abraham Soffer
Executive Director: Arthur Landa
Administration Office
6100 Leslie St.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1
Tel: 416-494-7666 Fax: 416-494-2925

Danilack Centre: Middle School (Gr. 6-8)
6100 Leslie St.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1
Middle School Principals:
Rabbi P. Brumer, Jerry H. Rosenfield
Tel: 416-494-7280 Fax: 416-494-3477

Kamin Centre: Pre-School—Gr. 5
300 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A2
Bet Hayeled (Pre-School) Supervisors: Surie Nagel, Susan Herberman
Elementary Principals:
Rabbi P. Tessler, Sandy Rabinowitz
Tel: 905-889-3998 Fax: 905-889-5183

Posluns Education Centre:
Pre-School—Gr. 5
18 Neptune Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 1X1
Elementary Principals:
Betty Katzman, Rosalie Sniderman
Tel: 416-787-1872 Fax: 416-787-6155

The Hurwich Centre is temporarily closed.

The mission of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto is to continue our long history of providing our students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive learning environment. Now in its 9th decade, Associated offers outstanding educational programs for a Pre-School-Gr. 8 student population exceeding 2,300.

ATERET SHALOM HEBREW SCHOOL
Yorkhill Elementary School,
350 Hilda Ave. (at Clark),
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 2P6
Principal: Joseph Klinger, MA
Administator: Sadie Domb
Tel: 905-886-1457
Kindergarten to Gr. 7 and bar-bat mitzvah individual tutoring. Once or twice weekly (Sundays, Wednesdays). Kids love Hebrew, holidays & celebrations, prayers, Israel, Bible, history, music, arts & crafts, Israeli folk dancing & more! Remedial and advanced programs too! Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

ATTENTION DISORDERS NEUROFEEDBACK CENTRE (ADNC)
1357 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5R 3H8
Director: Tamara Druckman
Tel: 416-944-0103
Neurofeedback is a non-invasive alternative to medication for Attention Deficit Disorder. By utilizing feedback from their brainwave activity, individuals are able to learn to increase their concentration and control impulsivity and restlessness. In conjunction with the intensive training program, the ADNC teaches learning and memory strategies which enhance the increased ability to focus.

BETH ISRAEL HEBREW ACADEMY
11 Pickett Cres.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9L1
Director: Lillian Benlolo
Tel: 905-770-1082 Fax: 905-770-6965
We offer rich, stimulating and challenging programs Sundays and afternoons for children ages 5-Bar/Bat Mitzvah, in Richmond Hill and Thornhill. Small classes, individual attention, special events, and activities are integrated into Hebrew studies. Bar/bat mitzvah preparation.

BETH SHOLOM HEBREW SCHOOL
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Contact: Esther Benari-Altmann
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
Beth Sholom Hebrew School has it all! Hebrew language and writing, prayers, holiday & shabbat celebrations, Israel and Jewish identity and much, much more. Our school-wide family education programs are not to be missed. Add a little music, song and fun and your child's after-school is some place they want to be! Call to register today: Beth Sholom Synagogue: 416-783-6103 or Esther Benari-Altmann: 905-771-9102.

BETH TIKVAH SCHOOLS
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3
Principal: Chaim Klein
Tel: 416-221-3433, ext. 301
Fax: 416-221-1602
Offers a dynamic 2-day-a-week Jewish studies curriculum: Hebrew, Bible, prayer, history and values. We seek to develop a positive Jewish identity in each child through a meaningful, responsive educational environment, with a variety of youth activities. All classes are open to

Community Focus

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS

EDUCATION CONT'D

the community and are in the Synagogue.

BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
12 Viewmount Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 1T3
Education Director: Dr. Uri Korin
Tel: 416-783-3346 Fax: 416-785-8287
E-mail: bialikschool@bialik.on.ca
Serves children from JK-Gr. 8. Through our integrated General and Jewish studies program and, with the most up to date instructional strategies including the use of technology, students learn to value their Jewishness and love for Israel while developing a sense of membership in the Canadian community.

CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto)
Director of Education:
Paul J. Shaviv, MA, M.Phil
Tanenbaum Campus: 200 Wilmington Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3H 5J8
Tel: 416-636-5984 Fax: 416-636-7717
Richmond Hill Campus: 51 Wright St., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4A2
Tel: 905-787-8772 Fax 905-787-8773
Toronto's community high school (gr. 9-12) providing courses leading to university entrance. A comprehensive Jewish studies program is an integral part of our school, including a community service requirement. Our reputation is based on individual care for every student. We offer an extensive program of sports and extra-curricular activities.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (c/o Miles Nadal JCC)
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Joan Schoenfeld
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: joan@djcs.org
Website: www.djcs.org
Community school, 300 students, providing sense of appreciation, enjoyment in Judaism; including concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and feel comfortable in a Jewish setting. JK-1: Sunday morning or afternoon delightful activity-oriented program. New Grades 2-7 Sunday only or Sunday/Wednesday options. Unique high school program Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., on contemporary teen dilemmas and issues of Jewish identity.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
250 Manning Ave., (south of College St.)
Toronto, Ont. M6J 2K7
Principal: Elysa Cohen
President: Michaele-Sue Goldblatt
Tel: 416-928-3537
E-mail: elysa@djds.ca or info@djds.ca
The Downtown Jewish Day School is a creative and dynamic full-time school, temporarily relocated at Manning Ave. south of College St. during the Miles Nadal JCC renovation. The DJDS is committed to providing students with an education of academic excellence, creative artistic expression, and the development of critical thinking skills. Our enriched and integrated curriculum presents children with a holistic view of the world, weaving together the Jewish and general facets of our lives. We offfer small classes from SK-Gr. 4. For more information, or to arrange for a tour of the school, phone 416-928-3537.

EITZ CHAIM SCHOOLS
Viewmount Campus
1 Viewmount Ave.
Tel: 416-789-4366
Principal: Rabbi M. Gewirtz
Preschool Supervisor: Mrs. E. Kaplan
Executive Director: Mr. I. Berman

Patricia Campus
475 Patricia Ave.,
Tel: 416-225-1187
Principal: Rabbi I. Pliner
General Studies Principal: Mr. R. Pletsch
Spring Farm Campus
80 York Hill Blvd.
Tel: 905-764-6633
Principal: Rabbi M. Gewirtz
Vice-Principal: Mrs. E. Weinstock
Preschool Supervisor: Mrs. E. Kaplan
Eitz Chaim Schools is dedicated to instilling within its students the foundations for living a Torah observant life and to provide the skills to understand and succeed in today's world in accordance with Torah values and ideals. Eitz Chaim strives for excellence in education in all areas of its curriculum.

KADIMA SCHOOL
(Beth Emeth Synagogue) 100 Elder St., North York, Ont. M3H 5G7
Supervisor: Galya Ouanounou
Tel: 416-638-6235 Fax: 416-631-6572
Kadima Sunday School, founded by Rabbi Joseph Kelman, offers an exciting Jewish learning experience for youth with developmental disabilities. Classes held at Beth Emeth include Hebrew study, holidays, customs and prayers. Students enjoy participating in crafts, music and community programs. A low yearly fee applies. Subsidies and transportation available.

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL
215 Cline Avenue North,
Hamilton, Ont. L8S 4A1
Principal: Carol Desoer
Tel: 905-529-7725 Fax: 905-529-9694
E-mail: kehila@interlynx.net
Website: www.kehilaschool.com
Kehila is a community day school committed to a superior academic education in a pluralistic Jewish environment. Our students have surpassed provincial achievement levels in mathematics, language arts and science. Hebrew is taught as a living language and Judaica made meaningful. Creative teachers, small class size. Grades: SK-5, growing to Gr. 8.

KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Director: Joseph Klinger
Tel: 416-787-0197
Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew and Bible and prayers for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14 sessions.

THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL
Atkinson Campus,
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9

Holy Blossom Campus
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Director: Zita J. Gardner, M.Ed., RJE
Tel: 905-709-3636 Fax: 905-709-1999
A Reform Jewish day school; sensitive to the educational needs of its children; providing for individual learning styles; music, art, drama and computers enrich a curriculum integrating Judaic and general studies. Students are prepared to be knowledgeable, practicing Liberal Jews in our Canadian society.

MONTESSORI JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Founding Director: Max Dublin
Tel: 416-784-5071 Fax: 416-784-5071
E-mail: mjds@on.aibn.com
Montessori means: an early start in learning; each child learns at his or her own pace; the richest learning environment in the world of education; specially trained teachers to bring out the best in your child; a non-denominational, egalitarian and inclusive Jewish school.

MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Education Director: Frances Handlarski
Executive Director: Maxine Hermolin
Tel: 416-789-5502 Fax: 416-789-5981
E-mail: mws@on.aibn.com
Website: pages.ca.inter.net/~mws
In this our 75th year, we continue to provide Sunday School classes for children, age 4 and up, a secular Bar-Bat Mitzvah program, a Youth Division, and family-oriented community holiday celebrations. We explore our Jewish traditions, identity and heritage through exposure to Yiddish culture, history, literature, music, drama, art and social justice concerns. In the summer, we move to Camp Naivelt, our "zumer heym" — a family-oriented cottage community west of Toronto. Join us!.

NETIVOT HATORAH DAY SCHOOL
18 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C8
Principal: Dr. Reuven Stern
Tel: 905-771-1234 Fax: 905-771-1807
www.netivot.com
Netivot HaTorah offers a challenging and exciting curriculum of Judaic and general studies from nursery to gr. 8. Netivot HaTorah is committed to addressing the social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs of each child in an atmosphere imbued with Torah, Israel and Derech Eretz.

OR HAEMET SEPHARDIC SCHOOL
7026 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3
Principals: Rabbi Daniel Ben-Nun, Mrs. Sarah Wasserman
Tel: 905-669-7653 Fax: 905-669-5138
Provides a Torah education in accordance with Sephardic Jewish practice, and a quality Hebrew, French and General Studies curriculum. Full day preschool (age 3) includes a special enriched Jr. Grade 1 program (age 5) to Jr. High. Our impressive new campus, featuring a Bet Medrash, pool, gym, high-tech computer and modern science labs contribute to enhancing the students' overall school experience.

SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Principal: Karen L. Goodis, RJE
Location: Thornhill Secondary School.
Tel: 905-889-0987 Fax: 905-889-1575
Highlights: Two days a week. Intensive Hebrew reading program; Excellent Family Education; Winter Arts Program; music; synagogue skills; remediation available. We are committed to providing children with the tools to become committed adult Jews. SK-Gr. 8. Classes meet Sun. and Wed. Gr. 8 Judaica program. Affiliated with BJE and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

TEMMY LATNER HEBREW SCHOOL
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Principal: Rifky Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
The Temmy Latner Hebrew School is an all new afternoon Hebrew school program at the Forest Hill Elementary School. Your child will love our exciting, stimulating environment, where Hebrew school is fun, without compromising solid learning and growth. Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. SK-Gr. 4. Call now to register!

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL
Administation House:
3072 Bayview Ave.
Head of School: Lucy Cohen

Bathurst Campus
1700 Bathurst St.

Bayview Campus,
3080 Bayview Ave.

Richmond Hill Campus,
9711 Bayview Ave.

Tel: 416-224-8737, ext. 137
Fax: 416-225-9108
JK - Grade 8. Offers a warm, stimulating, Jewish environment where students can develop socially, cognitively, physically and emotionally. Quality general and Jewish studies programs integrating computers, creative arts, music, physical education and family education. Teaching strategies enable students to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Association: Conservative movement.

YESHIVA DARCHEI TORAH OF TORONTO
2327 Dufferin St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6E 3S5
Development Director: Jeff Toledano, MSW
Tel: 416-782-7974, ext. 7,
Fax: 416-782-7811
E-mail: toledano@bellnet.ca
Website: www.darcheitorah.org
Darchei Torah's High School offers multi-leveled Limudai Kodesh with a low student-to-Rebbe ratio. General Studies are university preparatory, exceed Ministry guidelines and feature separate Sciences and Humanities tracks. Our Bais Medrash for older students features a Semicha Program and the option to complete university studies simultaneously.

FUNERAL CHAPELS

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
2401 Steeles Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 2P1
Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin
Tel: 416-663-9060 Fax: 416-663-9417
E-mail: info@benjamins.ca
Website: www.benjamins.ca
We are part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow and stress. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved Jewish families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Lawrence Scheinman
Tel: 416-780-0596 Fax: 416-780-0638
When economy is a major consideration, you should know that Hebrew Basic Burial offers the lowest interment costs available from any Jewish establishment. Guaranteed. Families who have used Hebrew Basic Burial's services have all found that dignity and observance of Jewish law were exactly as they should be. Hebrew Basic Burial - a non-profit organization.

STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL
350 Steeles Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1A1
Managing Funeral Director:
Carol P. Saucier
Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS

AID TO DISABLED VETERANS OF ISRAEL BEIT HALOCHEM CANADA
3101 Bathurst St., 4th floor,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Tel: 416-787-8950 1-800-355-1648
Fax: 416-787-1097
Web site: www.advi.ca
E-mail: bhcan@interlog.com
Beit Halochem Canada assists disabled Israeli veterans and their families rehabilitate themselves physically and emotionally. Four state of the art facilities in Israel offer a comprehensive range of services to disabled members including medicine, hydrotherapy, physical therapy, creative and athletic activities. Please help ensure that these programs continue for our Israeli heroes.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association is: the only civilian group whose programs make the life of every soldier on active duty in Israel's Defence Forces a little easier; co-ordinating its projects with the IDF to meet each soldier's recreational, educational and emotional needs; making army service more pleasant for every soldier; showing we care.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF HERZOG HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 606,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Tel: 416-256-4222 Fax: 416-256-1446
E-mail: herzoghosp@on.aibn.com
Israel's foremost centre for victims, bereaved families and witnesses of the continued terrorist attacks in Israel. Herzog Hospital combines exceptional research and achievements with the best medical technologies and cares for both the elderly and those with mental disabilities with professional expertise, compassion and care. To support Herzog Hospital please call 416-256-4222.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Noreen Azoulay
Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236
E-mail: friends@laniado.ca
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Due to the urgent need for expansion, the Israeli Government is providing matching funding. Supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, will achieve this goal.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
3080 Yonge St., Ste. 5024,
Toronto, Ont. M4N 3N1
Tel: 416-485-8000 Fax: 416-485-8565
Website: www.cfhu.org
Please look for our upcoming ads for exciting and interesting programs in Canada, as well as our 2002-03 missions to Israel and to the Hebrew University. Support the Hebrew University by sending greetings for the New Year and all life cycle events. Please call 1-888-HEBREWU for more information.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
218-45 Sheppard Ave. E.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5W9
National Executive Vice-President: Michael E. Meyer
Tel: 416-733-9220 Fax: 416-733-9430
Toll-free (in Canada): 1-800-387-3894
E-mail: weizmann@ca.inter.net
Website: www.weizmann.ac.il
The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together 2,500 scientists, technicians and research students devoted to adventuring into the unknown for the benefit of mankind. These few words do not describe Weizmann, but our website can — **www.weizmann.ac.il**

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
National Chairman: Hank Rosenbaum
Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536
E-mail: ydvashem@istar.ca
We are a non-profit, volunteer organization, which seeks to link all those who wish to identify with Holocaust education

Community Focus

Community Directory of Advertisers

Israel Based Organizations

and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. A Young Leadership group ages 25-45 has been formed. To place names on the Holocaust Wall in Earl Bales Park please call us at 416-785-1333.

CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas
Dir. of Development: Rosie Sosnowicz
Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255
E-mail: info@cdntech.org
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
President: Len Berk
Tel: 416-781-6089 Fax: 416-785-7687
E-mail: cvitor@idirect.com
Website: www.sereve.com/CVI/
Montreal tel: 514-735-0272
Sar-el is a voluntary, non-political organization providing Diaspora Jews with the opportunity to directly help Israel. Most volunteers are between 18 and 65. They work and live for 18 days on IDF maintenance bases. Room and board supplied.

THE CANADIAN ZIONIST CULTURAL ASSOC.
788 Marlee Ave. , Ste. 201
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association offers its facilities without charge for social and education programs for young people and new immigrants in Israel; sponsors holiday camps for widows and orphans of soldiers providing psychological and group support; grants university scholarships and sponsors refresher courses for required university entrance tests to applicants having fulfilled national service.

CANADIAN ZIONIST FEDERATION/ HEBREW CULTURE ORGANIZATION
Central Region
3995 Bathurst St., Ste. 300,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5V3
Tel: 416-633-3988 Fax: 416-633-4382
E-mail: czfcr@lefca.com
The official representative of the World Zionist Organization and the voice of Canadian Zionists, CZF is comprised of 16 constituent organizations across Canada. Its mission is to strengthen the ties between Israel and Canada by promoting Jewish culture, education and aliyah. Sponsor of the annual "Israel Day" festival.

EMUNAH WOMEN OF TORONTO
3768 Bathurst St., Ste. 308,
North York, Ont. M3H 3M7
Tel: 416-636-0036 Fax: 416-636-0039
E-mail: emunah@pssnet.com
A Torah Zionist organization, standing proud of its accomplishments. Under Emunah's auspices, over 170 educational and social facilities meet the ever-increasing physical and spiritual needs of diverse communities in Israel. Emunah offers a variety of programs and events throughout the year for the community, which both entertain and educate.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND
4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 238,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
President: Frank A. Wilson
Executive Director: Ben Prossin
Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345
E-mail: tor@jnf-canada.org
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites, and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

NA'AMAT CANADA
272 Codsell Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248
E-mail: naamatca@aol.com
web: www.naamat.com
A dynamic fighter for women's rights in Israel and Canada. Na'amat Israel, with 450,000 members, has dramatically affected the lives of women by providing child care, high schools, shelters and counselling centres for family abuse and legal advisory clinics. In Canada, Na'amat sponsors Bialik Hebrew Day School, Camp Gesher, Habonim-Dror Zionist Youth Movement, a Free Legal Aid Advisory Clinic and provides school supplies for children living in shelters.

NEW ISRAEL FUND OF CANADA
801 Eglinton Ave.W., Ste. 401.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1E3
Executive Director: Minda Davis
Tel: 416-781-4322 Fax: 416-781-7443
E-mail: info@nifcan.org
Website: http://www.newisraelfund.org
The vision of Israel's founders was of a state "based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel." Committed to helping fulfil that vision, the NIF, a philanthropic partnership of Israelis, North Americans and Europeans works for equality and social justice for all citizens of Israel.

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS CANADA
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 502,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Executive Vice-President:
Lawrence Waller
Tel: 416-789-3351 Fax: 416-789-9436
E-mail: toronto@israelbonds.net
Website: www.israelbonds.net
Israel Bonds is the only agency that exclusively markets and sells bonds and notes for the Israeli Ministry of Finance. Over $26 billion in Bonds has been sold since 1951. Annual sales now top the $1 billion mark. Canadian investors account for 10-15% of the global sales figure.

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO
638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 209,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S1
Co-ordinator: Louise Rosenbloom
President: Beverley Crackover
Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370
E-mail: hadassah@pathcom.com
Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is dedicated to enhancing lives in Israel's communities and promoting women's issues in Canada. It supports projects in Israel — healthcare services, including Hadassah Hospital; day care centres, education and career training; women's and youth clubs. Locally it helps shelters for women and children and healthcare, and promotes women's issues and education.

Monument Companies

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Michael Levitt
Tel: 416-780-0635 Fax: 416-780-0638
E-mail: monuments@benjamins.ca
Website: www.benjamins.ca
Benjamin's Landmark Monuments is Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. As the only Jewish monument dealer in Ontario authorized by Rock of Ages to distribute the "Sealmark" granite with the perpetual warranty, our monument counsellors can assist you in preparing an honoured memorial of unsurpassed quality.

IZENBERG GOLDBERG MONUMENTS
3173 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2B1
Tel: 416-789-0319 Fax: 416-787-0310
For over 80 years Izenberg Goldberg Monuments has provided the Jewish community of Toronto with excellent quality memorials at the most reasonable possible price. Our granite is carefully selected from quarries the world over, and all lettering and design work is now done in our own North York factory under our direct supervision.

STONECRAFT MONUMENTS
121 Brisbane Rd., Unit 1,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2K3
Contact: David Friedman, Shai Lobart
Tel: 416-667-1474 Fax: 416-667-1470
Serving the Jewish community for many years, Stonecraft Monuments provides factory direct prices and sensitive, considerate service to their customers. Monuments using the finest granite can be made available within one week.

YAD VASHEM AT LANDMARK
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Akiva Balter
Tel: 416-782-8995 Fax: 416-780-0638
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments personalizes memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs.

Religious Life

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION
37 Southbourne Ave.,
North York, Ont. M3H 1A4
Administrator: Sheila Starkman
Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629
A dynamic family-oriented synagogue in North York. Daily minyanim, Shabbat and festival services. Hebrew School, with Special High School Program. Religious, social and educational programs for youth, families and seniors. Active Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Beautiful social halls, COR catering by ZB Catering Ltd. New members welcome.

ADATH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
37 Southbourne Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1A4
Educational Director:
Cantor E. Kirshblum
School Administrator: Linda Schwartz
Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629
E-mail: cantor@adathisrael.com
Website: www.adathisrael.com
Congregational high school, Jewish studies program. Community Jewish teens, gr. 8-12, are invited to join the 75 students at Adath Israel Synagogue on Mondays, 5-7 p.m. Program consists of 2 study/discussion periods on exciting relevant topics taught by clergy and educators. Dinner is included. Special programs - trip to Washington D.C. (March break). Harbourfront boat cruise. "A unique social educational experience." Call 416-635-5354 (registration and information).

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND HEBREW SCHOOL
9711 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Principal: Ora Shulman
Shul Administrator: Marlene Rosen
Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635
E-mail: admin@beitrayim.org
Website: www.beitrayim.org
School: K-Gr. 7. Innovative programs for Jewish life enrichment. Curriculum includes Hebrew Language, holidays, Bible, Israel, prayers, music and history. Certified by BJE and the USCJ. Grads qualify for Bar/Bat Mitzvah in any Conservative Synagogue. (2-day program). Synagogue: Warm, friendly, family oriented Egalitarian Conservative Shul. Program for all ages. Relocating soon to Bathurst and Hwy. 407 area.

BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION
55 Yeomans Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740
E-mail: info@bethdavid.com
Website: www.bethdavid.com
Beth David is a vibrant, Conservative Synagogue where community is embraced. Join us and discover why our members keep coming back week-in and week-out. A multi-generational synagogue, we offer programming for toddlers, seniors, and every age grouping in between, including our Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Yedidim, Kadima and U.S.Y. Youth Groups and Club Chaverut (Seniors).

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE
100 Elder St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5G7
Contact: Mrs. Bernice Levine
Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue fosters a full and joyous way of intergenerational life proudly rooted in a heritage of traditional conservative Judaism. We are committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community as we build for the future on the foundations of our past.

BETH ISRAEL ANSHEI MINSK CONGREGATION
10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market),
Toronto, Ont., M5T 1K6
Contact: Rabbi Shmuel Spero
Tel: 416-595-5723
Website: www.pdora.com/~minsk
Morning and evening services daily and on Shabbat. The beautifully restored sanctuary glows with warmth and tradition. Please join our weekly Friday night dinners, Shabbat lunches, and a variety of educational and family programming. Our spirited shul community fosters a Judaism that is grounded yet spiritual, traditional and creative.

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3
Administration Director:
Lillian Cornfield x307
Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602
E-mail: lillian@bethtikvah.on.ca
Website: www.bethtikvah.on.ca
We're a vibrant, friendly Conservative synagogue in our 36th year. Centrally located near the 401 on Bayview. We offer an outstanding array of services including: award winning music programs and choirs, Social Action, Adult Education, Hebrew School, Youth programming and more. We have something for everyone. Give us a minute and you'll stay a lifetime.

BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9
Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel
Tel: 905-709-2275, ext. 226
Fax: 905-709-1895
E-mail: ccrj@idirect.com
Canadian national office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing over 850 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action.

CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH
465 Patricia Ave.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2R 2N1
Tel: 416-226-3700
Family friendly Orthodox congregation of over 300 families. We offer: Shabbat and weekday services, Shabbat and holiday babysitting, youth services for various ages, Torah study classes, library, modern social hall with kosher (COR) catering facilities and much more. We are close to many Jewish schools and kosher establishments.

CONGREGATION BINA (JEWS OF INDIA)
PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,
Scarborough, Ont. M1W 3Y8
Tel: 416-491-9109
Contact: Noel Joseph, 416-293-9700
Sabrina Kerbel, 416-783-1945
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, cultural, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held, and a quarterly news bulletin, *Contact*, is published.

CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM
15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
Offices at 20 Martin Ross Ave.
Rabbi Tina Grimberg
President: Suzanne Silk Klein
Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852
Our Reconstructionist community values a fully egalitarian, participatory religious life; mutually supportive community reflecting Jewish spiritual and ethical ideals; warm, understandable, challenging services combining traditional prayer with contemporary poetry and song, and lively discussion; respect for Jewish traditions and awareness of the unique condition of our Jewish life; Hebrew School.

FIRST NARAYEVER CONGREGATION
187 Brunswick Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 6A7
Tel: 416-927-0546
The First Narayever Congregation is downtown Toronto's vibrant, progressive and growing shul. Experience the cozy, welcoming atmosphere of our traditional Hebrew prayer services characterized by gender egalitarianism and community participation. Join us at our unaffiliated, historic Brunswick Avenue shul for inspiring weekly Shabbat and Jewish Holiday services.

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Member Services Director:
Deborah Tameanko
Tel: 416-789-3291, ext. 265
Fax: 416-789-9697
Conveniently located at Bathurst St. and Eglinton Ave. W., Holy Blossom Temple is Canada's oldest and largest Reform synagogue, offering diverse opportunities for worship, study, religious education, social action, and life cycle events. Our congregational family welcomes new members throughout the year. For further information please call Deborah Tameanko, 416-789-3291, ext. 265.

LODZER CENTRE CONGREGATION
12 Heaton St.,
North York, Ont. M3H 4Y6
Administrator: Dina Wolfe
Tel: 416-636-6665 Fax 416-636-8861
Join our warm congregation in our beautiful sanctuary. Daily 9 a.m. minyan breakfast following with our new rabbi, Rabbi Matthew Kaufman and Cantor David Edwards. Kosher caterer on premises. Social hall seats up to 300. Tickets available for High Holiday Services with free babysitting. For information call 416-636-6665.

ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM
Contact: Roby Sadler
Tel: 416-385-3910
Oraynu celebrates Jewish history, holidays and culture from a secular, humanistic perspective. Children's School focuses on values, history, and traditions. Join us for the High Holidays, Oneg Shabbats, family events, adult education, etc. Oraynu: a welcoming congregation where members express their

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS-cont'd

RELIGIOUS LIFE-cont'd

Judaism in a manner consistent with their humanistic Jewish beliefs.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Administrator: Erma Bader
Tel: 905-889-4975 Fax: 905-889-1575
Shaar Shalom Synagogue, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Martin Berman and Cantor Ben Silverberg, is a Conservative congregation in Thornhill. We offer full services on Shabbat and holidays, daily minyanim, catering services, active sisterhood, brotherhood, singles, seniors' group, youth groups and an afternoon Hebrew School (SK-Gr. 8).

SHAAREI BETH-EL CONGREGATION OF HALTON
186 Morrison Rd.,
Oakville, Ont. L6J 4J4
Contact: Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky
Tel: 905-849-6000 Fax: 905-849-1134
E-mail: sbe@idirect.com
A Reform congregation with a traditional orientation. The synagogue offers Hebrew and religious classes under the direction of Michal Cracower, bar/bat mitzvah instruction, youth activities and adult educational programs. The shul has experienced substantial recent growth from Burlington and Oakville. Other members come from Milton, Mississauga, Hamilton and Toronto.

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION
470 Glencairn Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1V8
Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
Tel: 416-780-3213 Fax: 416-789-1728
E-mail: info@shomayim.org
Website: www.shomayim.org
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is a modern orthodox centre of Jewish life with approximately 1,100 member-families providing the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs. This year, there is a special rate for new members. Pleae phone 416-789-3213, ext. 209 or e-mail: info@shomayim.org

SHAAREI TEFILLAH CONGREGATION
3600 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C9
Contact: Rabbi Moshe Stern
Tel: 416-787-1631
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation offers something for everyone. We are centrally located, handicap-accessible, provide Shabbat and daily minyanim, an array of cultural, social, educational and religious activities for ages 2-102. Your simcha is enhanced at Shaarei Tefillah with catering by Menchens Glatt Kosher Catering.

SHIR LIBEYNU CONGREGATION
c/o 1562 Danforth Ave., P.O. 72089
Toronto, Ont. M4J 5C1
Co-ordinator: Aviva Goldberg
Tel: 416-465-5488
Shir Libeynu High Holy Day Services at 58 Cecil St. (south of College, east of Spadina). Please join us for a liberal, egalitarian, participatory service. All are welcome. Tickets $80, child-care free. Sign language interpreted, wheelchair accessible. To reserve call: 416-465-5488 or purchase at Bloor J.C.C.

SOLEL CONGREGATION
2399 Folkway Dr.,
Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2M6
Tel: 905-820-5915 Fax: 905-820-1956
A Liberal Congregation affiliated with the Reform movement and with traditional leanings in services and religious practice committed to providing opportunities to worship, study, and celebrate Judaism in a vibrant, egalitarian, nurturing environment. Services Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, all Jewish holidays, weekly minyanim Tuesday 7 a.m. Children and family participation encouraged. School - Preschool through Confirmation, adult and family education classes throughout the year.

TEMMY LATNER FOREST HILL JEWISH CENTRE
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Contact: Rabbi Elie Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
E-mail: thecentre@on.aibn.com
Located in the heart of the Forest Hill Village (just up the stairs next to Starbucks), the Temmy Latner Forest Hill Jewish Centre provides an escape from hectic Toronto life. Come enjoy our Shabbat services (7 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday) and our other dynamic programming. We're right at your doorstep!

TEMPLE EMANU-EL
120 Old Colony Rd.,
North York, Ont. M2L 2K2
Membership Chair: Phil Rudolph
Tel: 416-449-3880 Fax: 416-449-9831
E-mail: temanuel@pathcom.com
A vibrant congregation on an exquisite site, emphasizing spirituality, education for children and adults, social action. 1-day mid-week Hebrew School & Sun. Hebrew & Rel. School. Primary Learning Centre (Pre-school & JK for ages 2 ½-5) and Parent & Tot. 1st year's membership dues free (administration fee) for unaffiliated families. Rabbi Debra Landsberg.

TEMPLE HAR ZION
7360 Bayview Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2R7
Executive Director: Karen Grimm, ext. #4
Tel: 905-889-2252 Fax: 905-889-2258
E-mail: information@templeharzion.com
Website: www.templeharzion.com
A vibrant Reform congregation that attracts members from downtown Toronto north to Newmarket. Temple Har Zion offers preschool for 3-5 yr. olds; Hebrew and Religious School through to Confirmation (gr. 10); Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups; diverse Adult Education Programs; life cycle events. New members are welcome throughout the year.

TEMPLE KOL AMI
8777 Dufferin St.,
Vaughan, Ont. L6A 1S2
Tel: 905-709-2620
E-mail: info@templekolami.ca
Temple Kol Ami; 250-family Reform congregation. Rabbi Daniel Komito-Gottlieb and Cantorial Soloist Dawn Bernstein. Offering a wide range of religious and social programs. Innovative formal/informal education, Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Educational Director Chari Schwartz. Inclusive congregation welcoming Interfaith Families, Jews By Choice and Special needs. Building on new 5-acre site.

YACHDAV
41 Avenal Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 1V3
Contact: Marty Kaplan
Tel: 416-785-3363
E-mail: yachdav_toronto@hotmail.com
Yachdav is a small, participatory minyan. We meet regularly in the Downtown JCC for Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. We follow traditional liturgy, but are egalitarian in men's and women's involvement in all aspects of the services. Also see our High Holyday ad.

SENIORS

BAYCREST HOME CARE SERVICES
3560 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
Tel: 416-964-6402
Whether just home from hospital, living on your own and need a little help, presently in hospital, waiting for placement in or residing in any long term care facilities. We provide assistance with nursing, homemaking/house cleaning, personal care/caregiver relief, short term respite care, escorts to medical, social and religious events. Call for information and rates 416-964-6402 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Revenue from Baycrest Home Care Services assists in maintaining services at Baycrest Centre.

BAYCREST LIFELINE
3560 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
Tel: 416-442-5547
The service is designed to give clients the confidence to live independently with the knowledge that whenever help is needed, it's just a push-button away. Call for information and rates 416-442-5547, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Service is available in over 130 languages. Revenue from Baycrest Lifeline assists in maintaining services at Baycrest Centre.

CIRCLE OF CARE
530 Wilson Ave., 4th Floor,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1T6
Tel: 416-635-2860 Fax: 416-635-1692
E-mail: info@circleofcare.com
Website: circleofcare.com
For those seeking support in their lives or help with their daily routines as they adjust to lifecycle changes, illness or accidents. Our qualified staff provide information, referrals, homemaking, personal care, supportive counselling, Meals on Wheels (COR), respite care, specialized volunteer visiting, and more.

SERVICES

JEWISH CAMP COUNCIL OF TORONTO
1118 Centre St., Ste. 202,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7R9
Registrar: Denise Harris
Tel: 905-881-0018 Fax: 905-881-9019
Provides a variety of camping services to the Jewish community. Camp Northland-B'nai Brith provides a residential camping experience for boys and girls 8-16 in the Haliburton Highlands. Providing many interesting and rewarding staff positions. "Friends of NBB" holds a mini-camp weekend for families with young children in August.

JEWISH IMMIGRANT AID SERVICES OF CANADA
National & Toronto offices:
4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 325,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
Fax: 416-630-1376
National Office, Tel: 416-630-9051
E-mail: national@jias.org
Toronto office, Tel: 416-630-6481
E-mail: mailbox@jias.org
Acting Executive Director, Toronto office: Mila Volhanski
Since 1922 JIAS has helped Jewish refugees and immigrants find a new home in Canada. JIAS provides resettlement counselling, integration programming, language training, immigration and family reunifications consultation, financial assistance and social services to those newcomers who travel the difficult journey "from immigrant to citizen." Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, 80 years of proud commitment to settling and integrating newcomers into our community.

JVS OF GREATER TORONTO
74 Tycos Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 1V9,
Tel: 416-787-1151, Ext. 258
Fax: 416-785-7529
JVS is a long-standing community agency that helps thousands of individuals each year to identify educational and vocational goals, overcome barriers, and find work. JVS offers a wide range of education, career and employment services, our goal being to help our clients realize their potential in the job market.

O.R.D.A.
Ontario Ritual Directors Association
61 Invermay Ave., Suite 100,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1Z6,
President: Asher Tannenbaum
Tel: 416-636-0013
O.R.D.A. is the umbrella organization for Ontario Synagogues Ritual Directors. It provides Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons by professional teachers at reasonable rates. We also offer the recitation of Kaddish and Yahrzeit observances for those unable to do so. O.R.D.A. has established a tradition of tzedaka for community organizations in Toronto and in Israel.

TORONTO JEWISH FREE LOAN CASSA
4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 340,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
Office Manager: Helen Futerman
Tel: 416-635-1217 Fax: 416-635-8926
E-mail: hfuterman@ujafed.org
For over 78 years, Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa has assisted thousands of families by providing interest-free loans for personal, educational and business purposes. By providing help, quietly and efficiently, to those in our midst suffering from financial distress, we give our clients the prospect of a better tomorrow.

Zuchter Berk Catering & Event Design
1895 Leslie St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3B 2M3
Owner: David Berk
Tel: 416-386-1086 Fax: 416-386-1297
Website: www.zuchterberk.com
A fresh approach to Kosher Catering; watch for our New seasonal menus at Beth Emeth, Adath Israel, Pride of Israel and Adath Sholom synagogues. The Capital and York Event Theatres, Casa Loma, Sutton Place, Sheraton Centre, Hilton Suites Markham and more, round out our off-site venues.

UNIVERSITIES

CANADIAN ASSOCIATES OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
1000 Finch Ave. W., Suite 506,
North York, Ont. M3J 2V5
Executive Director, Ontario Region: Janice Freedman
Tel: 416-665-8054 Fax: 416-665-8055
E-mail: cdnbgu@on.cubn.com
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's mission is to develop the Negev, its land, its people. BGU is of international stature, known for excellence, innovation. Creative programs, initiatives produce adademic breakthroughs, encourage advanced scholarships, influence national policies. Breakthrough solutions of improving lives of Israelis, fighting hunger, disease, poverty around the world. Over 16,000 students attend. Supporting the university is supporting the future of the Negev and Israel.

CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY
241 Vanier College, 4700 Keele St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3
Director: Prof. Martin Lockshin
Tel: 416-736-5823 Fax: 416-736-5344
E-mail: lockshin@yorku.ca
Website: www.yorku.ca/cjs
York U. offers Jewish Studies courses ranging from ancient Israel and Hebrew language to Holocaust, contemporary Canadian Jewry and Jewish Teacher Education. Programs include BA, BEd, graduate degrees and the Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. York's Centre for Jewish Studies co-ordinates academic programs, research projects and community outreach.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
15 King's College Circle, #314
Toronto, Ont. M5S 3H7
Administrator: Eva Hollander
Tel: 416-978-8118 Fax: 416-971-2027
E-mail: jewishstudies@utoronto.ca
Website:
www.chass.utoronto.ca/JewishStudies
For over 30 years, the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Toronto has been engaged in teaching, research and scholarship. This multidisciplinary program, which encompasses the Arts and Science departments of English, German, History, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Philosophy, Sociology and the Study of Religion, is unique in Canada for the breadth and depth of its curriculum.

WALK WITH ISRAEL: Youngsters take part in Walk With Israel.

EMERGENCY FLY-IN: Prayers of solidarity in Washington.
[Photos courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]

Life after 9/11

Continued from page B1

An Israeli tour guide travelling through Canada recently warned of a long-term effect – that when things do turn around, the damage to the tourist infrastructure will be nearly irreparable, since many hotels and tourist attractions will have closed and experienced tour guides will have found other work.

Yet, we Jews are, in the words of the Torah "a stiff-necked people." That is not entirely a bad thing.

As we always have when trouble strikes, first we mourn and pray. Then we pick ourselves up, reclaim our sense of unity that in good times seems to elude us, and we take positive action. This supplement reflects that sense of purpose.

Missions of solidarity are increasing both in number and size. People are making a conscious effort to buy Israeli products, to fight back against anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda, and to attend rallies that not only give encouragement to those who participate, but send a message to those who don't.

And just last week, thousands descended on a nondescript plaza in North York to shop at the "Israel Mall," a showcase of Israeli art, music, fashion, food and religious objects.

A group of women is also establishing an organization to encourage unity in the community through prayer, economic projects and social gatherings. This organization will cross religious, geographical and political boundaries.

Young people who planned to study at universities, yeshivot or seminaries in Israel have stifled their very natural concern, packed their duffle bags and defiantly refused to change their plans. Their courage has been acknowledged with tears and applause by Israeli staff at Ben Gurion airport.

A year later, there is still violence, hate and fear. But there are also genuine signs that Jews are coping with the trauma of Sept. 11 and reaching out to each other both here and in Israel.

That has always been the strength and glory of the Jewish people. It is our hope that this supplement will reinforce our appreciation of it.

-LS

YOM HA'ATZMAUT 2002

[Photo courtesy of UJA Federation Greater Toronto]

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION

Join us and share in our

75th Anniversary Year

New Members - Special Rate

Pray & Learn - Rabbi Elliott Diamond

Downstairs Minyan - Rabbi Chaim Sacknovitz

Sanctuary - Rabbi Moshe Shulman,
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Uniworld Travel and Tours vice-president David Freudman on one of his many trips abroad. *(See story on page B8)*

A child mirrors the solemnity of the Walk with Israel.

[Photo courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]

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Community Focus

Rejigged routes help to fill El Al planes out of Toronto

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Tourism to Israel has been severely affected by terrorism, says David Freudman, the vice-president of sales at UniWorld Travel and Tours Inc.

But he said despite the ongoing intifadah, changes in the last year to El Al flight routes have meant that many people are still making the trip to, from and through Toronto on Israel's national airline.

Although travel figures are down overall, the new pattern of flights assures that planes flying out of Toronto are mostly filled.

El Al now operates four times a week out of Toronto. Its flights to Tel Aviv originate in Los Angeles, which helps fill up the planes, he explains. Likewise, flights from Tel Aviv to Toronto continue on to Los Angeles.

El Al is also permitted to carry local passengers between Toronto and Los Angeles and from Los Angeles to Toronto.

Due to the extension of El Al flights to Los Angeles and Air Canada's use of Toronto's Pearson International Airport as a hub, most El Al flights through Toronto are heavily booked well in advance, so Freudman suggests making reservations early to get seats at the best fares.

"Throughout the summer, there are more students and families travelling to Israel," says Freudman. "And there are a lot of missions."

He notes that B'nai Brith had a joint Christian and Jewish mission in June. "And now they are planning to do 18 more trips in the next 24 months as joint missions combining B'nai Brith and the Christians for Israel."

The theme of the missions is "Standing with victims of violence." Freudman says organizers are aiming for between 40 and 50 participants on each tour.

Despite the summer increase in travel, Freudman says the people who are going to Israel are primarily business people, those going to visit family, those travelling to a simchah or a sad occasion in their family, and some students going to yeshivot.

"There has been a reduction of Canadian students going to the special one-year programs at Israeli universities."

Many travellers, he say, are "holding back" and looking for other places to visit.

Because of the situation in Israel, Freudman says clients are turning to hotels in Europe – Italy, Switzerland, Scotland and others – that offer strictly kosher facilities.

"Some people are temporarily substituting these destinations for trips to Israel."

He emphasizes "temporarily" with the hope that individuals and families will take advantage of the exceptional travel values in Israel.

"Air fares to Israel are very competitive and hotel rates have never been as low as at present."

Quoting some of the prices of trips, he says "They are unbelievable. The tour in June with everything included cost $1,699 for a week all inclusive – the total price of air fare and hotels are in many cases lower than a seven or 14 day Caribbean vacation."

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NA'AMAT CANADA

Learning a lesson about community

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

When I meet someone for the first time, I always ask them the same question. Maybe it's because I'm nosy, or perhaps it comes from my obsession with geography or my quest to learn about life in every corner of the world.

Regardless, I always ask people where they're from.

Interestingly enough, people are always proud to answer and often speak passionately about their "home towns" and smile at the chance to tell stories about their communities.

I love where I come from, too.

Like Kevin Arnold from the once-popular television show *The Wonder Years*, I have always been, and continue to be, proud of having grown up in the suburbs.

Big-block stores, houses a few feet apart, tons of kids, large parks, and friendly neighbours are some of the things that filled my suburban experience with warmth and community feeling.

Richmond Hill, and more recently Thornhill, have definitely shaped the person I have become. In the suburbs, I learned how important a strong community is.

Yet, my summer experience at *The CJN* has added a new dimension to that lesson.

It has reinforced something I have taken for granted for 22 years – a belief in strong ***Jewish*** communities.

From the people I have interviewed and the many great staffers at *The CJN*, I have gained a new appreciation for the importance of Jewish communal life and the role we all must play in it.

Adam Grachnik

Joe Burke, whom I met in Belleville while doing a story on that town's Jewish community, knows all about a strong community. He has lived in the same town for 74 years often as part of an extreme minority. He understands the importance of being Jewish and how it has affected his life, since he chose to build a Jewish identity within his community – not always an easy task.

I met Marshall Green in Barrie. He moved there from Toronto in 1973 and said he didn't understand the importance of a Jewish community until he moved away from his secure Jewish milieu. Seeing the need for a Jewish community in Barrie, he devoted money and time to build one. He succeeded and is a proud man.

I talked to Elisheva Gould who spent 10 days with Jews living in Cuba. She spoke beautifully of how proud these people are to be from Cuba. It's their home, their community – it's where they're from. While there may be very few Jews in Cuba, these people are still trying to strengthen their community.

For me, being Jewish is what I am and how I was raised.

My parents worked hard to link my brother and me to the Jewish community – while ensuring that we were also involved in the non-Jewish community. They also showed courage in moving our young family to Richmond Hill in 1984, where they became involved in starting a new Jewish community.

As my generation leaves our parents' nests and enters the scary world of adulthood, it is important not to take the Jewish community for granted.

Young people must continue to build the Jewish community we have been given. It isn't enough to just say we are Jewish because we're surrounded by Jews. We need to step outside our bubble and be proud of our community and who we are.

So, when annoying people, like me, ask where you're from, do you pipe up with pride? You should.

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Diaspora Jews refuse traditional support for Jewish state

The current conflict in Israel has given rise to the articulation of some extreme anti-Israel voices in the Diaspora. CJN writers Anna Morgan and Rachael Turkienicz discuss this trend.

By ANNA MORGAN and RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Over the summer, while many members of the Jewish community here have tried to find meaningful ways to support Israel in its current crisis, there have been a handful of Jews who have chosen to disengage from the debate completely.

Some have even added their names to boycotts and petitions against the Jewish state. For example, professors Steven Rose of The Open University, the United Kingdom's largest university, and his wife, Hillary Rose of London's City University, initiated a petition in the *Guardian* and in the *Libération* of Paris, calling for a "moratorium on European research and academic collaboration with Israeli institutions until the Israeli government opens serious peace negotiations."

In Toronto, ad-hoc Jewish groups have circulated statements on the Internet condemning Israel's occupation. But Rose, along with 45 other British Jews, has gone so far as to renounce his right of return to Israel to protest its current policies in the West Bank.

Some academics want moratorium on collaboration with Israeli institutions

Many scholars have since argued that this kind of action is counter-productive. In his article titled *The Wall*, which appeared in *The New Republic*, Yossi Klein Halevi suggests that subjecting "the Jewish state to a level of moral judgment not applied to any other nation" increases feelings of isolationism and pushes Israelis towards "the very hard-line policies" the detractors are opposing.

Growing up with stories of the Inquisition, pogroms, the Holocaust and Muslim anti-Semitism has traditionally left older Israelis convinced that every battle is about Jewish survival. The current wave of suicide bombings has rekindled this feeling among the younger generation.

The sense of despair felt in Israel as a result of the condemnation of the international community is made even worse by the rejection of the Jewish state by fellow Jews.

The connection between Israel and the Diaspora has generally been based on a partnership of need. Diaspora Jews have often found themselves actively fund-raising for the security and development of the State of Israel. On the other hand, Israel has been expected to respond to Jews facing persecution in their home countries.

In addition, during the pre-intifadah years, Israel found itself playing a more central role in educating Jewish youth about their history. As recently as two years ago, Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin wrote in his book *His Brother's Keeper* that institutional changes need to be made to unite the Jewish people into one world and thereby strengthen the bonds of continuity.

The first Israel-Diaspora relationship began, we are told, when Jewish leaders from the tribes of Reuben and Gad asked Moses for permission to settle across the Jordan in order to pursue their livelihoods. Moses granted the request on condition that Jews living outside the borders of Israel must always be prepared to safeguard the community living within the state.

Torah calls for Diaspora support

Later, in the Book of Joshua, the Diaspora Jews built a forbidden altar, in order to preserve a link between themselves and their Israeli siblings, sparking a conflict that almost resulted in civil war. The issue was resolved when the Israeli leaders discovered that the altar was constructed as a symbol of unity based on a desire to maintain a connection for their children with Israel.

Then, as now, issues of security and continuity were central to the relationship between Israel and Jews outside of Israel, and discussion was key to resolving disputes. In ancient times, dialogue led to resolution, averting the initial armed response to what was merely a perceived dilemma.

It has always been an admirable part of the Jewish historical experience for members of the community to engage in discussion. However, it has also been important to engage in educated debate guided by objectivity and open minds.

Today, Rose and those who share his views are opting to respond to the messages they are receiving from one perspective, instead of participating in an investigation that would lead to a solution.

While the relationship between the Jews of Israel and the Diaspora has always been complex, the association has focused on ongoing dialogue – sometimes strained but always present.

Today, Jews are bombarded with troublesome images and propaganda. A few have chosen to withhold their usual financial contributions to Israel because they are disturbed by what they see in the media. They have disengaged from the debate.

These voices have chosen unilateral action over dialogue. They have also elected to criticize Israeli government policies and express their sympathy for the Palestinians in a way that rejects any internal Jewish discussion.

How many of these Jewish extremists have actually visited Israel in the past few months to dialogue with its citizens, or listened openly to alternative points of view on every side of the issue?

Anyone who has been to Israel recently will have experienced the appreciation that Israelis show to those who come to simply listen to what they have to say.

Those Jews who are inclined to disengage themselves from Israel act as if this is the only way to express their political dissent or to respond to the suffering of the Palestinian people in the current dispute. But in so doing, they are abandoning the bargain that has anchored Israel-Diaspora relations ever since Moses struck the deal with Reuben and Gad.

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In a struggle to live the life that was given back to him, Omer was determined not to allow his disabilities to stop him. He studied law, opened a practice; and joined Beit Halochem's dance troupe "Hora Galgalim". It was at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv where he met his wife, Sima, who was volunteering at the Centre.

Today, Omer visits Beit Halochem regularly where he receives treatment and participates in many sport activities. Beit Halochem still assists Omer on his difficult road to recovery and rehabilitation — it serves as a second home, a place where he feels comfortable and can be himself.

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Community Focus

Enhanced security now part of life at Jewish institutions

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to CJN

The international climate since the start of the current intifadah and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has forced Jewish institutions across the city to review their security procedures.

Community centres, schools, and synagogues of all kinds have increased security over the past year to protect property and the lives of their many visitors.

Conditions in Israel and attacks against Jewish institutions in Europe have left them with no choice.

"We have to acknowledge that the world is a smaller place than ever before and that events in parts of the world that are very far away could have resonance here," said Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

"We are very attentive to what's going on in Israel and Europe and we feel a necessity to properly protect our communal institutions."

Rudner, who advises synagogues, schools and community centres on security issues, has advised the leaders of these institutions to be vigilant, though he adds that there is not an environment of worry or fright in the Jewish community.

> ***There is not an environment of worry or fright in the Jewish community***

"Community leaders are dealing with security issues very responsibly," he said. "They are dealing with lives, which are very precious, and with ways to augment security all the time."

The Aish HaTorah Learning Centre in Thornhill is among the many local institutions that have increased security in recent months, according to Alan Kleiman, its director of operations, finance and marketing. Since Sept. 11, the centre's staff has made sure the building is locked at all times and has added a video surveillance system to monitor each visitor.

"Our increased security is something we have to deal with, but we don't allow these concerns to impact any of our educational programming or our events," Kleiman said. "We have a big event planned with singer Amy Sky and we plan to continue to hold these events."

Miriam Telem, executive director of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am synagogue, echoed Kleiman's sentiments.

"Our main concern is to protect our people, not property," she said. "In the last two months, we've added security for the Saturday morning Shabbat service and it's clearly a result of international events. We want to provide comfort to all our members while they are here for whatever reason."

She added that having extra security has had its benefits, since many security guards have CPR training for medical emergencies.

Holy Blossom Temple has also been forced to re-evaluate its security procedures since Sept. 11.

"We've accepted the principle that if the door's open, there's got to be security there," said executive director Gary Posen. "This means that whenever we are open for business, there is a security presence in the building, at the door."

Since Holy Blossom houses a day school, a nursery school and night classes, the measures are essential, Posen said.

The synagogue also received a powder letter during the anthrax mail scare last October, he added.

"Things are very different than a few years ago, that's for sure. Our goal is to provide reassurance and a safe protective environment for everyone that visits the building. People are concerned, there's no doubt about it. They never complain that the security is there, they'll sometimes note that it's not tough enough."

Posen said the current mood is very difficult to measure. "Internationally, things can change in minutes or hours and can lead to things becoming quite uneasy locally. So we're taking things one day at a time, and for the time being, we can't go back to the status quo of a few years ago."

Meanwhile, the community is preparing for the High Holy Days, which come almost exactly one year after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Rudner's advice is to keep living life normally, but be aware of what can happen. "As the holidays approach, security preparations have become a part of normalcy," he said.

"Toronto is a well policed city and remains a safe place for Jews to live and work. Being cautious is part of being Jewish, but don't let that caution turn to fear and continue to live your life."

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ISRAEL MALL: Eager shoppers line up to support Israel's economy. [Adam Irving photo]

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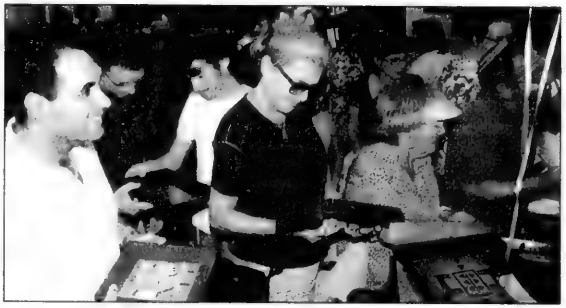

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[Adam Irving photos]

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Looking in our spiritual mirror: have we changed since 9/11?

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

For Chashi Skobac, who teaches Jewish meditation in Toronto, last year's High Holy Day services resonated in a profound way in light of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

"The davening seemed to come alive. The words of the prayers seemed to be very relevant," she said recently, referring to portions about God's judgments regarding life and death.

"Here we were seeing it happening right before our very eyes, so they weren't words any more. They were very real."

Skobac, who began doing Jewish meditation in 1980 and who is married to Rabbi Michael Skobac, education director of Jews for Judaism, has a finely honed sense of her own spirituality within a Jewish context.

But for the wider community, it's only been in the last few years that the idea of Jewish meditation has gained even a modest foothold in some local mainstream congregations, reflecting a recent trend, particularly in the United States, to find new ways to infuse synagogue services with spirituality.

At Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation – the largest Conservative congregation in North America with approximately 3,000 families – Senior Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl convened a meeting last year to explore ways of encouraging the use of meditation in services.

Although Leah Gitterman, 24, finds running spiritual, she says she also needs a Jewish outlet for her spirituality.

Although meditation and guided imagery have played a role in some Toronto healing services (which themselves reflect an increased yearning for spirituality) and in some learning services at Beth Tzedec, they have not been used in the formal sanctuary services, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said.

A Saturday afternoon pre-service meditation program is in the works for this fall, to be run by Rabbi Aubrey Glazer, who was recently hired as Beth Tzedec's third rabbi.

"I think there is an interest in meditation in the community and how it can be done in a Jewish framework," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, although he doesn't attribute that sentiment to the events of Sept. 11 specifically.

"I think that the Sept. 11 crisis has generally made people more aware of their vulnerability. At the time, for a month following, we had included some special prayers and psalms in our daily liturgy, but we didn't continue that after the first month. Relative to some of the people in the New York and Washington areas, I didn't see the same significant upsurge of spiritual questing in the period after the September incidents. People were deeply and genuinely concerned... but I don't think it had the same kind of deep impact here."

Nonetheless he feels, as does virtually everyone who was interviewed for this article, that Sept. 11, combined with the violence and uncertainty of the situation in Israel, along with a fear of terrorism and anti-Semitism, have all had an effect on spiritual seekers.

"I think there's a continuing interest in growing as a Jew," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl.

Mark Gilbert, 53, a psychiatrist who runs a mind-body medicine clinic, took part in the meeting with Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. Both personally and among his friends and patients, he noted a reawakening to the importance of spirituality after Sept. 11 – and a waning of that sentiment about five to six months later.

For Gilbert, Sept. 11 has prompted a stronger connection with his Jewishness through prayer and study, and in particular with Jewish moral principles, he said. He had already begun to strengthen his connection by attending synagogue regularly following his father's death three months earlier.

Continued on page B15

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Jewish spirituality: People want to 'make sense of life'

Continued from page B14

"Spirituality is an attitude which gives meaning to one's life," Gilbert said. From a spiritual standpoint, "it's very important to come to the understanding that tragedy happens and yet we choose life and hope. Since Sept. 11, things have been put back in context."

Rabbi Mitch Mandel, director of outreach at Aish Thornhill, has seen concrete manifestations of a change in priorities among some of his congregants and the participants in Aish Hatorah's outreach program.

Five families among the 160 in his congregation were scheduled to make aliyah this summer, he noted as an example. Within the past two years, another 10 families have made the same move. "It's quite a chunk."

Also, before Sept. 11, Aish Hatorah's outreach programs commonly dealt with issues like Jewish holidays, parenting, marriage and balancing career and family. Those topics didn't fall by the wayside, he said, but after the attacks, people were more interested in "making sense of life."

What to tell their children about the attacks was a major concern, he said. Another was "what the Jewish people are all about.

"We had a lot of dialogue and certainly people struggling," often because their belief in Israel was at odds with their reluctance to go there, leading them to question the strength of their beliefs and wrestling with their own Jewish identity, Rabbi Mandel said.

Clearly there has been an increased interest in classes relating to spirituality, said Rabbi Jordan Cohen, associate director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. "This year we've been doing all kinds of them and they've all been well attended. We find there's a real hunger."

Rabbi Glazer, who explored different approaches to spiritual practice in a course he taught at Beth Tzedec called the Tao of Judaism, said he thinks a lot of people are turning to spirituality and spiritual practice as a coping mechanism to find meaning in the wake of catastrophe.

An increased interest in Kabbalah in recent years is particularly timely now, according to Rabbi Glazer.

He disagrees with the historic injunction against studying the mystical texts before the age of 40. "It would be a real mistake to shut off the taps of this wellspring.

"Kabbalah and specifically the Zohar [the central work in the literature of the Kabbalah] have a lot to teach us," said Rabbi Glazer. People from all kinds of backgrounds are asking questions about how to create meaning out of suffering and order out of chaos, he added. "There's so much more evil that we're aware of."

Leah Gitterman, 24, had less dramatic motivation last summer when she signed up for a course called Judaism and the Quest for Spirituality at Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. In retrospect, she said, the course, which began in the fall, probably filled a need for a lot of people because of Sept. 11, but there wasn't much talk of the attacks during class time.

Gitterman, a clinical research assistant at Princess Margaret Hospital, had recently graduated from Dalhousie University, where she felt somewhat disconnected Jewishly because her experience there was so different from the family-oriented, large-community Judaism she was used to.

When she returned to Toronto and heard about the course, she thought, "Wow, that would be such an interesting way to look at Judaism."

Although the course focused on finding spirituality in Judaism and incorporating it into one's own life (rather than focusing on any terrorist attacks), Gitterman said that, "in times of uncertainty and change, I think it's even more important to be able to find those things in your life and incorporate them in a way that is comfortable to you. It's very consoling. As a result of the course, I'm taking a new look at Judaism and trying to make it more meaningful for me."

The course led her to become involved in the formation of Reviving Eden, a new Kolel-affiliated group for people in their 20s, which she chairs and which sponsored a spiritual retreat earlier this month.

Although Gitterman has become involved with like-minded young adults through Kolel, she also knows "tons of" her Jewish counterparts who have no interest in spirituality. Some of them have told her it's enough for them that they have lots of Jewish friends and that their family has Friday night dinner, she reports.

For Gitterman, her experiences over the past year have translated into an enthusiastic anticipation of Friday night dinner at her father's and taking time for herself over Shabbat.

In a secular context, she also finds running very spiritual, but, she said, "I do need something Jewish as well. It's part of who I am. I wouldn't feel as complete if I didn't incorporate Judaism into my life."

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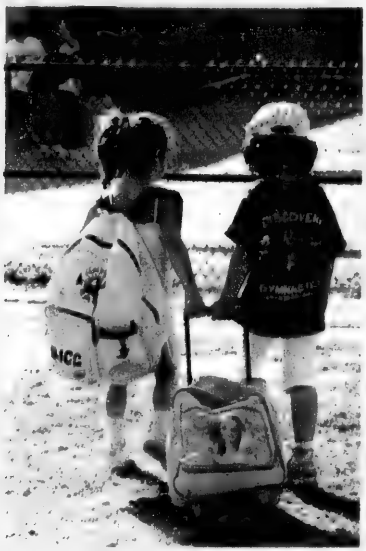


Left and right agree to disagree on Mideast situation

The debate among Israelis about their conflict with the Palestinians is mirrored by groups in our own community.. The CJN asked two organizations at opposite ends of the political spectrum for their views on the situation.

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

When it comes to making peace with the Palestinians, there isn't much doves and hawks can agree upon from their perches in Canadian-based organizations.

On the left, Canadian Friends of Peace Now advocates that Israel take an active role and make the first move to reach peace with the Palestinians. Since the intifadah began in September 2000, the group has been doggedly promoting a two-state solution to the present conflict.

"We think the way to make this happen is for Israel to take the initiative and withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza and dismantle the isolated settlements," says Sheldon Gordon, policy director for the Canadian branch of Peace Now, based in Toronto.

"This would show the Palestinians that Israel is committed to withdrawing and hopefully it would lead to the resumption of serious talks with the Palestinians," continues Gordon.

"It would also enable Israel to commit its military forces to self defence against terrorist incursions."

Though Larry Zeifman opposes being called a hawk, the co-chair of One Israel, the Canadian representatives of the YESHA Council, takes an opposing view to that espoused by Peace Now.

"We believe in the right of Jews to settle anywhere in Israel and we believe in their right to have the support of the Jewish community," he says, explaining that the YESHA Council is an elected body representing the Jewish communities of Judea and Samaria [West Bank] and Gaza.

He says the intifadah hasn't changed the organization's right-wing views. Rather, the bloody violence in the region has only reinforced them.

"We continue to hold the same views now as we did before the intifadah, but at the same time, the predicament of Jews has changed drastically," Zeifman says.

"The Jews in the West Bank in particular are on the front lines of the intifadah. They're subject to ongoing terrorist attacks and they're facing these threats on roads and in their communities. They're the most susceptible. These events have reinforced the need of Jews to provide them with protection and support."

Zeifman says the kind of support these West Bank communities require varies according to their specific needs.

"Some may need bullet-proof vests while other communities may require armoured vehicles, armoured ambulances and armoured buses to transport children to school," he says.

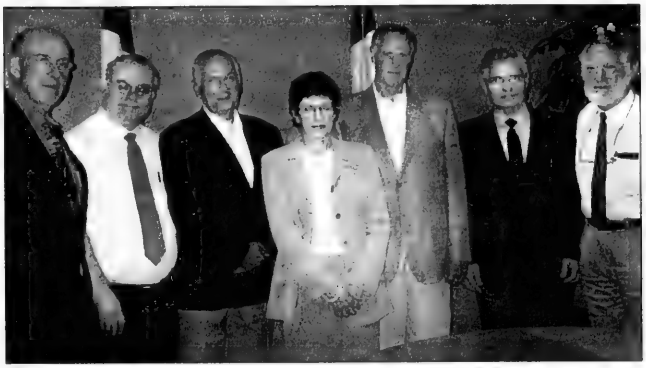
In short, the settlements shouldn't be disbanded.

"We're opposed to the dismantling of Jewish communities anywhere, including those in the West Bank," states Zeifman.

"Our focus in on their security needs."

Though One Israel doesn't take a stance on the peace process or on Israeli relations with the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab states, Peace Now certainly does.

For one, Peace Now doesn't support what it calls "political assassinations," referring to the targeted killing by Israel of suspected organizers of Palestinian terror attacks, nor does the group believe Israel has the right to determine the Palestinian leadership.



Peace Now delegation meets with Canada's foreign minister Bill Graham (third from right).

"We feel it's for the Palestinian people to decide through democratic elections who they'll be represented by," says Gordon.

"It's clear the Palestinians have different ideas as to who should represent them, but Israel has to make its decisions and policies based on who their leader is, not on who they'd like it to be."

In the mean time, the group is focusing its attention elsewhere – on what it calls the occupation.

"We're concerned that the [recent] re-occupation [by Israel of Palestinian-controlled areas] isn't going to accomplish what the Israeli government hoped it would," says Gordon.

"Suicide bombings are still continuing. We're of the view that a military solution isn't possible," he continues.

"We think a significant part of terrorism will subside if Israel left the occupied areas. The Palestinian people are behind the bombings because they feel it's the only way to drive Israel out of the territories. If Israel allowed the Palestinians to regain the West Bank and Gaza, they'd see it in their interest not to support terrorism."

But this doesn't mean Peace Now only advocates a land-for-peace solution.

"If there is going to be peace in the future, minds also have to change," says Gordon.

"We have to change what is taught to Palestinian students and what is broadcast to the people. We need peace at the elite level and acceptance and understanding of what peace implies in the Israeli and Palestinian populations."

Despite their obvious political differences, both groups do agree on one thing: peace isn't going to happen any time soon.

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Violence in Israel causes emotional upheaval for Canadian parents, kids

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Many parents are having difficulty dealing with the fact that their children want to go to Israel, despite the current violence there, says child and adolescent psychiatrist Sol Goldstein.

Some young patients are upset, but most say that life goes on, he said.

Although for reasons of privacy and confidentiality Goldstein would not discuss concerns of individual patients, he did comment on trends he has observed.

"It is parents who are worried about their children," he said. "Some stop them from going to Israel. In most cases, however, when children decide to go, parents are cautious, but supportive.

"Kids who have stronger families are allowed to go," he said.

Furthermore, where the parents' Zionism and interest in their religion dictate that the children should go, they allow it, he said.

"Parents who are less secure and more protective and can less tolerate the danger, will not allow it. These parents don't take into account that unless these children are offered a viable alternative, they are more likely to get themselves into difficulties here."

Children in their late teens often have idealistic and spiritual drives that if thwarted sometimes get them sidetracked into troublesome activities and behaviours, he explained.

Like Goldstein, psychiatrist Stanley Greben also spoke of general directions people are taking in facing the violence in Israel.

He said that people who are serious about Israel still go, but many hesitate in light of the current situation.

"Devoted people will go anyway. They want to be helpful; individually, they want to give support to Israel. Although they feel cautious about it, most go anyway.

"Some, however, defer it [the visit]. It is normal to react at least in part because of the known danger. For those in Canada, there is justifiable caution."

Holocaust survivors feel threatend by current events

Greben has been involved with the Trauma Centre of Herzog Hospital, Ezrath Nashim in Jerusalem, which treats patients with post-traumatic stress problems.

"Israelis have developed some skills in coping with the effects of traumatic events," he noted wryly.

But it is not only events in Israel that affect us here.

Greben noted that a patient in his practice who was a Holocaust survivor, and as a child spent six years in a concentration camp, said she felt threatened by the murder of David Rosenzweig last month.

"People who have been in any war, particularly the Holocaust, find it especially disturbing," he said.

He added that people who have family in Israel – children, grandchildren and their contemporaries, "for the most part, are in touch frequently and visit Israel."

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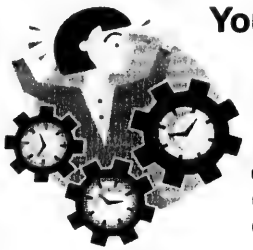

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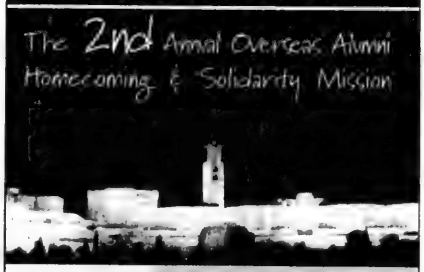

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Community Focus

'Mitzvah mission' visits victims of Palestinian terror

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Nancy Weisbrod wanted to do something personally to help the Israeli victims of terrorist attacks and their families.

So the Toronto resident decided to form a group of unaffiliated people, independent of any organization, who would go to Israel on a "mitzvah mission" to visit the physically and emotionally wounded victims and their families.

She approached friend Sheila Hecker and within a short time, they were joined by fellow Torontonians Dorothy Pullan, Ed Pakes, Barbara Granek-Gutstein and Sara Zimmerman, as well as Deborah Rudolph of Los Angeles.

"We all wanted to do something along with giving money – though money is clearly what Israel needs," said Pullan of the group's trip to Israel May 19 to 28. "We were determined, so we went."

Even though four members of the group are trained to help people with psychological difficulties, therapy was not their goal. They went simply as caring individuals.

In their mission statement, the seven group members said their goal was bikur cholim, "the mitzvah of checking up on, visiting, or attending to the sick or wounded."

They also pledged to document their experiences with 25 victims and their families and share the stories with communities outside Israel.

Prior to leaving, they approached several Toronto Jewish day schools and asked students to create letters and cards that would be personally delivered to victims and their families.

In Israel, they conducted pre-arranged interviews and visits. They went in teams of two and they received permission to videotape, photograph and record the stories of terror victims and their families.

Among the Israeli victims they interviewed were Russian, French and Moroccan immigrants, as well as a non-Jewish Chinese labourer.

The group was assisted with translation by Rabbi Benjamin Friedberg, formerly of Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation, and James Casper, who also participated in the visits.

The interviews were arranged by One Family-Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund, an organization that focuses on responding to the needs of the individuals and families who have suffered from recent terrorist attacks.

Pakes called the trip "mission impossible, but we were committed to make it mission possible."

Pullan told *The CJN* that the group was totally unprepared for the blessings and words of kavod that they received. "We got much more out of our mission than we gave."

The Israelis told them that they wanted their stories to be heard by the rest of the world. "They want the world to know that they are the victims, not the terrorists," Pullan said.

The group also met with representatives from such Israeli organizations as Hadassah Hospital, Magen David Adom, Selah-Israel Crisis Management Center, Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, and the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, which is affiliated with Sarah Herzog Hospital (Ezrath Nashim).

Since their return, the participants have been invited to speak to several local groups and organizations. They are preparing a video and a presentation to encourage synagogues to help Israeli individuals and organizations who have been affected by terror.

For more information, call Pullan, 416-787-7613, or e-mail Weisbrod, nweisbrod@rogers.com.

See pictures on page B21

Community Focus

Some of the seven participants in the "mitzvah mission" to Israel were: back row, from left, Sara Zimmerman, Nancy Weisbrod and Deborah Rudolph; front row, Sheila Hecker and Dorothy Pullan.

Posters and cards sent to the victims of terrorist attacks in Israel.

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Jews show support by 'buying Israel'

By JENNIFER PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

Looking for Israeli products in your local store? If Sobey's supermarket in Thornhill is any indication, you may be disappointed to find empty shelves and gaps in free-standing product displays.

But don't worry. According to store manager Kevin Hopps, that's good news – it means Israeli products are more popular than ever here in Canada.

That growth can be credited to tremendous community support at a time when Israel is starting to feel the economic consequences of Sept. 11 and the intifadah.

Hopps says that "people want to support Israel – we recognize that people will be looking for these products."

To keep up with the increased demand, Hopps is adding new items to his shelves each week.

And to help his customers locate them, he has already created store displays that highlight Israeli products. He is also "looking at a couple of promotions" for the future, including implementing a "data strip" indicating products of Israeli origin, to appear alongside product prices on the shelves.

It's easier to import these products than ever before, thanks to the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA).

In 1998, Canada enacted CIFTA, which eliminated tariffs on virtually all manufactured goods. As well, 80 per cent of agricultural and agri-food products are duty-free or at a reduced tariff.

In the five years since its enactment, trade with Israel has more than doubled, and a bill was recently passed to further reduce or eliminate tariffs on almost all products moving both ways.

Largely as a result of CIFTA, two-way trade between Canada and Israel broke the $1-billion mark last year for the first time.

The only potential trade snag, Hopps says, is a federal requirement that goods be labelled in both official languages, but he says that is often waived for "specific ethnic products."

The growth in Canada-Israel trade has been met with enthusiasm by expatriate Israelis living here.

Rabbi Yisrael Landa, director of Toronto's Chabad Israeli Centre, also in Thornhill, says many have been galvanized by news reports of events in Israel.

"Coming from Israel, serving in the army, the news is different," he says. For most North Americans, news reports don't hit home in the same way, coming across just as words on a page.

"When an Israeli hears it, he sees it in front of his own eyes. Israelis feel Israel in a special way."

Rabbi Landa and the centre's volunteers have channelled that sentiment into a "Buy Israel" flyer campaign under way throughout the Greater Toronto Area. "As a community, we all felt that Israel needs the help of every Jew."

The slick flyers are bilingual, with Hebrew on one side and English on the other. In both languages, they urge shoppers to buy "*kachol v'lavan*" (blue and white, shorthand for Israeli goods), not only for the products themselves, but as a mitzvah.

> ***Growth in Canada-Israeli trade has been met with enthusiasm by expatriate Israelis living here***

"By buying an Israeli cookie, you are buying a cookie and giving charity," Rabbi Landa explains.

With the country's current economic problems, caused by a lack of tourism and the mood of uncertainty, "you don't know whether two families in Israel are going to be out of jobs" if you buy a competing domestic brand.

For people looking for wedding or bar mitzvah gifts, Rabbi Landa suggests "visiting a Judaica store... which is full of things from Israel."

As an added bonus, he says, you will be able to choose something Jewish, which may make for a more meaningful gift.

But the exchange of goods between Israel and the Diaspora is just part of the story for Rabbi Landa; spiritual exchange is also a significant goal.

Following May's raid on terrorist encampments in Jenin, in which several Israeli soldiers lost their lives, the centre sponsored a Shabbat in Jerusalem for that unit, during which time they prayed and remembered their lost colleagues. The centre has also arranged to send a sefer Torah to Israel for the soldiers, and brought a soldier here to speak to the Canadian community.

"There is no end to what Israel needs," Rabbi Landa says.

And though there's no way to test the response to the flyer campaign, he is encouraged by the many calls to his office to say kol hakavod (well done) to his volunteers and staff – or from others offering assistance.

Meanwhile, on Sobey's shelves, community demand is clearly having an effect.

The store can't stock enough Israeli cheeses, yogurts and other milk products to keep up with the demand, and perhaps this is the best sign of all.

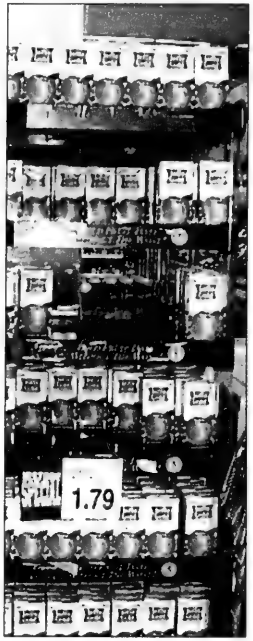
Rabbi Landa says Israeli dairy products are "very expensive," relative to similar domestic products (certain dairy, poultry and egg products have been excluded from CIFTA, at Canada's request, while some textiles are not covered, at Israel's request). But he says many Jews feel the price difference isn't important.

"They ask themselves, 'How can I leave [the store] without buying something from Israel?'"

So, from chocolate chips and coffee to fruit juices and pastries, buying Israeli doesn't have to mean sacrificing for the cause. It just means finding delicious new favourites – and perhaps performing a mitzvah in the process.

See pictures on page B23

Community Focus



Shown are supermarket shelves stocked with juice, coffee and beans from Israel.

[Jennifer Paquette photos]

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OTTAWA RALLY: Thousands travelled to Ottawa to support Israel.

[Photo courtesy UJA Ferderation of Greater Toronto]

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BUSES TO OTTAWA: Starting home after the Ottawa rally.

WASHINGTON RALLY: Two generations support Israel & the U.S.

[Photos courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]

Organizers of Campaign 2003 pose at the kick-off.

Moshe Ahrens (center) at the closing program of Campaign 2002.

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Science for the benefit of humanity

Teachers deal with fallout from intifadah and Sept. 11

By SIMONE JOSEPH
Special to The CJN

In Ilan Strauch's Grade 5 class last year, several children had strong emotional reactions to the intifadah against Israel.

"Some students were emotionally hurt, frustrated and angry after what had happened," said Strauch, a Jewish studies teacher at the Downtown Jewish Community School of Toronto.

After Sept 11 and the stepped-up campaign of suicide bombings in Israel, teachers and educators such as Strauch faced the daunting task of answering questions, dispelling misinformation and addressing fears.

For Strauch, a major challenge was responding to some of his students' desire for retribution.

"Some of the students had thoughts or ideas of revenge. They got us, let's get them. A big challenge is to teach that there are alternatives to violence."

Chava Bitterman, a Grade 5 teacher at Beth Tikvah Congregational School, also had students who desired revenge. Having heard much in the news about Osama Bin Laden, students said they wanted to choke or poison him for his alleged role in the events of Sept.11.

"I told them two wrongs don't make a right. It is better to get him and put him in prison and ask why he is doing these things so we can learn," said Bitterman.

Aside from voicing the standard questions, concerns or angry reactions after Sept. 11, some children also had negative physical responses.

More children have been anxious and have had trouble sleeping at night since Sept. 11, said Arlette Lefebvre, a child psychiatrist at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Recently, Lefebvre saw a 12-year-old boy who refused to get on a plane after Sept. 11 and has been sleeping in his parents' room.

Lefebvre also recalled the reaction of one 16-year-old girl to a scene in the movie *True Lies* when a jet crashes into a tall building. "She started shaking all over and had a panic attack," said Lefebvre.

Even young children have been affected by their experiences of hearing about and watching televised accounts of Sept. 11. The four-year-old son of one of Lefebvre's colleagues watched 20 minutes of news on Sept. 11. After seeing dust and debris falling on people, he became scared dust would fall on his toys and he began scrubbing them down.

After Sept. 11, Meir Balofsky's Grade 7 and 8 students were also scared. "There was a sense of fear, concern that the world had changed," said Balofsky, a teacher at USDS in Richmond Hill.

So, he held an open forum to explain to his students what had happened and to have them express their thoughts and reactions.

Balofsky then faced another challenge with the ongoing suicide bombings in Israel: preventing his students from seeing them as routine.

"They became virtually de-sensitized because [they were] so frequent," he said.

"As educators, you can only do so much to try to drive the message home to these students that you can't get dulled to this kind of violence... This was quite a challenge to myself and other educators."

Another difficulty was that his students did not understand the extent of the injuries in Israel. When they hear five people dead, 20 injured, they don't realize how serious the injuries are, Balofsky said. They would think "wounded" means scratches rather than paralysis or the loss of limbs.

Different schools and teachers had their own ways helping students cope with the events of Sept. 11 and the intifadah.

Teachers at the Downtown Jewish Community School were encouraged to talk to students about Sept. 11 and let children express their feelings, and to answer questions and reassure children that they are safe, said principal Joan Schoenfeld.

Continued on page B27

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Community Focus

'The letters warmed our hearts'

Continued from page B26

"It was an opportunity to talk about heroes and the Jewish understanding of what a hero is," she said. "The concept that regular people do heroic things all the time".

After a suicide bombing at a seder in Netanya in March, students carried out their own small acts of heroism in response to a suggestion by the education department of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

They wrote personal thank-you letters to soldiers in an elite reserve infantry unit of the Israel Defence Forces. The letters arrived soon after two of the unit's soldiers had been killed and two injured.

"The letters warmed our hearts," said Yoav Gal, commander of company C, batallion 9 of the Jerusalem Brigade.

"You cannot imagine how important it was to know that somewhere on the other side of the globe, a group of young Jewish kids were thinking of us, worrying and feeling a belonging to Israel."

In addition to helping Israel – as students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) did last year by raising $85,000 for an ambulance for Magen David Adom – it is vital for students to put the intifadah in a historical perspective, said Alex Gropper, a history teacher at CHAT's Tanenbaum campus in North York.

"The best weapon is to be informed and to have the facts at your fingertips," Gropper said.

To achieve this, the school's administration is considering introducing elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict in Grade 9 Jewish history classes, rather than in Grade 12 during the study of 19th and 20th century Jewish history.

"We want to make sure that our students have basic facts throughout their teenage years," said headmaster Paul Shaviv.

Another reason students need to be informed is because they may face pro-Palestinian propaganda at university, Gropper said.

"When they get to university, there are half-truths and misinformation," he said. "Our students, and the community at large, have to be able to answer certain charges that have been levelled."

During the last school year, CHAT held workshops, run by Jewish Campus Services in consultation with CHAT staff, that introduced students to tactics used by anti-Israel groups on university and college campuses and taught them how to deal with them.

PHONE-A-THON FOR ISRAEL: Two young women take part in the emergency Phone-a-Thon for Israel.
[Photo courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]

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Community Focus

SUPER SUNDAY: Volunteers listen to instructions before the opening of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Super Sunday. [Photo courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]

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Community Focus

Organizations combine to show support for Israel, deal with security

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Julia Koschitsky

Local and provincial organizations have united to find ways to show support for Israel, as well as to deal with security issues that have arisen as a result of the violence there.

Ralph Shedletsky, the chair of the board of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, says our community is mobilizing on Israel's behalf in unprecedented fashion.

"Over 18,000 community members have contributed more than $52 million to UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, which began four months early this year so we could assist Israel as quickly as possible," he told *The CJN*.

Ed Morgan

The campaign will continue until the end of November, he says, "and when it's over, we'll be able to send millions of additional dollars to Israel to assist victims of terror, provide increased security for schoolchildren and help the vulnerable with medical and psychological support."

UJA's overseas partner, the Jewish Agency for Israel, has developed new support programs in the face of Israel's crisis, such as the Fund for Victims of Terror, to which UJA will allocate a significant portion of campaign funds, Shedletsky says.

Since the Palestinian wave of violence began at the end of September 2000, UJA Federation has organized monthly solidarity missions to Israel. Some 1,500 community members have participated. "Our fall/winter schedule is even more ambitious," he says.

Shedletsky spoke of another way the community is showing its support of Israel. A hundred Jewish community organizations have joined the Israel Now Consortium. Chaired by Julia Koschitzky, the consortium was formed last year as an initiative of the federation in response to what many in the community see as media bias and anti-Israel propaganda.

Ralph Shedletsky

"This has solidified our community's strong solidarity with Israel through vigils, rallies and educational initiatives," Shedletsky says.

Ed Morgan, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, which is an integral part of the Israel Now Consortium, says that in addition to its participation in other events, in April, the Ontario region "was instrumental in getting 8,000 people to Ottawa for the largest national Jewish rally this country has seen."

Locally, he says, the Ontario region also works closely with smaller, grassroots organizations to help them organize rallies, vigils and media awareness programs.

"CJC Ontario region has become involved with several programs to educate people on the situation in Israel, directly or indirectly," Morgan says. For example, a trip is being planned for Ontario mayors to travel to Israel to observe the situation and to speak to their counterparts there.

"We also assist our national office in meeting with politicians, opinion makers and others on issues pertaining to Israel."

Congress' Ontario region has been mandated by the Jewish community to oversee security issues in the province, Morgan says. Congress representatives meet regularly with the OPP, the RCMP, CSIS and local police services throughout the province "to discuss issues concerning security and to ensure the highest level of defence for our community."

"We have sharpened our security concerns," Shedletsky adds, referring to UJA's partnership with Canadian Jewish Congress on security issues as a result of Sept. 11, terrorism in the Middle East and anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, in North America and locally.

"I think that many members of our community are more worried about security today than they were at this time last year, while recognizing, at the same time, that Toronto and Canada provide a strong level of comfort for Jewish life."

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Community Focus

RALLY TO OTTAWA: Two of the thousands who attended the massive rally to Ottawa proudly wave the Israeli flag. [Photo courtesy of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto]

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Post-Sept. 11 terror fears keep police busy

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

We in the West need to realize that people from other cultures do not necessarily think like us, says Norm Gardner, chair of the Toronto Police Services Board.

"Too often, we base our viewpoints on our own ethics and morality, rather than on the way people in other cultures look at situations" said Gardner, a former North York, Metro and Toronto city councillor who has been chair of the police services board since 1998.

"Before Sept. 11, who would have thought that anyone would fly a plane into a tower?

"The terrorists showed us that they are ready to sacrifice their lives to carry out their objectives. It seems that martyrdom is something that we in the West have to face when dealing with threats," he said from his office at Toronto Police headquarters on College Street.

Norm Gardner

Our upbringing has made Canadian society more open than others, he said. "We have freedom of speech and the availability of the mass media.

"[The terrorists] have been raised in a dictatorship. Their educational system has brainwashed them, and they do not want to play by our rules."

People have been caught in Toronto who are in the country illegally, said Gardner, but he is not aware of anyone carrying out overt terrorist activities in the city.

"Generally speaking, we are safe here, but anyone in a free and open society is subject to being undermined by people who will go to extremes to carry out violence."

'We have to harden our defences,' board chair Norm Gardner says

Since September, he said, his office has been inundated with requests for background checks from, mostly American, law enforcement agencies.

"We've had to spend at least $1 million in overtime because they had to be done quickly. These checks are on people whose names have come up, or on people who have raised suspicion in any way.

"We've had to take experienced investigators off other assignments in order to tend to our priorities, and it takes a lot of investigative time to determine if there is a level of danger. Police cannot afford not to take everything seriously."

People and organizations can try to protect themselves from possible terrorist attacks, he said, by making it difficult to be made a victim.

"There should be security at community centres, synagogues and schools. We have to harden our defences and make it difficult for anyone to take action with the expectation of getting away with it."

Both Jewish and Muslim organizations have received increased police protection, but it is up to individual organizations to work out their own security systems, which can be done in consultation with police, Gardner said.

"We can't know for sure if something is going to happen" he said, "but the big thing is to liaise with other law enforcement agencies, feed each other information, and make assessments.

"Obviously, whoever is going to carry out a threat will not tell us ahead of time, but it is essential for [certain things] to be evaluated on a constant basis. Even minor incidents have to be investigated as thoroughly as possible," he said.

Gardner said he has been lobbying the federal government to transfer money to municipal police forces in order to enhance intelligence gathering. "We are handicapped. We cannot undertake expensive intelligent gathering without federal money, but they won't even grant us an audience.

"I've been trying to set up a meeting, but I feel I am getting the run-around.

"Cities such as Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, and their surrounding areas, are big nesting grounds for potential terrorists and their supporters. The municipal forces can definitely use some added funding," he said.

As for a possibility of peace in the Middle East, Gardner said that he has come to the conclusion that some Arab countries cannot afford peace.

"Some countries have huge unemployment and social problems, and they are pleased to make Israel the diversion in order to stop Arab citizens from demonstrating [against regimes in their own countries].

"There are a lot of people who feel there is no future in these countries, so they move towards radical extremism and start getting involved in martyrdom. It is not healthy for these countries not to deal with their social issues."

When Arab countries stop looking for someone else to blame for their social problems, things will be a lot better for a lot of people, said Gardner.

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